



Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Programme

Call for Proposals



Met Éireann Research Professorship Call 2023

January 2023

** updated March 2023 **

1 Introduction

1.1 Call for proposals

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are invited to submit applications for funding under the Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship Call 2023 (hereinafter referred to as the “Call”), in line with the requirements set out in this document.

The Call is managed by Met Éireann, a Division of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Following a competitive process based on applications received from HEIs, Met Éireann will approve one Research Professorship / Senior Academic post to one successful HEI.

Timeframe:

- Call for applications issues to HEIs – Tue. 24th January 2023
- **Deadline for applications – Fri. 24th Mar. 2023 at 17:00**
- The system will automatically prevent application submission after the deadline.
- Announcement of outcome – Q2/Q3 2023

1.2 Background

The Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship is a new scheme under the wider Met Éireann’s Weather and Climate Research Programme, which has already attracted and grown talent through multi-annual calls for research project proposals and research fellowships.

Below is a breakdown of some of the national policies the Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship is addressing. The EU [Destination Earth](#) initiative is also mentioned as a key international activity the Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship will be expected to support.

1.2.1 Impact 2030, Ireland’s National Research and Innovation Strategy

The Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship will help to promote and position the Irish Research and Innovation (R&I) system to maximise its impact on critical sectoral agendas of Government Departments, agencies and all stakeholders. In particular, it will help to support research careers, the formation of talent through research and the implementation of research with impact.

1.2.2 Creating Our Future, Ireland’s Conversation on Research and Innovation

The Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship will address the following emerging themes arising from the Creating Our Future campaign:

- Embedding Climate Action Across Society;
- Harnessing the Benefits of Fundamental Research.

It will help to drive research to deliver solutions and improve evidence-based policymaking.

1.2.3 Funding the Future, Ireland's further and higher education funding

The Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship will enable greater linkage between higher education and R&I, leading to an enhanced overall system with a more complementary range of choices to facilitate learners. It will reinforce the alignment of the higher education sector with skills needs of the country, with a particular focus on supporting the delivery of essential public services, such as weather and climate preparedness.

1.2.4 National Skill's Strategy: Ireland's Future

The Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship will support one of the national skills strategy's objectives for education and training providers to place a stronger focus on providing skills development opportunities that are relevant to the needs of learners, society and the economy.

1.2.5 AI Skills Needs

The Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship will in particular address the Artificial Intelligence (AI) skills needs and support Higher Education's needs to provide not only degree and post-graduate specialist courses in AI but also modules that can be combined with other disciplines.

1.2.6 AI Here for Good

The Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship will support key AI strategy's objectives:

- Include opportunities for AI in climate action as part of the development of future climate policies;
- Promote Irish participation in international AI R&I programmes and relevant EU funding calls;
- Promote Ireland as a centre for talent in AI R&I;
- Encourage Higher Education Institutions to take a coordinated approach to delivering AI education and training informed by the outcome of the EGFSN review;
- Identify public sector climate and environmental open datasets to encourage development of AI solutions for climate action.

1.2.7 Climate Action Plan

The Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship is in answer to one the Climate Action Plan actions to provide competitive project funding in support of national predictive capability and capacity in the areas of weather, climate and hydrology.

1.2.8 Destination Earth

Destination Earth will be a very powerful tool to monitor and simulate natural and human activity. It will unlock the potential of the digital modelling of the Earth's physical resources

and related phenomena, in support the green transition and prediction of major environmental degradation and disasters.

Destination Earth will reinforce Europe's industrial and technological capabilities in simulation, modelling, predictive data analytics and artificial intelligence, as well as High Performance Computing.

The Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship will help to develop national capacity and support the creation jobs across the above mentioned areas.

1.3 Research Topic

HEIs will be invited to propose a Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship post which aligns with Met Éireann's strategic objectives. **The post will focus on the application of computational science, AI and machine learning to a range of topics including multi-hazard impact based services numerical weather prediction modelling, climate modelling, climate services and other general meteorological, climatological and hydrological applications.**

The successful Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professor will be expected to specifically demonstrate the broadest impact possible on society and the value of their research through co-creation, collaboration and outreach.

2 Objective of the Initiative

The Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship aims at building senior academic level and research capacity in weather & climate science in the higher education sector.

