



Arts Council seeks expressions of interest from researchers regarding the Irish Research Council's Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Post-Doctoral)

Overview

The Arts Council is seeking to support new research into artists' living and working conditions through investing in the Irish Research Council's (IRC) [Post-Doctoral Enterprise Partnership Scheme](#). The Arts Council is seeking expressions of interest from researchers who may wish to apply to the IRC with the support of the Arts Council as their 'enterprise partner'.

IRC Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Post-Doctoral)

The Irish Research Council's Enterprise Partnership Scheme (post-doctoral) provides excellent researchers with the opportunity to pursue research in collaboration with enterprise (including public-sector agencies) while based at a higher education institution.

The award will support suitably qualified researchers intending to pursue a full-time research project for a two year period (commencing September 2022) and comprises:

- a salary of €39,132 (year 1) and €39,686 (year 2);
- employer's PRSI contribution;
- and eligible direct research expenses of €5,000 per annum.

Further details can be found on the IRC web site.

The Arts Council – as an 'Enterprise Partner'

The Arts Council is the national development agency for the arts. A commitment to artists is at the core of the Arts Council's 10-year strategy – [Making Great Art Work](#). In 2020 the Arts Council published its [Paying the Artist](#) policy. The policy commits the Arts Council to new research into artists' living and working conditions, including expanding the scope of such research and deepening insights.

In 2010 the Arts Council (in partnership with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland) published [a major study into the Living and Working Conditions of Artists](#). We are currently working to commission new research that updates and adds to the scope of that study. However, in addition and separate to this, we also want to support researchers to explore new ground, to ask different questions, to delve into a specific area or bring a new perspective to this subject.

To support new thinking in this area the Arts Council is investing as an 'Enterprise Partner' on the IRC Scheme and is seeking expressions of interest from researchers who may wish to apply to the IRC programme to pursue such research with the support of the Arts Council as their enterprise partner.

As an enterprise partner the Arts Council contributes one-third of the costs associated with the award and provides a mentor to support the researcher. There are also opportunities for the researcher to draw on relevant expertise, data, information and networks accessible through the Arts Council.

Research focus

The Arts Council is open to a range of proposals. We are seeking to support research into some aspect of artists' living and working conditions. We want to support a researcher led enquiry that is different in scope and nature to our own commissioned research (e.g. we are not seeking proposals that aim to update the 2010 LWCA report). In addition, while we recognize the impact that COVID-19 has had on the sector we are not seeking proposals that have a specific focus on the impact of the pandemic. We welcome proposals that have a focus on areas of equality and diversity in the arts (in line with [our policy](#)) but we are open in terms of the focus and direction of such research.

Some examples of subject matter in this field that may be of interest to researchers include the professional status of artists, issues connected to a specific career stage, life stage or demographic of artists, issues specific to an individual artform or area of arts practice, payment and contracting practices, legislative or policy issues, legal and human rights issues, health or well-being impacts, national or international comparisons etc. These are provided as examples only to indicate potential breadth – they should not be read as indicators of priority areas or as defining the limitations of a potential line of enquiry.

Application / partnership process

The Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Post-Doctoral) is an initiative of the Irish Research Council. Interested researchers submit their applications to the IRC.

However, applicants to the scheme must be supported by both an academic partner and an 'enterprise partner' (the Arts Council being a potential enterprise partner).

The Arts Council can only be an enterprise partner to one application and is therefore seeking to identify (in advance of the IRC deadline of 2 December 2021) a suitable research project to support.

The Arts Council is therefore initiating its own process to seek expressions of interest from researchers who may wish to apply to the IRC with the support of the Arts Council as their enterprise partner.

Expressions of interest must be submitted to Toby Dennett: toby.dennett@artscouncil.ie (cc: louise.ward@artscouncil.ie) at the Arts Council by 17:30pm on Thursday **11 November 2021**. E-mailed submissions should include '**expression of interest**', in the subject line.

Expressions of interest should include:

- A brief statement expressing your interest and highlighting any previous research in a relevant field or topic;
- A title for your proposed research;
- A brief outline of your research proposal (up to 500 words) including what aspect of artist living and working conditions you hope to research and an indication of how a partnership with the Arts Council would support this research;
- A CV;
- A letter/statement of support from your academic mentor.

Any researcher submitting to this process must meet the eligibility criteria for [the IRC's Enterprise Partnership Scheme \(Post-Doctoral\)](#).

The Arts Council will review eligible submissions based on:

- Track record - Including prior research undertaken, previous engagement with the issue of artists' living and working conditions and how this relates/connects to your proposed project.
- Relevance of proposed project - Including extent to which proposed research addresses current challenges relating to artists' living and working conditions as set out in published Arts Council policy and strategy and how the project might broaden or deepen the scope of research into this area.
- Feasibility - Including support of academic partner, suitability of proposal to the scheme and nature or type of any engagement proposed for/required of the Arts Council.

The Arts Council may choose to shortlist and/or conduct clarification meeting/s based on submissions prior to identifying a preferred project to offer its support to. All submissions received will be acknowledged and replied to by email.

The purpose of this process is for the Arts Council to identify a research project to support at application stage. The researcher must then submit their application to the IRC under the terms of the Enterprise Partnership Scheme. Should the application to the IRC be successful the Arts Council's investment will be made through the IRC.

Further information

Contact: via email

- Toby Dennett, Strategic Development Manager toby.dennett@artscouncil.ie
- **cc:** Louise Ward , Paying the Artist Project Officer louise.ward@artscouncil.ie

The Arts Council will run an information session on Microsoft Teams for questions and answers on **Tuesday 26 October 2021 at 11.30am**. [JOIN HERE](#) (no app/software download required)

Details of the Irish Research Council's Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Post-Doctoral) can be found here: <https://research.ie/funding/eps-postdoc/?f=postdoctoral>