



Accelerating Research to Commercialisation



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



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Northern & Western
Regional Assembly



Taighde Éireann
Research Ireland

The ARC Hub for HealthTech is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Northern & Western Regional Programme 2021-2027.

The ARC Hub for HealthTech Call for Translational Research Projects

Frequently Asked Questions



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1. Eligibility of Applicants and Team Roles

Who is eligible to act as a Translational Researcher (TR) or Co-TR?

To be eligible, the TR must meet the employment and experience criteria defined by Research Ireland ([Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance](#), Section 2):

- Academic staff with a permanent contract or a fixed-term contract covering the full TRP duration.
- Contract researchers recognised as independent investigators with their own research space.
- Individuals who will meet these criteria upon award (they do not need to be employed at the time of application).
- Postdoctoral researchers, including research fellows and fellowship holders, with a committed mentor.

Co-TRs must meet the same criteria as TRs (RI TRP Guidance v2, Section 2).

Is a PhD required to apply as TR

No. A PhD is **not mandatory**, but the TR must demonstrate relevant experience and a research track record sufficient to lead the project ([Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance](#), Section 2.2).

Must postdocs or contract researchers have contracts covering the full project duration?

The TR (Contract Researcher or postdoctoral researcher) must have a contract that covers the duration of the TRP at the time of application, or upon award. Team members hired to work on the awarded TRP (e.g. postdoctoral researchers) can have contracts that vary in duration, depending on the assigned activities required for the role on the project.



Can a TR participate in more than one ARC Hub project simultaneously, or submit applications to multiple Hubs?

Yes. Researchers may act as Translational Researchers on more than one ARC Hub project and may also apply to multiple Hubs. However, applicants must ensure they can commit sufficient time to all active awards. The '[Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance](#)' notes that applicants should carefully consider their existing time commitments when applying.

Are applicants eligible to serve as a TR in this call if they already hold an active ARC Hub project—meaning they currently lead or participate in any TRP, in whole or in part, that would run concurrently with the proposed work?

Yes, holding an active ARC Hub TRP does not make an applicant ineligible. However, applicants do need to ensure that they can commit sufficient time to more than one TRP and consider their existing time commitment.

Can a TR be funded fully or partially from other sources while leading an ARC Hub TRP?

Yes, applicants may receive salary or project funding from other sources while leading an ARC Hub TRP. If fully or partially funded from other sources, the applicant must have an employment contract that covers the duration of the TRP, and they must ensure that they can commit sufficient time to the TRP, alongside existing time commitments. However, salaries of academic staff who hold the title of TR are not an eligible cost. Salaries of postdoctoral researchers are however and eligible cost (up to 100% of salary can be requested, in line with their time commitment to the project).



Can the TR and Mentor be the same person, and can mentor names change later?

Mentors are required when the TR or PI is (to be) employed under a postdoctoral research contract. The mentor is associated with the TRP in a supportive capacity only, they do not need to be named as a TR or Co-TR on the project unless they are leading on a specific aspect of the research. See [Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance](#), Section 2.

Can TTO staff act as mentors?

Yes, as per the [Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance](#), Section 2.

2. Eligibility and Roles of Collaborators & Industry Partners

Are healthcare professionals (clinicians, nurses, surgeons) considered industry partners?

No. Clinicians, nurses, surgeons, or other healthcare professionals are **not** industry partners. They are academic or clinical collaborators affiliated with their institution. An industry partner is a company. See [Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance](#), Appendix III for a full description of the roles.

Can researchers from outside Ireland (e.g., UK) participate as collaborators?

Yes, International collaborators are able to participate. The definition of an Academic Collaborator, as per the [guidance](#), is an academic member of staff of an Irish or international Research Body who is committed to providing a focused contribution for



a specific task(s) in the TRP. The collaborator may not receive funding through the grant and may not be the primary supervisor of research staff on the Grant.

What is the definition of an Industry Partner versus an Industry Collaborator?

The Industry Partner is the company participating in the TRP and contributing cash or in kind support. The Industry Collaborator the designated and named contact person from that company. See [Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance](#), Appendix I.

4. Thematic Areas and Alignment

How should applicants choose the most appropriate thematic area when projects overlap multiple themes?

Applicants should select the thematic area they think is the closest and most appropriate to their project. Through the application, applicants are encouraged to outline the dependencies and/or commonalities with other areas.

- **Novel Sensors:** Innovating new sensing technologies for health data acquisition.
- **Advanced Wearables:** Creating sophisticated wearable technologies for continuous health monitoring, diagnostics, and intervention.
- **Decision Support & Clinical Pathway Innovation:** Developing intelligent systems to aid clinical decision-making, optimise treatment pathways and optimise the potential for technology to streamline care delivery outside of decision support systems.
- **Algorithms and AI/ML Models:** Harnessing the power of artificial intelligence and machine learning to derive actionable insights from health data and



enhance device functionality.