One post is to be funded under this Call. This post will be new and additional to the sector and will be funded through Met Éireann funding provided specifically to help progress senior academic level and research capacity building in weather & climate science in the higher education sector.

Only applicants who are suitably qualified will be appointed. If applicants do not meet the normal competition rules for appointment at the most senior level within Irish HEIs, i.e. at Professorship level in the IUA institutions / SL3 level in the technological HE sector, then appointment will not be made.

The key objective of this initiative is principally to attract outstanding applicants in weather & climate science both from within the sector currently and internationally.

A key requirement from HEIs aiming to secure this posts would be demonstration of their commitment to weather & climate science. The institution must also demonstrate plans for future developments in this area and outline the organisational initiatives in place to support

the newly appointed staff. Successful appointees will be expected to allocate a minimum of 90% of their time in the delivery of their proposed research programme, a third of which is expected to closely working with Met Éireann.

3 Call criteria and application guidelines

3.1 HEI eligibility

Eligible institutions under the Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship are those that are provided with a dedicated pay budget by DFHERIS / HEA. A list of eligible institutions is given below:

- Atlantic Technological University
- Dublin City University
- Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art and Design & Technology
- Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Mary Immaculate College
- Maynooth University
- Munster Technological University
- National College of Art & Design
- RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Royal Irish Academy
- South East Technological University
- St Angela's College
- Technological University Dublin
- Technological University Shannon: Midlands Midwest
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Cork
- University College Dublin

- University of Galway
- University of Limerick

3.2 Application procedure

In submitting an application, the HEI will be deemed to have accepted the conditions outlined in this document and in any subsequent clarifications from Met Éireann regarding the Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship and to have agreed to be bound by them. Furthermore, signing of the application by the Head of Institution (e.g. President, Provost, etc.) reflects acceptance of the award and a commitment to provide the necessary support for the posts. **All applications must be signed by the Head of Institution.**

HEIs are required to submit a single PDF document outlining the Post description and providing background in answer to the assessment guidelines below.

Applications should be submitted online using the Met Éireann Grants Management platform by the deadline.

3.3 Assessment process and guidelines

3.3.1 Assessment Panel

Met Éireann will establish an international Assessment Panel to evaluate the HEI applications received. The Assessment Panel will comprise of three members with weather & climate science, as well as higher education strategic level expertise.

3.3.2 Assessment guidelines

The Assessment Panel will consider the extent to which the applications meet the criteria of the Call as outlined in this document. The Assessment Panel will need to be satisfied that the applications are consistent with the strategies of the HEI.

All applications will be assessed solely on the basis of the material provided to Met Éireann at the time of submission.

In their submission to Met Éireann, HEIs will need, **in no more than 30 pages**, to:

- provide evidence on how they are progressing their weather & climate science capacity;
- demonstrate plans for future developments in this area and outline the organisational initiatives in place to support the newly appointed staff;
- demonstrate plans for to support collaboration, engagement and knowledge transfer with Met Éireann (e.g. placements) and the wider society;
- outline the post's research topic;

- demonstrate clearly how the new appointment will have a significant impact within the faculty / department / functional unit and the HEI.
- demonstrate clearly how the new appointment will have a significant impact in supporting Met Éireann's objectives.

3.3.3 Assessment Criteria

In accordance with the objectives of the Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship as outlined above, each application will be evaluated based on the following criteria (max. 100 marks):

For the HEI:

- Demonstration of how it has progressed weather & climate science capacity within their organisation (max 14 marks);
- Demonstration of plans for future developments in this area and of organisational initiatives in place to support the newly appointed staff (max 14marks);
- Demonstration of plans to support collaboration, engagement and knowledge transfer with Met Éireann (max 17 marks);

For the post:

- Relevance of post description (max 20 marks);
- Demonstration of how the new appointment will have a significant impact within the faculty / department / functional unit and the HEI (max 10 marks);
- Demonstration of how the new appointment will have a significant impact in supporting Met Éireann's strategic objectives through knowledge transfer and the translation of research to Met Éireann's activities & impact-based services (max 25 marks).

Only one application per HEI will be accepted.

3.3.4 Assessment process

Applications will be first reviewed by Met Éireann for eligibility.

Applications will then be sent for evaluation to the Assessment Panel members. The Assessment Panel members will allocate scores as per the evaluation criteria detailed above. HEIs are advised to familiarise themselves fully with the evaluation criteria, assessment guidelines and Programme objectives prior to making an application.

