E3 Multi-Disciplinary Challenge Awards
Frequently Asked Questions – Updated 25 February 2021

Eligibility

Q – Which Schools are the E3 Schools?
A – The Schools of Computer Science & Statistics, Engineering, and Natural Sciences

Q – are researchers from Schools other than the E3 Schools eligible to lead a project?
A – researchers from other Schools cannot act as the Lead Principal Investigator, however they are encouraged to participate as Co-Principal Investigators

Q – How many E3 Schools need to be involved in the project team?
A – a minimum of two E3 Schools need to be involved, including that led by the Lead Principal Investigator

Q – How many people should be in a project team?
A – The team should include a minimum of five eligible researchers. There is no maximum number, however applicants should be mindful that there will be a limited number of students funded under each project, and so if there are too many participants opportunities for supervision may be limited.

Q – Can I include more than one PIs from a single School?
A – Yes, however you should bear in mind the need for a balanced group of PIs in disciplinary and other terms.

Q – Can I include researchers from outside Trinity College Dublin?
A – All named researchers should be from Trinity, however it may be possible to include additional researchers from other institutions or industry when establishing the supervisory board.

Q – What are the E3 Perspectives as mentioned in the guidance documentation.
A – The E3 Perspectives are Environment, Production, Resources, Data, Wellbeing, and Communities. An overview of the perspectives can be found in the E3 Vision & Future Document, page 20.

Q – Can I be involved with more than one application?
A – individual PIs can be named on a maximum of two applications, and can only be named as Lead PI on one application.

Q – I have job title ____. Can I apply?
A – Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors who have permanent (including COID) or tenure track contracts are eligible. If you have another job title or are otherwise unsure please contact lansleyp@tcd.ie and we will confirm eligibility on case by case basis.
Q – The Call Document states that the lead PI should be ‘experienced’. Can you clarify what this means?
A – this has been deliberately undefined, however it is expected that lead PIs will have experience of some of the following: managing awards of medium – large scale; management of interdisciplinary research consortia; management of postgraduate education; other relevant experience. Relevant experience should be demonstrated in the appended CV.

The Application

Q – How do I apply?
A – All relevant documents can be found on the webpage: https://www.tcd.ie/e3/education/phd/.

Q – What is the deadline?
A – the deadline for Declarations of Intent is 15th March, and for full applications 31st March.

Q – What is the purpose of the Declaration of Intent?
A – this will enable the effective planning of the review process and enable the Award management group to ensure that appropriate expertise is present.

Q – Can I submit an application without having submitted a Declaration of Intent?
A – Yes

Q – Will I receive feedback on the Declaration of Intent?
A – it will not be possible to provide feedback on the proposed research area of the project, however you may receive guidance with regard to the eligibility of the proposed project team where relevant.

Q – Will my application be reviewed by an expert in the field?
A – due to the scale of the awards and the potential breadth of applications, it will not be possible to guarantee that all applications are reviewed by subject experts, however we will take efforts to ensure that researchers with the ability to provide a knowledgeable generalist review are present. Applications should be written with this in mind.

Q – Will I receive feedback on the full application?
A – Yes – all applicants will receive written feedback.

Budget & Organisation

Q - Do I need to submit a budget description?
A – There is no requirement to submit a budget description at application stage, however the Assessment Panel may request some budgetary details in order to confirm awards bestowed.

Q – How long or short can the award be?
A – All awards are expected to last for 5 years.

Q – Do PhDs need to commence at the same time?
A – PhDs may start at different times, so long as the entirety of the PhD falls within the award period.

Q – Can awards cover international fees?
A – Awards may cover international fees, however it is considered unlikely that the awards will be able to provide budget for more than one international student.

Q - Can I add addition funding from other sources?
A – Proposals should be able to stand alone without support from other sources. Once awards are made, awardees may look into to adding complementary funding and / or linking with other research projects if this adds demonstrable value.

Will I receive feedback?
Yes. In writing to the Lead PI and nominated secondary point of contact (per the Cover Sheet).

Assessment Process

Q – how many applications do you anticipate? What will the likely level of success be?
A – it is not possible to be certain, but we anticipate 6-10 applications, giving a success rate of 30-50%. The three awards will provide funding for a minimum of 15 different PIs across the College.

Future Funding

Q - Will this be an annual award?
A – budget is only available for a single round of funding. We do not anticipate that further funding will be made available, however we will work towards obtaining funding of other sorts for future PhD funding in this area, and it is hoped that these awards will work in a complementary manner with future funding.