- **Smart Implants and Devices:** Advancing the next generation of intelligent, responsive, and durable implantable and other medical devices.
- **Medical Robotics:** Developing “smart” machines that can perform actions that a health care provider might. These devices may incorporate principles from several disciplines, including engineering, computer science, mathematics, and medicine.

Can projects select more than one thematic area?

During the application process, project must select one thematic area only (see previous question). However, applicants are encouraged to outline the dependencies and/or commonalities with other areas.

Are interventional devices without sensor/diagnostic features eligible?

Yes, see question above.

How competitive are earlier-stage projects versus near-commercial prototypes?

Both can be competitive. However, ARC Hub funding is particularly suited to TRL 2–3 early stage technologies with strong evidence of unmet need and commercial potential.

What exactly qualifies as FemTech?

Products or services that address conditions primarily or disproportionately affecting women.



5. Funding, Budget Limits, and Eligible Cost

What is the maximum funding available, and how is it distributed over the two years?

The typical budget range is €300k–€500k over 24 months. The distribution over the two-year duration is to be decided by the applicants and shall be justified through the application.

Is the funding distributed equally across institutions or regions?

Funding is awarded based on project quality.

Can TRP budgets request salary for both TR and Co-TR?

See [Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance](#), Appendix III. Salary or benefits of the TRs are ineligible cost except for salary costs for postdoctoral researchers who are acting as a TRs as described in [Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance](#), section 2.

Can TRs be partially funded from another source to increase total project budget?

The ARC Hub Programme has been structured to allow for industry collaboration on Translational Research Projects, if this is deemed by the ARC Hub to be the most effective way to progress the research towards a commercialisation output. For all Translational Research Projects involving an industry partner, the ARC Hub must submit the required documentation for completion of State aid checks in line with the requirements of the General Block Exemption Regulation. This is outlined in detail in the [‘ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance’](#) (Section 7). Under no circumstances can the project be double-funded.



Can projects apply for less than €150k, and is the review process different?

Yes. See [Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance](#), section 1. For TRPs requesting a budget of less than €150,000, proposals are subject to the ARC Hub's internal review process and locally approved for Hub support. The Hub must submit details on the proposed TR to Research Ireland for eligibility checking (see [Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance](#), Section 3) and must provide information on approved TRPs for record keeping (see [Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance](#), Section 4).

Are subcontracting costs (e.g., preclinical trials, prototyping) eligible?

Yes. Subject to a budgetary justification, subcontracting for research activities is an eligible cost. See [Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance](#), Appendix III.

Can IP-related costs, consultancy, equipment, or travel be included?

See [Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance](#), Appendix III. For details on eligible and ineligible cost.

Can applicants run ARC Hub for HealthTech and EI Commercialisation Fund applications in parallel?

Yes. Applications may run in parallel but only one funder will support the project should both applications be successful.

Can projects that previously received EI PoC funding apply?

Yes, provided they meet ARC Hub for HealthTech scope and eligibility criteria [Research Ireland ARC Hub Translational Research Project Application Guidance](#),



section 2.

Can multiple proposals be submitted under different themes?

Yes, but each application requires full justification and separate submissions.

6. Commercialisation Journey, TRLs & Required Milestones

What types of commercialisation milestones are expected at yearly evaluations?

Milestones must be justified and may differ depending on the stage of the commercialization journey at which the project is. Milestones may include, but not limited to:

- Needs validation
- Regulatory pathway mapping
- IP assessment and filings
- Prototype validation
- Market sizing and competitor analysis
- Securing industry engagement
- User testing or pilot studies

What type of evidence should be included to show progress on commercialisation?

Supporting evidence on commercialisation progress may include, but not limited to:

- Clinical unmet need validation
- Value proposition statements
- TAM/SAM/SOM market analysis



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- Customer and stakeholder interviews
- Product–market fit signals

Are there required starting or target TRLs?

No formal TRL targets. However, projects at TRL 2–3 are particularly well aligned with the ARC Hub for HealthTech.

Is licensing IP considered a valid commercialisation outcome, or must the goal be spinout?

Yes, Licensing IP is a valid commercial outcome being one of the ARC’s commercial KPIs.

What distinguishes this funding from the EI Commercialisation Fund, and how do they complement one another?

ARC Hub for HealthTech focus on clinical unmet need, early commercial evidence, and entrepreneurial development.

7. Other

How does ARC Hub support researchers during commercialisation (advisory vs hands-on)?

Support offered by the ARC Hub for HealthTech includes:

- Entrepreneurial training.
- Commercialisation mentoring.
- Needs validation support.
- Regulatory, clinical evidence and IP advisory support.
- Close collaboration with Innovation Offices.



- This support is advisory but hands-on in guiding the TRP through commercial milestones.



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