Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Foras na Mara
Marine Institute

OUR SHARED OCEAN
PROGRAMME

Applicant Guidelines
for
Mobility and Travel Grants Call 2022

The Our Shared Ocean programme is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs though Ireland's development cooperation programme, Irish Aid. The programme is administered and managed by the Marine Institute on behalf of Irish Aid/DFA.

Contact Details (for enquiries and queries)
Research Funding Office **Marine Institute** Rinville Oranmore Co. Galway H91 R673 Ireland funding@marine.ie **Tel.** +353 (0)91 387200

Introduction

As part of the Climate and Oceans focus of [A Better World](#), Ireland's policy for international development, and the associated national [Strategy for Partnership with Small Island Developing States](#) (SIDS), there is an ambition to build closer partnerships between Ireland and the SIDS. The Our Ocean Wealth Summit on 10th June 2019 provided an important milestone in this effort. Political leaders and UN Permanent Representatives from almost 30 SIDS travelled to Ireland, took part in SeaFest and the Summit, and met Irish political leaders and officials. The Summit addressed shared experiences of island nations and discussed the critical challenges faced by many of the SIDS which are on the front line in dealing with climate change impacts and vulnerable, in particular, to sea-level rise and extreme weather events.

Building on the success of the Summit, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Marine Institute (MI) have established a new programme called 'Our Shared Ocean' to support research, knowledge exchange and capacity building in partnership with SIDS. The programme will run from January 2022 to December 2026 with a total investment of €3.8 million funded by the DFA, and administered by the MI.

The *Our Shared Ocean Mobility and Travel Grants Call 2022* is part of a suite of competitive calls that will address specific ocean, climate and sustainable blue economy related challenges faced by SIDS; support the building of scientific and technical capacity to address such challenges; and promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise between Irish institutions and their counterparts in SIDS to underpin longer-term cooperation. Applicants for funding under the *Our Shared Ocean* Programme should address a topic under one of the three themes as outlined in Table 1 below, and also state how their award will contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (refer to Annex 1) by 2030. and also state how their award will contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (refer to Annex 1) by 2030 and link to the [UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development](#).

Table 1: Themes

1. Oceans and Climate Action	2. Inclusive and Sustainable Blue Economy	3. Marine Policy and Ocean Governance
Adaptation, mitigation and nature-based solutions, socio-economic dimensions and the preservation of marine and maritime related culture. **Cultural and Social effects of Climate Change.** **Biosecurity and managing the impacts of invasive species.** **Healthy oceans.** **Ocean observations – role to inform climate services.**	**Renewable energy, aquaculture, seaweed and fisheries.** **Value chains and biopharmaceutical research.** **Promoting entrepreneurship.** **Coastal communities.** **Tourism.** **Skills foresight and planning.**	**Marine spatial planning and marine protected areas.** **Maritime law.** **Financing for enforcement and regulation.** **Digital tools and data management (e.g. environmental).** **International cooperation.**

Specifically, funding will be awarded for inward or outward travel between Ireland and the eligible SIDS (as listed in Annex 2) for short research visits, attendance at research conferences and workshops, or for training courses.

1. **Research Visits** – of up to one calendar month for researchers from eligible SIDS to visit Ireland (or from Ireland to eligible SIDS) in order to exchange knowledge, test new technology, train on research methodologies, etc. The aim is to allow mobility of research expertise for the bilateral transfer of knowledge in science and technology towards the development of the marine sector, and to establish international networks between Ireland/SIDS for potential leveraging of marine funding.

2. **Research Conferences and Workshops** – for undergraduate and postgraduate students and early-stage researchers from eligible SIDS to present their marine research to audiences at international events. The aim is to network with international marine experts and disseminate their research on the global stage.

3. **Training Courses** – for researchers from eligible SIDS to undertake short training courses in a topic that is beneficial to their marine research. Examples include, but are not limited to, statistics courses, data processing, sampling methodologies, laboratory analyses, commercialisation of research, etc.

Travel Restrictions (due to COVID-19 or any other reasons)

Applicants applying must confirm that travel undertaken complies with current public health requirements and the policies of their employer/home or host institution. Applicants should check on the latest advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs prior to travel, which is available on their website at https://www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice/.

What Type/Level of Support is Provided and Who Can Apply?

The awards are designed as a small-scale, flexible scheme to support research dissemination, networking activities and training for the benefit of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Applications will be accepted in three purposes, as follows:

1. Research Visits

Description

This award provides for visits by researchers of up to one calendar month for the transfer of knowledge between Ireland and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), to test research methods or technology and to establish new international partnerships in marine research of mutual interest. In the interest of equality and parity the awards under this category will be equally split between Ireland and SIDS. An invitation letter from the host organisation must be included with the application.

Eligibility

This award is open to researchers in marine or marine-related research from:

- Eligible SIDS hosted in a **Public** Research Performing Organisation in Ireland (refer to Annex 3).
- An Irish Public or Private Research Performing Organisation (RPO) hosted in a RPO (Public or Private) in an eligible Small Island Developing State (refer to Annex 2).

