



Preparing to apply for a DOROTHY fellowship Hints and tips

1. Make sure you meet the eligibility criteria

There are certain conditions you must meet to be eligible to apply for a DOROTHY fellowship. These include details about your own professional experience and qualifications.

DOROTHY is a **postdoctoral** research fellowship, which means the primary criterion is that any applicant must be an Experienced Researcher (ER). The definition of ER in the H2020 MSCA programme will be applied: ERs must, at the call deadline, be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Eligibility requirements for DOROTHY also include mobility requirements, affecting what you can propose to do during your fellowship. Check the **Guide for Applicants**, available on the DOROTHY website, carefully and thoroughly to ensure you meet the eligibility criteria.

Completing an application requires a great deal of time and energy, so ensure that you only do so if you are eligible for consideration. Also ensure that your proposed outgoing phase conforms with mobility requirements.

2. Identify a suitable fellowship topic

The DOROTHY programme is a multidisciplinary call focusing on public health crises and their legacies. Researchers from all disciplines are welcome across the sciences, engineering, arts and humanities provided that projects relate to **public health crises**. Research areas may include, but are not limited to, epidemiology and population health; environmental science, ecology and environmental health; engineering of materials; biotechnology; biomedical science; psychology; economics; health inequality; health communication, health protection and health promotion; digital technology; anthropology; law; politics; philosophy; and medical humanities.

The crucial aspect of your proposed research is that it must be an investigation into public health crises. Developing a proposal for research on a health-related topic, for example, is not sufficient. The assessors will be evaluating the proposal as a public health crises research proposal, so this must be clearly laid out in the proposal.

DOROTHY funds researcher-led projects, meaning that you should design and propose an original research project that emphasises your own contribution and development as a researcher. Depending on your discipline, you may work with a supervisor as part of a wider, ongoing research project with multiple investigators, or you may propose an entirely new project. However, any application to DOROTHY must emphasise the applicant's own, original research contribution.

The IRC is not in a position to advise on suitability of research topics or to comment on the content of applications.

Please note there are specific prohibited areas that cannot be funded. See the Terms and Conditions of the scheme for further details.



3. Confirm support of your proposed main supervisor

Prior to creating an application related to research into public health crises, applicants should contact, and discuss their fellowship application with, their proposed academic supervisors, including their main supervisor in the Irish host organisation.

In Ireland, your supervisor should be employed by one of Ireland's eligible Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) or Research Performing Organisations (RPOs). See a full list of eligible hosts [here](#).

To find a suitable supervisor, look at different institutions' websites and learn about their research specialisms. Visit staff profile pages to read about their research.

If you identify a potential supervisor whose research interests match with your project, email them with details of your project and the DOROTHY programme, asking whether they would be happy to support your application and work with you.

You should ensure a potential supervisor will be happy to work with and support you throughout the course of the DOROTHY programme. You may wish to share the [DOROTHY Supervisory Charter](#) with them.

All applicants should have a main supervisor confirmed before beginning an application. Applications must **not** name a supervisor on an application without their consent.

4. Confirm support of your proposed outgoing host supervisor

Eighteen months of the DOROTHY fellowship are spent at an outgoing host – a HEI outside of the Republic of Ireland.

Prior to creating an application, applicants should contact and discuss their fellowship application with their proposed outgoing host supervisor. Your outgoing supervisor will be based at and employed by the institution where you will spend the outgoing phase of the DOROTHY programme. As with your main supervisor, research whether your proposed outgoing supervisor's research interests are appropriate for your proposed research project on public health crises.

Ensure you check the mobility requirements in the Guide for Applicants before choosing an outgoing host institution, as different rules apply for nationals of different countries.

It is the responsibility of each applicant to identify a suitable partner HEI for the outgoing phase.

As with your main supervisor, applications must not name a supervisor on an application without their consent.

5. Research your proposed host HEIs

One of the unique advantages of the DOROTHY programme is that it not only gives early career researchers the opportunity to work on a research project related to public health crises, but also focuses on developing researchers' skills, knowledge and professional development through an extensive training programme.

The DOROTHY training programme aims to produce a multidisciplinary cohort of experts, knowledgeable about different research areas and able to work towards interdisciplinary

solutions. In the long term, these fellows will develop as versatile professionals able to tackle public health crises, providing innovative ideas, solutions and forms of engagement.

Some of this training is provided by the Funders, but much of it is expected to take place within your main and outgoing host institutions. You need to lay out the training you plan to undertake in your proposal.

This means that it is important to be able to show that your proposed HEIs are the best place for you to carry out your proposed project, and that they will be able to support your skills development with respect to public health crises. Research your proposed HEIs to find out:

- what research infrastructure and opportunities will be available to you?
- what training facilities or courses will the HEI offer?
- what broader expertise in your proposed host department or school, beyond your proposed supervisors, is relevant to your project?
- what wider opportunities for networking will there be at your host institution? The DOROTHY programme is underpinned by multidisciplinary cooperation, so look beyond your proposed host school to the wider faculty or across the institution.

Learn whether your proposed host HEI is the best place for you to conduct your DOROTHY fellowship.

Your application will be much stronger if you can detail this information in your application and indicate why these institutions are the best place for your specific fellowship project to be conducted.

6. Contact the Research Office in your proposed Irish host HEI

It is highly recommended that applicants contact the research office (RO) of their proposed main host organisation as soon as they decide to apply for a DOROTHY fellowship and identify a suitable academic supervisor. You should let the RO know you intend to apply. You will be able to find details of the relevant RO contact on the website of your host HEI/RPO.

However, applicants are advised to ensure that their proposed host organisations familiarise themselves with the eligibility requirements and Terms and Conditions of the scheme. In particular, you will need to discuss elements such as secondments, confidentiality and intellectual property rights with the RO, with reference to the Guide for Applicants and the DOROTHY Terms and Conditions.

The Research Office will be required to submit their verification decision in relation to the application once it has been submitted. This means a DOROTHY application will be ineligible unless it is signed and approved by the RO. It is therefore essential that you are in touch with your proposed host institution's RO.



7. Confirm potential non-academic secondment

As part of the DOROTHY fellowship, fellows are encouraged to participate in a secondment in a non-academic institution, lasting between 3 and 6 months. The aim of this secondment is for you to develop essential skills outside of an academic/research environment, and/or to share your research skills related to public health crises beyond your host HEI.

The secondment can take place at any point during the fellowship, during your main or outgoing phase, provided it is related to your public health crises research project.

Before drafting your application, you may wish to contact potential secondment partners, and arrange a potential secondment that you can describe in your proposal. If a secondment is not described at proposal stage, it can be arranged at a later stage, in agreement with the supervisory panel.

See a non-exhaustive list of potential non-academic secondment organisations within Ireland on the DOROTHY website.



8. Create a profile on the Smartsimple system

All applications for DOROTHY should be submitted via the online system, Smartsimple. The guide to Smartsimple will be available on the DOROTHY website once the call opens, along with an example of an application form. Once the call has opened, familiarise yourself with the Smartsimple system and the required sections of the application form before beginning your application.

*For further updates and information, see the DOROTHY website:
<https://dorothy.ie>*