EDGE

Cutting Edge Training-Cutting Edge Technology

Frequently Asked Questions
(FAQs)

1) Fellowship Call

> **How many Fellowships are available?**
> EDGE will fund up to 71 Fellowships in total, to be awarded across Call 1 in 2016 and a Call 2 in 2017.

> **Can I apply for a PhD under the scheme?**
> No, the programme is only for post-doctoral Fellowships.

> **What research fields does the EDGE Programme cover?**
> Your proposal should relate to the broad area of Information and Communications Technology, which covers materials, systems and data. This will ensure it falls within one of the three themes of the Programme (Digital Content Innovations, Advanced Materials and BioEngineering or Future Networks and Communications) from which you should select one of the given research sub-fields. The specific topic of the proposal should fall within the research expertise of your chosen Supervisor.

> **What is the deadline for application submission?**
> The deadline for submission of applications under Call 1 is 1st December 2016, 23:59h.

> **What are the salary and other financial supports for these positions?**
> Each Fellow will receive a yearly gross salary (i.e. before tax and statutory deductions) in a range between €33,500 and €56,600 depending on the level of Fellowship – for more details please go to the About the Fellowships and Remuneration sections on the website, or the Guide for Applicants. Additionally, each Fellow will also receive a yearly mobility allowance of €6,500 to cover expenses linked to the personal household; an annual family allowance of €5,400 if applicable. The host institution will support research costs of €13,000 to Fellows in the Advanced Materials and BioEngineering theme and €7,200 to Fellows in either the Digital Content Innovations or Future Networks and Communications themes.

> **Who is eligible for a family allowance?**
> Family is defined as persons linked to the Fellow by (i) marriage, or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country where this relationship was formalised; or (iii) dependent children who are actually being maintained by the Fellow. Should one or more of these apply to your circumstances you will be eligible for a family allowance.

> **What are the different types of Fellowships available in the Programme?**
> The EDGE Programme offers three types of Fellowships
>   o **Fellow level 1: Postdoctoral Researcher**
>   Candidates with less than 4 years post-PhD (or equivalent) experience.
>   o **Fellow level 2: Research Fellow**
>   Candidates with 4-6 years post-PhD (or equivalent) experience.

- o **Fellow level 3: Senior Research Fellow**
  Candidates with more than 6 years post-PhD (or equivalent) experience.

➢ **What is the duration of a Fellowship?**
The fellowships will have a duration of 24 or 36 months depending on the chosen supervisor. This will be discussed with the supervisor at the proposal stage.

2) Eligibility

➢ **Is the EDGE Programme open to applicants from any country?**
Applicants from any country in the world can apply for a Fellowship, provided the meet they comply with the Transnational Mobility Rule: at the time of recruitment by the host organisation, researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

➢ **Is there an age limit for candidates applying for an EDGE Fellowship?**
The EDGE Programme has no age limit for any researchers applying for its Fellowships. Applicants have to meet the specific eligibility criteria outlined in detail in the Eligibility Criteria section of the website, but age is not one of them.

➢ **Can someone with research experience but without a PhD apply?**
Yes: Applicants Must be Experienced Researchers as per the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions definition: at the time of the deadline for submission of applications, applicants must be in possession of a doctoral degree or, if the applicant has does not have a doctoral degree and is not in the process of completing one, they should have at least 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Full-time equivalent research experience applies to researchers who have been working on their PhD for at least four years and are near completion and those who have four years of full time experience in research, but are not working towards PhD completion (examples of such researchers include: someone with MD (medical doctor, which is not considered equivalent to a PhD in an MSCA) or a research assistant in academia or industry).

➢ **How can I calculate required research experience when applying for Fellowships under the EDGE Programme?**
All research undertaken after the researcher has gained a university degree/diploma giving them access to doctoral studies (the degree/diploma must entitle the holder to embark on doctoral studies without having to acquire any further qualifications) can be counted. Research experience in an organisation where research activity was only part of applicant's duties will not be counted as full time research experience. Applicants lacking the requisite

years of full-time postgraduate research experience by the deadline for the submission of proposals are not eligible.

➢ **What is the PhD completion date that I should use to determine the length of my post-PhD experience?**
The PhD completion date to be used to calculate the length of applicant's post PhD experience is the viva date, provided that the researcher has successfully passed the viva and has been recommended for the PhD award as a result of it.

3) Application

➢ **How are applications submitted?**
Applications for the EDGE Programme are only be accepted through the online application system, which will be open on the Programme website during the submission phase of each Call. In exceptional circumstances hardcopy or email applications may be accepted.

➢ **Can I simultaneously submit applications to EDGE and other Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions?**
Yes, but if you will only be able to take up one position if you are successful. You should withdraw from any application in progress if you choose to take up another while in progress.

➢ **Do I need to submit documentation certifying the fulfilment of the requirements of the call (e.g. PhD certificate, etc.)?**
No, this documentation is not needed at the application submission stage. You may be asked to show evidence at interview, and successful candidates will be required to present it prior to accepting the grant.

➢ **In what language should the applications be submitted?**
Only applications written in English will be accepted.

➢ **Should the proposal include a detailed list of references or is it enough to note the cited references in footnotes?**
It is sufficient to note the references of the proposal in footnotes. A list of publications and project relevant references can be submitted as part of the proposal; however, it is not mandatory.

➢ **Should my PhD diploma be translated into English?**
Applicants are not required to submit their diplomas with their application. They may be asked to submit their diploma and other relevant documentation only if successful. In such case, diploma and other documentation is required to be translated into English.

➢ **Is it possible to update my application or to submit additional material/information after the call deadline?**
No, it is not possible for any applicant to submit additional material or information once their application has been submitted and online application system is closed.

➢ **What happens to my submission if it is incomplete?**
Completeness of the application will be checked at the eligibility checking phase. Incomplete submissions will be deemed ineligible. Applicants can resubmit their application under the second EDGE call.

➢ **How will project proposals be evaluated?**
All eligible applications will be sent out for independent, international peer-review. Each application will be evaluated by three independent assessors. More details on the evaluation procedures can be found in the Guide for Applicants document in the Application Documents section.

4) Fellowships

➢ **If I am offered an EDGE Fellowship, when can I start?**
It is expected that successful Fellows will start the Fellowship at their earliest convenience, typically within four months of acceptance. Given that transnational mobility is a key feature of the programme, EDGE recognises that additional time may be required to allow a Fellow to complete their previous activities and move to Ireland. Consequently, the starting date for each Fellow will be negotiated on an individual basis by the Fellow in question and their respective host institute.

➢ **Can I start my fellowship before obtaining my PhD diploma?**
All Fellows need to be in a possession of a PhD diploma at the time of the start of their Fellowship. The only exception includes researchers with at least 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience who at the time of application were not enrolled on a doctoral programme and are not working towards a PhD completion.

5) Other

➢ **Can I reapply if my application has already been refused?**
Yes, you can apply again under future EDGE Calls.

➢ **Will I be informed about the reasons for refusing my application?**
All applicants will receive feedback on applications submitted, including results of the eligibility check, final score and qualitative assessment from the external peer-review process.

➢ **When will I receive information on whether or not I will be offered a Fellowship?**

It is expected that the final phase of the selection process, interviews, will take place in March 2017 for Call 1. Successful applicants will be contact shortly after to inform them that the Fellowship has been awarded. A separate offer of a contract of employment will follow from the host institute.

➢ **Where can I find practical information about living and working in Ireland?**
Information and further links to resources about living and working in Ireland can be accessed from the Working in Ireland section of the website.