Maximum Grant-Aid
- Maximum **6,000 Euro** per award.

Type of Costs Covered

The following is an example of the typical costs covered under this award:

- One return flight (economy class).
- SIDS internal flights from mainland airport to island airport.
- Accommodation costs (best value basis – breakfast or meals may be included).
- Visa and vaccination fees.
- Local travel.
- Consumables.

Payment Terms
- Awards are payable to Organisations only. Payments cannot be made to Individuals under this call.
- Awards are made **payable to the organisation who incurred the costs** as detailed by submitted receipts. Organisations must have a valid tax reference and bank account in their name.
- Funding is provided to the named applicant for the purpose as specified in the application and is **not transferable**.

Please refer to FAQ for further details or contact funding@marine.ie prior to commencing an application for any clarifications.

2. Research Conferences and Workshops

Description

This award provides for attendance by students and early-stage researchers from eligible Small Island Developing States (SIDS) **to present** their marine research at international Conferences/Workshops. **Note:** Travel is permitted to destinations across the globe, where relevant conferences and workshops are being held. A letter of support from the researcher's supervisor must be included with the application.

Where feasible, applicants are encouraged to present at virtual conferences and workshops.

Eligibility

This award is open to:

- Students currently carrying out an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in a marine-related discipline and registered at an academic institution from eligible SIDS. Students may only apply for funding for events taking place up to the final date of their college registration. Proof of support by their Supervisor is required.

- Research Assistants carrying out marine-related research and employed at academic or research institutions from eligible SIDS.

- Early stage Post-Doctoral contract researchers carrying out marine-related research and employed and employed at academic or research institutions from eligible SIDS. Early stage Post-Doc being within six years of PhD award (2016 onwards).

- Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Other Representative Organisations from eligible SIDS. SME/NGO representatives are not required to present at international conferences/workshops.

Maximum Grant-Aid

- Maximum **2,000 Euro** per award. Minimum application value 500 Euro. Applications under 500 Euro will be deemed ineligible.

Type of Costs Covered

The following is an example of the typical costs covered under this award:

- Conference/Workshop Registration costs.

- Travel and Accommodation costs (best value basis – breakfast or meals may be included). Please refer to FAQ for further details.

Payment Terms

- Awards are payable to Organisations only. Payments cannot be made to Individuals under this call.

- Awards are made **payable to the organisation who incurred the costs** as detailed by submitted receipts. Organisations must have a valid tax reference and bank account in their name.

- Funding is provided to the named applicant for the specified event and is **not transferable.**

3. Training Courses

Description
This award provides for researchers from eligible Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to undertake training courses of a short duration in a topic that is beneficial to their marine research. **Note:** Travel is permitted to destinations across the globe, for attendance at relevant training courses. A letter of support from the researcher's supervisor must be included with the application.

Where feasible, applicants are encouraged to attend virtual training courses.

Eligibility
This award is open to researchers in marine or marine-related research from:

- Eligible SIDS hosted in a **Public or Private** Research Performing Organisation.

Maximum Grant-Aid
- Maximum **2,000 Euro** per award. Minimum application value 500 Euro. Applications under 500 Euro will be deemed ineligible.

Type of Costs Covered
The following is an example of the typical costs covered under this award:

- Training Course Registration costs.
- Travel and Accommodation costs (best value basis – breakfast or meals may be included). Please refer to FAQ for further details.

Payment Terms
- Awards are payable to Organisations only. Payments cannot be made to Individuals under this call.
- Awards are made **payable to the organisation who incurred the costs** as detailed by submitted receipts. Organisations must have a valid tax reference and bank account in their name.
- Funding is provided to the named applicant for the specified event and is **not transferable.**
- Training Courses must have relevance to the research currently undertaken by the Applicant (e.g. training on data analysis software tools or statistics courses).

General Rules

Individual applicants cannot receive more than **two awards** in any calendar year. There is no limit on applications from the same Organisation, except that applications are capped at **max three awards per Organisation per event**.

Grant-Aid is subject to available funding, which is allocated on an annual basis. In the event that the annual budget is allocated in full prior to the final submission date of 5th December 2022 **(for applications to attend events up to 31st March 2023)**, a notification to this effect will be posted on the Marine Institute website funding pages https://www.marine.ie/Home/site-area/research-funding/research-funding/current-funding-opportunities.

It is important that applicants also read the FAQ document available on the call notification webpage.

How is your Application Assessed?

Applications will be externally assessed by independent evaluators on the basis of three criteria:

1) The benefit to the recipient/host institution,
2) The likely contribution to relevant national and international strategic objectives, and
3) The justification provided in the application (e.g. demonstration of research collaboration and dissemination of findings).

Each of the three criteria have the same weighting. Applicants may be offered support at a lower rate than requested. Applicants will receive notification of the outcome within 15 working days following the relevant close date. Successful applicants will be issued with a letter of award that outlines the grant funding, and requirements and due date for submission of the report and receipts. The letter of award must be signed and returned to the Marine Institute.