Each Assessment Panel member will submit their independent evaluation and each make their recommendation to Met Éireann. Met Éireann's Management Committee will review each Assessment Panel member's recommendation and will make a decision of funding for one post.

Only applications that meet a minimum threshold of overall quality (65 of 100 marks) and minimum 50% threshold in each category will be deemed fundable.

Met Éireann's decision on whether to award a post under the Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship is final.

Met Éireann, as appropriate, may reconvene the Assessment Panel in the event it needs further input.

4 Funding & Duration

Each HEI can put forward one application to be considered for one new post under the Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship. The post will be awarded at the most senior level on the current academic career framework for each HEI.

Funding will be provided at the appropriate level for each post, for an initial period of 5 years, renewable for a possible further 5 years, after which time the HEI must incorporate them into the HEI pay budget.

Funding for these posts is wholly subject to the continued receipt of funding by Met Éireann from the Exchequer for the Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Programme. In the event of such funding being reduced or discontinued, Met Éireann will not be under any liability to provide funding or to compensate a HEI for any reduction or cessation of such funding.

A budget of €1m per annum has been allocated to cover the post's salary and provision for a team of researchers, postgraduate students and contribution to research expenses.

The successful candidate will be a permanent employee of the HEI, under its normal terms and conditions.

5 Institutional Assessment Process to appoint a candidate

The assessment process to determine who will take up the new post awarded to the HEI under the Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship, will be undertaken by the HEI themselves utilising their own recruitment and appointment processes so that these posts are subject to the same high standards of any HEI appointment at this level in the institution. Only suitably qualified candidates shall be appointed. The successful HEI should include the text agreed with Met Éireann and involve Met Éireann at all stages of their recruitment process.

These appointments will be made through open competition for which both internal and external candidates will be eligible.



6 Reporting and Monitoring

The successful HEI will submit a report to Met Éireann outlining the outcome of their recruitment and appointment processes and indicate when the post will be filled. This report will include a note on the process undertaken by the HEI to recruit the individual, including numbers of applications, shortlisting etc. In the event of failure to appoint a Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professor following a maximum of two competitions, Met Éireann reserves the right to terminate its agreement with the successful HEI.

Upon recruitment and on-boarding of the successful candidate, ongoing monitoring will be conducted by Met Éireann and regular financial and technical reporting on the proposed research programme will be expected to be submitted to Met Éireann.

In order to examine the Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship's effectiveness, an evaluation of the initiative will be conducted in due course too.

7 Queries

Any queries regarding the application process or Post description should be submitted by email to researchfunding@met.ie.

