



Accelerating Research  
to Commercialisation

OPEN CALL FAQs



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## 1. Information Webinar

### Information Webinar

Please visit the link above to view the Information Webinar recorded for our second call for Translational Research Projects in Autumn 2025.

Please note that some information in the webinar may be out of date or has since been updated for the current call.

### Key Updates

- **Eligibility**
  - Applications may be submitted prior to completion of a PhD; however, funding cannot commence until the PhD has been completed.
- **Review Process**
  - Applications will be reviewed after the call for proposals has closed, rather than on a rolling basis.
  - Applications will be reviewed by at least two reviewers, including one technical reviewer and one commercialisation expert.
  - An additional review stage has been introduced. Applicants who are successful following the paper review stage will be invited to attend a commercialisation panel interview.
- **Decision & Feedback**
  - The previous 4-week decision timeline no longer applies.
  - Applicants will receive feedback following the paper review stage approximately 6–8 weeks after the call closing date.
- **Applications**
  - Additional sections have been added to the Supplemental Application Form.
  - A 2-minute video pitch is now required as part of the application.
  - The 'Tracks' system is no longer used in the EasyChair portal.



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## **2. Eligibility & Roles**

### **1.1 Can PhD students apply for funding?**

PhD students can apply for funding as a Translational Researcher (TR) towards the end of their PhD study. If they are successful, the project cannot start until the PhD is complete and they are eligible for a postdoc position. PhD applicants must meet the eligibility requirements set out in the '[ARC Hub TRP Application Guidance](#)' document and provide a letter of support from a mentor.

### **1.2. Does a project need a Co-TR?**

There is no obligation to have a Co-TR assigned to a Translational Research Project (TRP). For larger scale TRPs, or those spanning multiple research bodies, it may be appropriate to include a Co-TR(s). A Co-TR leads on a specific aspect of the TRP. Team members would not be considered Co-TRs.

### **1.3 When does a TR require a mentor?**

A mentor is required when the TR is not an academic or does not hold a research contract that covers the duration of the TRP. A suitable mentor would be an established researcher from the TR's host Research Body.

### **1.4. Can international or non-Irish institutions participate in a project?**

An applicant must meet one of the employment requirements as laid out in the '[ARC Hub TRP Application Guidance](#)' document with an eligible Research Body. Currently the list of eligible Research Bodies includes all Irish universities and Technological Universities and Dundalk Institute of Technology.

### **1.5 If an academic develops a commercial idea but prefers not to lead or manage a spinout themselves, is that still acceptable?**

There are a number of desired commercial outcomes of funding from the ARC Hub for ICT - a key one being spin outs. To achieve a successful spin out or other commercial objectives, the project needs an entrepreneurial lead who is motivated and interested in pursuing a commercial pathway. The academic can still act as the TR for such a project, however they should focus on hiring someone for the project that can meet this requirement. The ARC Hub for ICT can provide guidance and job description templates to help the TR hire someone with a suitable commercialisation inclination.



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### **1.6 Does the peer-reviewed publication required for eligibility need to align with the commercial idea?**

The TR is required to demonstrate that they are a senior author on at least one international peer-reviewed article. Only original research publications, and not review articles or other secondary research literature, are acceptable. The article does not necessarily need to align with the commercial idea for the TRP.

## **3. Funding & Budgeting**

### **2.1 Is institution overhead included in the funding?**

30% overheads are provided in addition to direct costs for successful projects.

### **2.2 Is teaching buyout an eligible cost?**

Teaching buyout is an eligible cost for Technological University/Institute of Technology sector applicants. TRs from this sector can apply for teaching replacement of up to 50% of their teaching load for the duration of their TRP. Teaching buyout costs should be calculated on the basis of hiring a temporary lecturer (e.g., at point 1 on the Assistant Lecturer salary scale, or equivalent point on the institutional scale) regardless of the seniority of the prospective applicant. Requests must be pro-rata and proportional to the time commitment. Requests for teaching replacement must be included in the requested budget and detailed in the budget justification.

### **2.3 Can industry partners receive funding on a project?**

An Industry Partner is a company that is involved in a specific TRP and is making a financial contribution (through cash or in-kind) to the budget of the ARC Hub. Industry Partners are not eligible to receive funding through the award.

### **2.4 Can a project that has already received support through an Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund or Horizon Europe grant still qualify for ARC Hub for ICT funding?**

The ARC Hub for ICT aims to support novel research opportunities that can be accelerated towards rapid commercial impact. Therefore, support is available for novel research which is at a relatively early Technology Readiness Level (TRL). Projects that have already received Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund support are typically too advanced and may not align with the ARC Hub's objectives.