What Costs can be Claimed?

- Eligible costs include those additional costs necessary to support the proposed activity; e.g. conference registration, training course fees, etc.
- Grant support must not represent budget substitution or profit.

How to Claim Grant-Aid?

Only costs incurred after the award is granted can be funded. An initial payment of 50% will be made on signature of the letter of award. The balance of 50% is payable on completion.

Payments are on a reimbursement basis and will be conditional on:

a. The successful achievement of identified targets/goals, including submission of a report detailing the outcome/benefits gained by the Grantee.
b. The submission and acceptance of **all relevant receipts**. For example:
   i. Research Visit: Travel and accommodation costs, etc.
   ii. Attend Conference/Workshop: Registration fee, associated travel and accommodation costs.
   iii. Attend Training Course: Course fee, associated travel and accommodation costs.
c. The claim being submitted to the Marine Institute Research Funding Office within one month of completion of the event for which support has been provided.

Reimbursement is conditional on submission of relevant reports and receipts. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all receipts are retained for submission and reimbursement by the Marine Institute.

Application Procedure & Deadline

Applications should be made via the Marine Institute's online **R**esearch **I**nformation **M**anagement **S**ystem (RIMS).

- If you are already registered on RIMS please visit http://marine.smartsimple.ie.
- To register as a new user please email rims.support@marine.ie with a password request, please include details of your organisation.

The Mobility and Travel Grants call will remain open on a two-monthly rolling basis, subject to continued funding availability, and submission deadlines as follows:

1. Monday, 15th August 2022
2. Monday, 3rd October 2022
3. Monday, 5th December 2022 (for events up to 31st March 2023)

The planned budget is 50,000 Euro in 2022 with the expected split of the grants awarded under each category as follows:

Table 2: Indicative Awards

Award Category	Number of Awards	Value € Euro
Research Visits (2 to Ireland and 2 to SIDS)	4	24,000
Research Conferences and Workshops	8	16,000
Training Courses	5	10,000
Total	**17**	**50,000**

Note: This is for guidance purposes only, the actual awards granted by category may vary.

Applications must be submitted at least one month in advance of the research visit, conference, workshop or training course. For assistance with registration on the Marine Institute Research Information Management System (RIMS) and the application process please email rims.support@marine.ie

Publicity and Impact

Recipients should tag **@Irish_Aid** and **@MIFundingOffice** for any posts on Twitter relating to their attendance at events funded under this call, which the Marine Institute can retweet.

Annex 1: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Reference UN website: https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/about-small-island-developing-states

Annex 2: List of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Eligible to Apply for Funding

UN Members	Non-UN Members
1. Antigua and Barbuda	1. American Samoa
2. Bahamas	2. Anguilla
3. Bahrain	3. Aruba
4. Barbados	4. Bermuda
5. Belize	5. British Virgin Islands
6. Cabo Verde	6. Cayman Islands
7. Comoros	7. Commonwealth of Northern Marianas
8. Cuba	8. Cook Islands
9. Dominica	9. Curacao
10. Dominican Republic	10. French Polynesia
11. Fiji	11. Guadeloupe
12. Grenada	12. Guam
13. Guinea-Bissau	13. Martinique
14. Guyana	14. Montserrat
15. Haiti	15. New Caledonia
16. Jamaica	16. Niue
17. Kiribati	17. Puerto Rico
18. Maldives	18. Sint Maarten
19. Marshall Islands	19. Turks and Caicos Islands
20. Federated States of Micronesia	20. U.S. Virgin Islands
21. Mauritius	
22. Nauru	
23. Palau	
24. Papua New Guinea	
25. Samoa	
26. Sao Tome and Principe	
27. Singapore	
28. St. Kitts and Nevis	
29. St. Lucia	
30. St. Vincent and the Grenadines	
31. Seychelles	
32. Solomon Islands	
33. Suriname	
34. Timor-Leste	
35. Tonga	
36. Trinidad and Tobago	
37. Tuvalu	
38. Vanuatu	

Note: Funding provided by Irish Aid/DFA is official development assistance (ODA), and must be channelled primarily to ODA eligible states.

Please email funding@marine.ie for any queries on eligibility.

Annex 3: List of Irish Public Research Performing Organisations

- Atlantic Technological University (ATU)
- Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)
- Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL)
- Dublin City University (DCU)
- Dublin Institute of Advances Studies (DIAS)
- Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)
- Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)
- Marine Institute (MI)
- Maynooth University (MU)
- Met Éireann
- Munster Technological University (MTU)
- National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI Galway)
- Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)
- South East Technological University (SETU)
- Teagasc
- Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin)
- Technological University of the Shannon (TUS)
- Trinity College Dublin (TCD)
- Tyndall National Institute
- University College Cork (UCC)
- University College Dublin (UCD)
- University of Limerick (UL)

The list above includes public organisations who have previously been funded to undertake marine research in Ireland, but this list is not exhaustive and if any applicant is unsure whether they are eligible, then they should clarify with the Marine Institute by sending an email to funding@marine.ie.

Version 2 - July 2022