APPENDIX 1 – Online Application Form

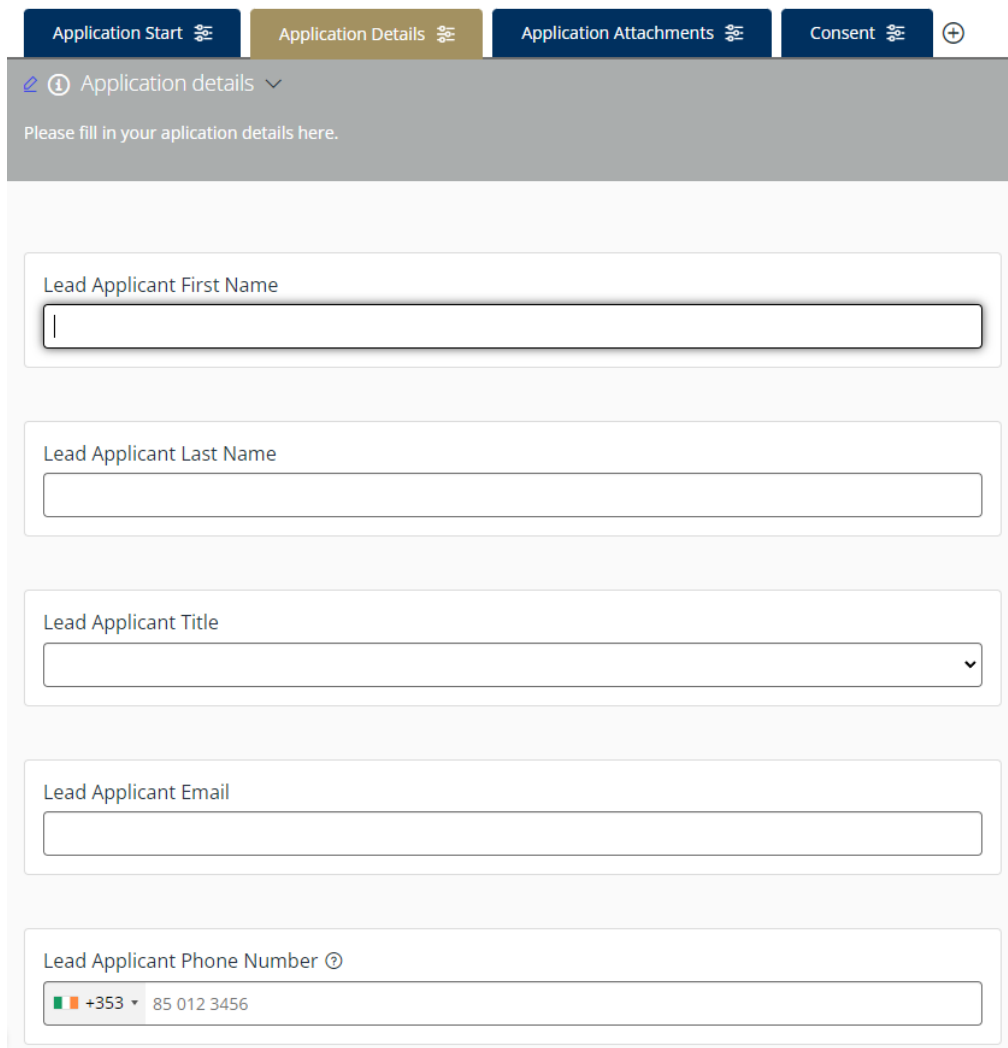
Go to: <https://meteireann.grantplatform.com/>

1. Application Start

- 1) Select the Met Éireann Weather and Climate Research Professorship Call 2023 Topic
- 2) Enter your Proposal Acronym
- 3) Click "Save + next" (at the bottom of the page)

2. Application Details

Enter applicant details, abstract, keywords, impact, dissemination and communication plan, budget, budget justification.










The screenshot shows the 'Application Details' section of the online application form. At the top, there are four tabs: 'Application Start', 'Application Details' (which is highlighted in gold), 'Application Attachments', and 'Consent'. Below the tabs, there is a header bar with a back arrow, a help icon, and the text 'Application details'. Below this, a grey box contains the instruction 'Please fill in your application details here.' The form fields are as follows:

- Lead Applicant First Name:** A text input field.
- Lead Applicant Last Name:** A text input field.
- Lead Applicant Title:** A dropdown menu.
- Lead Applicant Email:** A text input field.
- Lead Applicant Phone Number:** A text input field with a country code dropdown (currently set to '+353') and a phone number (currently '85 012 3456').

3. Application Attachments


Upload Post description + background PDF document (**no more than 30 pages**), letter(s) of support (if any – optional) and approval of institution letter in PDF format.

Application Start  Application Details  **Application Attachments**  Consent  


[🔗](#)  Attachments information 

Material may be supplied in PDF format only.
Maximum file size is 10MB per piece.
Please do not upload any further written material than requested as the reviewers will not consider these. The written compon


Project/Post description


Drag your file here
or
[Select file](#)

Letter(s) of Support (optional)







Drag your file here
or
[Select file](#)




Approval of Institution



4. Application Consent

Tick all consent boxes.

Application Start  Application Details  Application Attachments  Consent  


  Consent 

For your application to be considered, please tick all the boxes below.

I declare that the information provided is accurate and correct. I agree that MET ÉIREANN's Research Funding Office may make any enquires it considers necessary to verify the information provided herein. I have read, and agree to, MET ÉIREANN's Terms and Conditions for this call.

Submission of an application represents an agreement by the applicant to obtain the relevant approval for any research which requires ethical and/or regulatory approval prior to the commencement of the research.

Buttons are deactivated in configuration mode.



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5. Submit Application

Any queries regarding the application process or Project description should be submitted by email to researchfunding@met.ie.



APPENDIX 2 – MET ÉIREANN’S Strategic Plan 2017 - 2027

Please read:

https://www.met.ie/cms/assets/uploads/2017/08/Met_Eireann_Strategy_2017-2027.pdf.