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### **2.5 What travel costs should be included in an application budget?**

For TRPs based outside of Dublin, the project team will be required to be in Dublin for entrepreneurial training and for annual showcase events. The TRP budget should include travel and accommodation costs for at least two in-person training events in Dublin for those project team members who are attending, and for the full team to attend the annual showcase.

### **2.6 Can the budget include publication costs and conference travel?**

The costs of publications, including article publication costs and costs associated with the presentation of conference papers, that support the commercialisation of the research are eligible costs. Publication costs must be included in the requested budget and detailed in the budget justification. Publications, where appropriate, must align with [Research Ireland's Open Access policy](#).

### **2.7 Is funding support available for pilot data collection or validation activities?**

Funding may cover pilot data collection, testing, and/or validation as part of demonstrating the research's commercial feasibility and market potential. These activities should be clearly identified and justified in the TRP project plan.

### **2.8 Is additional funding available for project expansion?**

Additional or follow-on funding may be possible as part of the TRP's commercialisation journey. The ARC Hub team and TTO at the Host Research Body will work with the TR to evaluate progress and, if suitable, assist in applying for further support.

## **4. Research Scope, Deliverables & Outcomes**

### **3.1 What types of outputs are expected from ARC Hub projects?**

Outputs from TRPs include proofs of concept, prototypes, or validated research results that demonstrate clear commercial potential and a path toward market application.

### **3.2 How much testing or validation of the research is required before applying for ARC Hub funding?**

Extensive pre-application testing is not necessarily required. Applications should consider both technical feasibility (that the research works) and commercial potential (that the research can be developed into a viable product or service). Any existing testing or validation should be included as evidence in the application. Further testing and validation can be completed during the project.



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## **5. Programme Structure & Administration**

### **4.1 What targeted developmental supports are offered to TRPs?**

The ARC Hub for ICT provides targeted developmental supports to strengthen project delivery, focusing on areas including UI/UX design and project management. Use of these development supports should be included in the project budget. The ARC Hub for ICT can advise on how to cost and budget the targeted development resources that are available through the ARC Hub.

### **4.2 What is the review timeline and when will a decision for an application be available?**

The ARC Hub for ICT will start the review process for an application as soon as it is submitted. A decision will be available for applications for TRPs with budgets of less than €150,000 within four weeks of submission. Applications for TRPs with budgets of €150,000 or higher will undergo Research Ireland's international peer review, which will extend the decision timeline however Research Ireland have pledged to complete the international review as quickly as possible.

### **4.3 Can TRs submit multiple applications?**

A TR may lead more than one project or serve as a Co-TR on other projects where the projects are distinct and subject to the capacity of the TR. Projects cannot be split into multiple smaller applications to stay under the €150K threshold for international peer review.

### **4.4 Does the ARC Hub provide any access to computation resources?**

The ARC Hub for ICT does not have any HPC infrastructure available for TRPs. Requests for specific equipment or access to computation resources must be provided in the requested budget and detailed in the budget justification.

### **4.5 Are there any compliance requirements for TRPs, such as ethics, data-sharing, or use of Generative AI?**

TRPs must comply with all the relevant compliance requirements of their host Research Body.

## **6. Entrepreneurial Training**

### **5.1 Who needs to attend the entrepreneurial training provided by the ARC Hub for ICT?**

The TR is required to attend the training, regardless of whether they are funded full time on the project or not. For projects where the TR is not funded full time, the Entrepreneurial Lead, i.e. the person on the project that is responsible for leading and pursuing the project's

commercialisation objectives, is required to attend the training. The training is also open to other project team members who are interested in attending.

## **5.2 Where will the entrepreneurial training take place?**

The entrepreneurial training programme provided by the ARC Hub for ICT will be a hybrid programme. Some elements of the training will take place in-person in locations in Dublin and other elements will be online. Applications should ensure to include adequate budget to cover travel and accommodation to attend at least two sessions of training in Dublin for those team members that are attending training.

## **7. Intellectual Property & Equity**

### **6.1 Can the equity split between TR, TTO, University, etc. be clarified?**

Equity split is a Host Research Body matter, the ARC Hub for ICT is not involved in any equity decisions. More complex IP and equity structures may impact the commercial viability of a project, so it's important to discuss these in detail with your TTO in advance of making an application.

### **6.2 Can an industry partner expect to be given an option to license the IP at the end of the project?**

This should be covered in the Collaborative Research Agreement drawn up between the Host Research Body and the Industry Partner before the project starts.