

## CHALLENGE-BASED MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROJECT AWARDS

These Challenge based awards are made possible through the generous philanthropic support of the Provost's Council, a network of leading Trinity alumni and supporters who act as advisors to the College. Donations have been made in honour of the Provostship of Patrick Prendergast, and two awards will be made, each to the value of **€600k**.

### Overview:

This new challenge-based funding initiative in honour of Provost Patrick Prendergast focuses on excellent and innovative cross-disciplinary research that is inspired by the cluster areas in EU Horizon Europe's *Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness* pillar:

- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

### The funding objectives are:

- To create cross-disciplinary collaborative teams of Trinity academic staff (Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors) to address some of the immediate and most significant global challenges of our time.
- To grow Trinity's capacity to deliver multi-disciplinary solutions linked to these global challenges
- To deliver on both Trinity's Research Excellence strategy to harness our collective expertise for the greater good and on the College strategy to align ourselves to the UN SDGs, significantly increasing the extent to which our research and teaching aligns with the aim of achieving a healthy and sustainable planet
- To promote multi-disciplinary and cross-cutting balanced research partnerships across the University to help problem solve around global challenges
- To facilitate Trinity academic staff to learn about challenge-based research and participate in consortia to win further externally secured funding of scale, such as Horizon Europe.
- To strengthen Trinity's capability, experience and reputation in conducting interdisciplinary challenge-based research.
- To deliver on Trinity's mission to innovate and extend excellence in PhD supervision and training.
- To support the funding of PhD candidates and to enable their career and transversal skill development through training and interdisciplinary co-supervision.
- To develop and support cohorts of PhD students undertaking research that is interconnected and focussed on addressing the same global challenge.
- To communicate the progress and impact of multi-disciplinary research both internally and externally.

## Call details

- The call will fund **two** collaborative challenge-based interdisciplinary research projects to a maximum of **€600k** each.
- The project should start by **September, 2022** and must be completed within a period of 5 years.
- Each project must be led by an experienced PI
- In addition to the lead-PI, **at least three co-PIs** should be named on each proposal.
- All named PIs and Co-PIs must be permanent or tenure track Trinity Professors, Associate Professors, or Assistant Professors eligible under calendar regulations to supervise PhD students.
- The research team must be constructed to represent a balance in career stage and gender. Teams are strongly encouraged to ensure that at least one member is Assistant Professor with limited experience as a primary supervisor for a PhD student.
- Additional collaborators, where they are identified, may be from outside TCD.
- Including the lead, the multi-disciplinary PI/Co-PI team (four or more) must represent at least **three different schools** from across at least **2 faculties**
- PIs can be named on a maximum of two applications and can be named as the Lead-PI of one application only.
- The PI/Co-PI team must be constructed so as to offer a balanced, inclusive, solution-oriented approach to the global challenge identified.
- Challenges should align to the clusters of global challenge areas of Horizon Europe
- Joint-supervision of the PhD students is encouraged. A description of the proposed co-supervision model and the supervision development plan for co-PIs who have limited experience of PhD supervision will be expected.

## Research Teams

Balanced solutions to global challenges require multi-disciplinary/interdisciplinary and solution-oriented thinking. Balance and inclusiveness will be considered in all aspects of the successful projects: the research topic addressed, the methodological approaches proposed, including the integration of the gender dimension in the R&I content, the composition of the PI and Co-PIs within the team (considering inter alia discipline, career-stage, and gender balance), the proposed recruitment, supervision and training of the PhD candidates, and the mechanisms for and level of engagement of the team with wider College communities. The PhD students should form a multi-disciplinary team in performing their research.

**Applications that do not provide evidence of a commitment to gender balance, career-stage and discipline balance and inclusion will not be considered further.**

## Financial considerations:

- The funding is primarily intended to support at least four students each on 4-year PhD studentships (NOTE: while practice in some disciplines has traditionally been for 3-year PhD studentships, the Trinity Structured PhD programme is a 4-year model and proposals must align to this model).

- PI/co-PI teams should be aware that the full fee (EU or non-EU) and a stipend of €17,662 euro per annum per graduate must be covered by the award, inclusive of cost increases related to the fee certainty policy and annual cost of living increases in stipend payments.
- Funding may cover additional activities for students (training, equipment and consumables, travel etc), however this must not constitute more than 20% of the total funding. Co-funding from Schools and/or other PI funds is permitted, but not expected.
- Indicative costs associated with EU- and non-EU students, inclusive of fees and stipend are €110k and €140k respectively. **A detailed budget expenditure plan is not required at application stage but will be sought from shortlisted/successful proposals.**
- **No overhead** will be applied to these grants.

#### **Applicant Deadlines and Instructions:**

- (i) All lead-PIs will be asked submit a **Declaration of Intent Form** in advance of submitting a full proposal. The purpose of the declaration of intent is to provide summary information which can be used to inform the composition and selection of the assessment panel. It will not form part of the final assessment scores and the information provided may be subject to revision. Provisional deadline for submission of *Declaration of Intent Form* is September 24th, 2021. Full details on the Declaration of Intent form will be made available
- (ii) Full proposals will be expected by **October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. Full details and copies of the application form will be made available on the Graduate Studies website
- (iii) Interested applicants are encouraged to participate in a brokerage event and a workshop that will be hosted by the Graduate Studies Office in early September. Both sessions will be recorded and made available for those who are unable to attend.

In all instances applications should utilise [eco-friendly project design and implementation practices](#) in line with the College's commitment to sustainability. Please note that application forms will be shared with the Research Development Office in order to enable them to better target information regarding multi-disciplinary and other funding opportunities. If you do not wish for your application to be shared please make this known at the time of submission.

Further details will be made available over the coming weeks. Informal enquiries can be directed in the first instance to [dnggrstd@tcd.ie](mailto:dnggrstd@tcd.ie), but please note that there may be a delay in responding to queries.

