Candidate Information Booklet

poistphoiblí publicjobs

8935 Appointments to the Board of Research Ireland (Taighde Éireann)

Dublin

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

Closing Date: 15:00 on Tuesday 6th of October 2026

State Boards Division
publicjobs

publicjobs refers to Public Appointments Service established under the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004 – 2013.

The Public Appointments Service (PAS), established under statute in 2004, provides an independent shared service in recruitment, assessment and selection to organisations across the Civil and Public Services.

publicjobs also has responsibility for providing an open, accessible, rigorous and transparent system to support Ministers in making appointments to State Boards. Our dedicated website, www.publicjobs.ie, is the channel through which publicjobs advertises vacancies on State Boards. It is also the means through which accomplished, experienced and qualified people, including people who might not previously have been identified as available for appointment, can then apply to be considered for particular vacancies.

Contact: State Boards

publicjobs

Email: stateboards@publicjobs.ie

URL: www.publicjobs.ie

Membership of State Boards

High standards of corporate governance in all State Agencies, whether in the commercial or non-commercial sphere, are critical to ensuring a positive contribution to the State's overall social and economic development.

Members of State Boards are appointed to act on behalf of the citizen to oversee the running of the affairs of state bodies. State bodies must serve the interests of the taxpayer, pursue value for money in their endeavours (including managing risk appropriately), and act transparently as public entities. Members of State Boards, and the relevant management team, are accountable for the proper management of the organisation.

Board members should act on a fully informed basis, in good faith, with due diligence and care, and in the best interest of the State body, subject to the objectives set by Government. In that regard and in accordance with 13.2 of the Guidelines on Appointments to State Boards, "it is advisable that no member of a State Board should serve more than two full terms of appointment or should hold appointments to more than two State Boards."

The Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 (the Code) provides a framework for the application of best practice in corporate governance by both commercial and non-commercial State bodies.

In order to be an effective contributor on a State Board it is recommended that members should:

- bring independent and objective scrutiny to the oversight of the organisation;
- be prepared to be challenging when necessary while being supportive to the delivery of organisational strategy and objectives;
- be equipped to offer considered advice on the basis of sound judgement and experience;
- be prepared to make a time commitment to their work commensurate with their role.

Appointments to the Board of Research Ireland (Taighde Éireann)

Location of Meetings:	Dublin
Number of Vacancies:	4 Ordinary Members
Remuneration:	€11,970 per annum Travel and subsistence is paid at appropriate Civil Service Rates. (It should be noted that in line with the 'One Person One Salary' principle, no public servant will be entitled to receive remuneration in the form of board fees, save for situations that are statutorily provided for e.g. Worker Directors).
Time Requirements:	6 half day board meetings per annum with a minimum of one day preparatory work per month expected. Successful candidates will also be required to sit on one or more sub-committees of the Board. Each Committee meets approximately six times per annum. A half day of preparation is expected in advance of each sub-committee meeting. Current Committees: • Audit and Risk Committee • Research , Innovation and Strategy Committee

Candidates' attention is also drawn to the provisions of the Code in relation to Audit and Risk Committee membership which can be found here.

1. Background

Taighde Éireann (Research Ireland) was established under the Research and Innovation Act 2024 to fund research and innovation in all fields of activity and across the full breadth of research disciplines. The Agency is empowered to fund excellence, to connect people and ideas, and to strengthen the research and innovation system as a whole.

In order to ensure that Ireland's collective research and innovation investments and activities make as big a difference as possible to as many people as possible, the agency must drive research and innovation excellence in all disciplines. It must develop capacity to respond to challenges using integrated approaches from scientific, behavioural, economic and cultural perspectives. Such support for all disciplines is essential to ensure that Ireland has a resilient and agile research base that can make a substantive impact on national challenges and opportunities. Overall, the Agency will contribute to the deeper integration and coordination of

funders and programmes, as well as highlight the importance of challenge-based funding in realising shared goals such as the twin green and digital transitions.

Research and innovation underpin Ireland's future prosperity, our international standing, and the wellbeing of our people – economically, socially, culturally, and environmentally.

The recently published 5-year strategy sets out how Research Ireland will help secure Ireland's place as a leading knowledge and skills economy. It is a clear statement of intent, positioning Research Ireland to contribute fully to the Government's wider economic and competitiveness strategy, working alongside IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland as one of the State's key enterprise and innovation agencies.

Research Ireland will invest in excellent research, nurture and attract world-class talent, and strengthen the connections between academia, enterprise, public policy, and society. It will champion interdisciplinary approaches, ensure all disciplines are valued, and translate ideas into impacts that benefit people and communities in every part of the country.

This strategy aligns with the Programme for Government, the National Development Plan, Impact 2030, the Action Plan for Competitiveness, and Ireland's wider economic and innovation ambitions. It reflects a strong, shared commitment across Government to place research and innovation at the heart of Ireland's future.

As well as nationally fostering new research and innovation partnerships and collaborations between enterprise, community, government and the wider research and innovation sector, the agency also has a key role in enhancing engagement with the Horizon Europe Framework Programme, Shared Island initiatives, US and global research and innovation partnerships.

Research Ireland competitive funding awards complement the Higher Education Authority's core investment in the higher education institutions. The agency's relationship with the Higher Education Authority and the research and innovation funding agencies of other Government Departments (IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, the Health Research Board, Teagasc, Marine Institute, Environmental Protection Agency, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and others) will also be essential to its success.

2. Functions of the Board

The Board:

- Will perform the functions of Taighde Éireann as set out under the Research and Innovation Act 2024, including overseeing the implementation of the corporate plan Publications - Research Ireland and the annual plan Shaping the next phase of Ireland's research and innovation system | Research Ireland
- Shall satisfy itself that appropriate systems, procedures and practices are in place to achieve the objects of Research Ireland, for the internal performance management and accountability of Research Ireland, and in order to enable compliance with the policies of the Government or a Minister of the Government to the extent that those policies may affect or relate to the functions of Research and Innovation Ireland.

- Shall establish and implement arrangements for the management of the performance of the Chief Executive Officer.
- Shall be accountable to the Minister for the performance of its functions.
- May delegate in writing to the Chief Executive Officer certain functions of Research Ireland and the Board shall notify the Minister in writing of any delegation made and of any revocation of such delegation.
- May establish committees to assist and advise it in relation to the performance of any of its functions with such committees consisting in whole or in part of persons who are members of the Board.

Current composition of the Board:

Name	First Appointed	Reappointed	Expiry Date	Position type
Michael Horgan	01/08/2024		01/08/2028	Chairperson
Prof. Eoin O'Sullivan (Dr.)	01/08/2024		01/08/2028	Ordinary Member
(Dr.) Godfrey Gaston MBE	01/08/2024	01/08/2026	01/08/2030	Ordinary Member
Leonard Hobbs	01/08/2024		01/08/2028	Ordinary Member
Lorraine Allen	01/08/2024		01/08/2028	Ordinary Member
Patricia Quane	01/08/2024	01/08/2026	01/08/2030	Ordinary Member
Rebecca Braun (Prof.)	01/08/2024		01/08/2028	Ordinary Member
Valeria Nicolosi (Prof.)	01/08/2024		01/08/2028	Ordinary Member

3. Person Specification

The Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill four Ordinary Member positions to the Board of Research Ireland (Taighde Éireann).

Candidates' attention is drawn to the provisions of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies in relation to the role of a board member, where the principle states: -

- Each state body should be headed by an effective board which is collectively responsible for the long-term sustainability of the body.

- Non-executive board members should bring an independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance resources, key appointments and standard of conduct.

Details on the role of board members can be found in Section 3 of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies which can be found here.

Essential

Candidates wishing to apply must demonstrate in their application evidence of significant experience at an appropriately senior level in two or more of the following areas:

- Strategic development of national research or innovation systems and the development of high level strategic collaborative relationships, including international partnerships;
- Experience in public service or civil service environments including driving system level approaches to key societal challenges;
- Experience at senior level/board level in leading external engagement, building stakeholder relationships, strategic and collaborative partnerships and international positioning.
- Experience in Accountancy, Audit or Corporate Finance
- Experience at a senior level of good corporate governance and compliance practices;
- Experience of stakeholder management, to include the management of multiple stakeholder groups with competing priorities;
- Experience in research commercialisation, venture capital or challenges in supporting research translation for economic or societal benefit;
- An understanding of the role of talent, research and innovation in strengthening Ireland's international proposition;
- A thorough understanding of, and engagement with, the workings of state agencies, the public sector, civil service departments and the mechanics of government;

Desirable

It is also desirable that candidates demonstrate evidence of experience in the following:

- Undertaking research to the highest international standards;
- Strong governance expertise in a public or private sector organisation;
- Experience of sustainability, environmental, social dimensions of corporate governance

- Experience of HR (Pensions, IR, Talent management, Organisational Development)
- Financial Expertise (Accountancy, Audit, Corporate Finance) as demonstrated through membership of a prescribed accountancy body;
- Risk Management and Organisational Management
- Law
- Leadership experience in FDI/global corporates activity in Ireland;
- Management of national level research and innovation funding agencies

The Minister encourages applications from diverse, qualified candidates to ensure the Board is a true reflection of Irish society and shall have regard to the desirability for gender balance, diversity and inclusion on the Board as the Minister considers appropriate and determines from time to time when making appointments, in line with the updated Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016.

In order to qualify for appointment a person must not have any legal impediment or conflicts of interest likely to interfere with his/her ability to assume the role of Ordinary Member of the Board. Please give careful consideration to the possibility of any potential conflict of interest that may exist and address this in your cover letter. The Assessment Panel may decide, based on the perceived level of conflict, not to forward your name for consideration.

4. Term of Appointment

Appointments to the Board will be for an initial period of 2-4 years and may be extended for one further term of 2-4 years, subject to:

- The membership of any member of the Board may be terminated by the Minister at any time, on the basis of reasons to be stated by the Minister.

- A member of the Board may resign his or her membership of the Board by notice in writing sent or given to the Minister, and the resignation shall take effect from the date specified in the notice, or the date on which the Minister receives the notice, whichever is the later.

- Members of the Board shall, subject to the provisions of Section 20 of the Research and Innovation Act 2024, hold office upon such terms and conditions as the Minister may, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation, from time to time determine.

- The roles and responsibilities of Board Members are described in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 which is available here Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

- A board member shall cease to be a member of the board if he or she is nominated as a member of Seanad Éireann, is elected as a member of either House of the

Oireachtas or as a representative in the European Parliament or elected to the European Parliament.

5. Submitting your Application

Having considered the general suitability criteria for membership of a State Board, you should consider carefully how your background and experience fits with the specific appointment criteria set out in the Person Specification section in this booklet.

Your submission should be made via the following link www.publicjobs.ie together with your **Curriculum Vitae** and a **cover letter** (see Appendix 1 of this booklet for help with the online process).

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please take care when submitting your expression of interest. As the Assessment Panel will generally make its recommendation(s) based on consideration of the documentation which you submit, it is most important that you do the following:

i. *Ensure your Cover Letter (and supporting CV) clearly specifies how your particular background and experience meets the requirements of the Authority position(s) specified in this booklet, and*

ii. *That you fully answer any supplementary questions which are presented to you as part of our online application process.*

This will help ensure that the Assessment Panel is as informed as possible as to the basis for your candidature and why you believe you are a person who could potentially be appointed to this State Board. **Please only include information that is directly relevant to the particular role for which you are applying.**

If you have any questions regarding the application process please email stateboards@publicjobs.ie.

6. Assessment Process

An Assessment Panel (the "Panel") will be convened by publicjobs to consider and assess the applications received by publicjobs. The Panel will:

1. review and discuss the expressions of interest received against the specific appointment criteria for the role, as advertised in this Information Booklet;
2. assess potential candidates further once they meet the specified appointment criteria by undertaking any or all of the following steps:
    - Consideration of the written applications; and/or
    - Meeting/conference call; and/or
    - Referee checks; and/or

- Any other selection or verification method deemed appropriate (this may include publicjobs requiring statutory declarations from shortlisted applicants as to the bona fides of the qualifications and experience contained in their applications).

- arrive at a shortlist of the most suitably qualified candidates (based on the information provided by the candidate) to be sent forward for consideration by the Minister.

Please note that publicjobs will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by candidates as part of our selection process.

7. Confidentiality

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts, 2014, applications will be treated in strict confidence. All enquires, applications and all aspects of the proceedings are treated as strictly confidential and are not disclosed to anyone, outside those directly involved in that aspect of the process.

Certain items of information, not specific to any individual, are extracted from computer records for general statistical purposes.

8. Protected Disclosures

The publicjobs Protected Disclosures Policy (including Reporting Options for all those covered by the Policy) is available here

9. Data Protection

The Data Protection Act 2018 provides that the processing of personal data shall be lawful where such processing is necessary for the performance of a statutory function of a controller. PAS is mandated by statute under the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act, 2004 to act as the centralised assessment and selection body for the civil service and to carry out all the procedures necessary to undertake the recruitment, assessment and selection of suitable candidates for appointment. By submitting your personal data (including your name, address, contact details and details of your education and work history contained in your curriculum vitae and cover letter) via publicjobs.ie, you acknowledge that such data may be used by publicjobs and disclosed to and used by client departments, in connection with its statutory roles to assist and advise relevant Ministers in relation to appointments to the boards of State bodies. The information contained in your publicjobs profile is yours to manage, amend, update or delete as appropriate. For more detailed information on our Data Protection Policy, please see our Code of Practice for the Protection of Personal Data in publicjobs.

If your application is assessed and you are considered to be suitable for appointment your c.v. and cover letter (and any additional supplementary information requested as part of the application process), will be forwarded to the State Board Liaison Officer in the relevant

Department. Once it obtains your personal data, the Department will act as data controller of such data and will retain it for up to one year following the appointment/s. Unless you request the withdrawal of your application such data may be used in considering your suitability for other similar vacancies/roles that arise for a period of up to one year for this Board.

APPENDIX 1

In order to submit your application, you should take the following steps:

1. Go to www.publicjobs.ie.
2. On the bar at the top of the page navigate to State Boards and click on ‘Available Appointments’ on the dropdown menu.
3. This brings you to a page with all our advertised vacancies. Select whichever position you would like to apply for (you are welcome to apply for more than one position if you wish).
4. On the relevant page please click on the ‘Apply’ button in the top right or at the bottom of the page.
5. Clicking ‘Apply’ will bring you to the registration page of our recruitment platform.

   (a) If you are accessing our recruitment platform for the first time you must register to create a new profile. Follow the instructions under ‘Register’ and click ‘Submit Registration’ to register your profile. You will have to complete an email verification step to complete your registration. Follow the link sent to the email address associated with your new account to verify your email. You can now login to your new account as detailed below.

   (b) If you already have an account, please select the 'Login' button in the top right-hand corner or the ‘Login’ link at the bottom of the registration page.
6. Clicking ‘Login’ will redirect you to the login page. Follow the instructions to login to your account. Your username will be the email address associated with your account, and your username and password are case sensitive.
7. Once you login a form will appear on your screen. Follow the instructions on each page and answer all required questions (marked with an asterisk ‘*’). If you have submitted an application through the platform before, some text boxes will be populated with the information you entered on your most recent application.
8. If there is a supplementary question, ensure that your response complies with the word limit and that it does not contain any special characters (i.e. %, & etc.) or you may receive an error message and will be unable to submit your application.
9. You will be required to upload your CV and Cover Letter under the section titled ‘Additional Documents’. These are required documents, and your application cannot be processed without them. Once you have selected these and uploaded them, please click on the ‘Save and Continue’ button at the bottom of the page.
10. Once you have completed your application please press ‘Submit’ on the final page. The system will highlight any areas which require updating if there are any errors.

11. You will receive an e-mail confirmation (to the address listed in your publicjobs.ie profile) to confirm that your application has been submitted.

Please visit the Help Centre if you have questions or encounter technical difficulties navigating the site or making your application.

publicjobs will primarily send communication through your publicjobs candidate portal and email. Please check your candidate portal on a regular basis as email notifications of updates on the campaign issued to your candidate portal may sometimes be filtered into your Junk/Spam email folders (or 'Promotions' in the case of Gmail).

The onus is on each applicant to ensure that they are in receipt of all communication from publicjobs. publicjobs accepts no responsibility for communication not accessed or received by an applicant. It is strongly recommended that you do not change your email address or mobile phone number during the course of this campaign, as any email/text message notification will be sent to the email address/telephone number originally supplied by you.

Register to be notified about future Board vacancies:

If you are interested in hearing about future board vacancies, you can keep up to date by using the job alert feature to be notified when new roles become available. To set up a job alert for appointments to State Boards and other Board vacancies follow the steps below:

- Log in or create an account (see Appendix 1 for instructions on registering a new account).
- Once you have logged in, navigate to your profile settings which can be found by clicking your name in the top righthand corner of your screen.
- Under the 'Profile Options' menu select the 'Alert Centre' option.
- Click 'Create New Job Alert'
- Name your job alert in the 'Alert Title' field. This can help you keep track of your alerts should you set up more than one.
- To direct the system to notify you when new State Board and other board roles become available select the following options under 'Category': 'Membership of a State Board' and ''Membership of a Board'.
- Select the preferred length of time you would like to receive the job alert for under 'Time Limit' field. Please note that a job alert cannot be set up indefinitely and will need to be renewed once your selected time limit has elapsed.
- Click 'Save' to begin receiving your job alert.

poistphoiblí
publicjobs

publicjobs,
Chapter House,
26/30 Upper Abbey Street,
Dublin 1.
Eircode: D01 C7W6.
Phone: 01 858 7400

You can also keep up to date on **publicjobs.ie** and follow us on our social platforms: