

Networking Call 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

Applications

Q. How do I know if I am eligible to apply?

A. Check the *Applicant Guidelines*, but if you are still unsure then contact the Research Funding Office, Marine Institute – see contact details at the end of this document.

Q. I work in a marine-focused SME (Small or Medium Sized Enterprise), what funding is available to me?

A. You may be eligible for all three types of funding. For hosting a workshop apply under Category A, for event attendance apply under Category B and for publication/media production costs apply under Category C. **Note:** SME representatives in full-time education must apply under their host Higher Education Institute.

Q. I am a lecturer in a HEI (Higher Education Institute), what funding is available to me?

A. You may apply under category A and C but not under category B. Please see the *Applicant Guidelines* for the eligibility under each category. We expect that HEI staff have available funding for event attendance from their own organisation. Publication costs towards Open Access Publications and costs towards media productions are open to all applicants.

Q. How do I apply?

A. Applications are submitted using the Marine Institute's online grant management system (RIMS/SmartSimple). Please refer to the *Applicant Guidelines* on how this process works.

Q. When I request my password for RIMS, is there any other information required?

A. Yes. Please include details of your organisation and your role e.g. Master's/PhD student or Post-Doctoral Researcher (has a PhD) or Research Assistant (has a MSc).

Q. I am a full-time student but am also working in a company part-time, can I apply for event attendance?

A. If you are a full-time postgraduate (Master's or PhD) student in a marine-related research discipline, then you can apply under category B for event attendance only affiliated with the relevant Higher Education Institute where you are registered. **Note:** You should apply in the

name of the organisation who is covering the costs, as this is the organisation that the Marine Institute will reimburse. We do not provide funding for undergraduates.

Q. Is it possible to change my application, once it has been submitted?

A. Yes. You can submit a request to recall your application, and then resubmit your application when ready. However, if your application has already been sent for evaluation, then contact the Research Funding Office in the first instance. The application must be resubmitted within the timelines outlined in the *Applicant Guidelines*.

Q. Can I apply for funding for a conference/publication costs/media production that I have already attended/produced?

A. No. Retrospective funding is not provided. Applications should be submitted at least one month before the date of the event. For example, the event starts on 10th June 2026, then you must submit your application no later than 10th May 2026. **Note:** In order to be fair to all applicants this submission rule is strictly applied.

Q. What happens if I submit the wrong application form?

A. The Research Funding Office will contact you, and let you know that you need to re-submit on the correct application form.

Q. I am involved in organising a workshop that will be held in Ireland, but the organising committee is based in Brussels. Is this eligible for funding?

A. Probably not. The applicant must have a registered address in Ireland (Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland). Costs may only be reimbursed to an Irish partner based on the island of Ireland. The organisation must have a valid tax reference and bank account in their name. Invoices and receipts must be the applicant organisation's name.

Q. I am involved in organising a workshop that will be held in Ireland, but only part of the conference will relate to marine. Is this eligible for funding?

A. Most likely yes. Provided the themes are marine or marine-related, then it is likely that the conference will be eligible. For example, a three-day conference on climate change may have one day on climate change in the marine environment.

Q. I am organising a hybrid workshop that will be held in Ireland. Is this eligible for funding?

A. Yes. Funding is available for hosting hybrid events. Please refer to the Guidelines for Applicants under Category A for further details.

Q. I wish to attend an online workshop and training course held in Ireland. Is this eligible for funding?

A. Yes. Online events that meet the criteria stated in the Guidelines are eligible for funding. Fees for reimbursement must exceed €400.

Q. Are research working visits still eligible for funding?

A. No. Funding for research working visits is no longer offered due to low demand and restrictions on available funding.

Q. I am submitting a research paper for publication. Is this eligible?

A. Probably. The paper must be a new publication in marine research and must be published as Open Access. You must verify that you do not have alternative budget to cover these costs. If you are in receipt of a Marine Institute research grant, please check with the Research Funding Office in relation to your current budget.

Q. What type of media productions are eligible for funding?

A. All media productions must be new. Funding will not be provided for content already produced/in production. The funding of maximum €3,000 is expected to part fund the project. The production must promote marine research or consist of marine educational content.

Q. I have submitted my application, when will I find out if I am successful?

A. You will normally be notified by the 15th of the month following the relevant submission date. Applications are sent for external evaluation, and you need to factor this time in when submitting your application. For example, you may submit an application on 2nd August 2026, but it could be 15th September 2026 before you are advised if successful or not.

Q. What are my chances of being successful?

A. The average success rate for the Networking Call is 75% to 80%.

Q. How were the awards split between the different categories?

A. Under the 2025 Networking call there were 88 Awards (from 113 Applications) split as follows:

- Conference Hosting: 13
- Researcher Awards: 62
- Open Access Publication: 9
- Media Production: 4

Q. My application was ineligible; can I appeal?

A. The Research Funding Office will advise the reasons why your application was not eligible, which usually relate to the terms and conditions of the Applicant Guidelines not being met, some examples are:

- Master's/PhD student wishing to attend a conference but will not be presenting their research.
- Research Assistant does not have a Master's/Other Postgraduate Degree.
- Post-Doctoral Researcher received PhD six+ years ago.
- Category B applicant wishing to attend event in Ireland.

Q. My application was unsuccessful; can I appeal or re-apply?

A. The Research Funding Office will advise the reasons why following evaluation your application was not successful. Where the applicant is unsuccessful because they did not provide enough information in their applications, then they can revise and resubmit their application if there is sufficient time available before the event date for a re-evaluation to be completed.

Q. What advice can you give to help me increase my chances of success?

A. **Read the *Applicant Guidelines* and FAQ document before commencing your application** to ensure that eligibility criteria are met and you are familiar with the funding requirements. Complete all sections of the application form. Pay particular attention to the evaluation criteria, which are:

- 1) The benefit to you and your organisation,
- 2) The value in terms of addressing national or international strategic objectives,
- 3) The justification provided in the application e.g. demonstrate research collaboration, show how research findings are communicated, state why this event is internationally important for this area of research, etc., and
- 4) Value for money.

Q. Why is there a cap on the number of applications from an Organisation?

A. Due to the increase in demand under this call, and limited funding available, we have introduced a **maximum of three applications per Organisation per event on a first come first served basis** (as per the submission date and time on RIMS of the application).

Awards

Q. When is my award official?

A. You will receive a letter of award by email, once you sign this and return it; then you have officially accepted the award. The award is not granted until you return the signed Offer Letter. You must return your signed letter within a month of issue or the offer will be withdrawn.

Q. When can I book my travel?

A. Once your offer letter is signed, then your organisation can organise the necessary travel arrangements. You can book travel before knowing if your application is successful, but this is at your own risk as there is no guarantee of funding.

Q. I have been awarded a grant to present my research at a conference, but now would like to wait until my research is further developed before presenting it internationally. Can I still receive funding?

A. No. As funding is limited, preference must be given to researchers who are presenting their research (i.e. oral presentations or posters).

Q. I cannot now attend the event, what do I need to do to cancel my award?

A. Contact the Research Funding Office by email funding@marine.ie to advise that you wish to cancel the award.

Q. Are there any circumstances where I may transfer my award to another colleague?

A. No. Networking awards are not transferable.

Q. How many awards are allowed per applicant?

A. Two awards per annum for individuals. Unsuccessful applications do not count, so the number of applications that you submit may be higher.

Q. My circumstances have changed since I submitted my application or accepted my award. Can I still receive funding?

A. It depends. For example, if you have just moved organisation but your role is the same then you may be still eligible. However, if you are no longer resident in Ireland then you will not be eligible. You must contact the Research Funding Office for clarification and approval.

Payment and Receipts

Q. Is it possible to receive the full funding in advance?

A. Reimbursement of costs will be after the event (conference, workshop or training course) or when costs have been incurred (publications/media productions). Your organisation should agree to incur costs based on the signed award letter, with reimbursement after the event and when report and receipts are submitted & approved by the Marine Institute.

Q. Why does the Marine Institute not reimburse individuals?

A. For a number of reasons the Marine Institute will only reimburse Organisations for Networking awards now, which are 1) to significantly reduce the potential of double funding, 2) to avoid requesting individual bank details and risk of GDPR breach and 3) reduce administration time.

Q. The event is over, so what do I do next?

A. You must upload your report and receipts on RIMS/SmartSimple. **Note: we do not accept reports and receipts sent by email, these must be uploaded on RIMS.** For full instructions please refer to the User Guide in RIMS, which are summarised as follows:

Login to RIMS <https://marine.smartsimple.ie/>

To upload Networking Technical Report

- Open your list of Applications under the **Applications & Project Tab**
- Select the **'Successful'** Tab
- **Open** the application you wish to create a Report for

- Select **New** button (top left corner of screen)
- Then select **Activity**
- The screen will open on the **Networking Technical Report** Activity
- You can now see the **Report Template** that you can save locally and complete
- Once you have completed the report offline, then you can upload it
- Enter Start and End Date of Event (as published)
- Upload completed report and abstract
- Click **Submit** lower middle of screen.

To upload Networking Financial Report

- Open your list of Applications under the **Applications & Project Tab**
- Select the **'Successful'** Tab
- **Open** the application you wish to create a Report for
- Select **New** button (top left corner of screen)
- Then select **Activity**
- Change from **Networking Technical Report** to **Networking Financial Report**
- Enter Start and End Date of Event (as published in the event programme)
- Upload your combined receipts (e.g. registration fee, etc.) and the expenditure summary – the preferred format is PDF – e.g. using Abode Pro
- Click **Submit** lower middle of screen.

Note: You will receive an email confirming submission for each report a few minutes after you have clicked to submit.

Q. I uploaded my report and receipts on RIMS, what happens next?

A. The Research Funding Office will contact you to clarify any queries in relation to your receipts. You should be contacted within five days (a working week) of uploading your report and receipts. If not, then please email the Research Funding Office (funding@marine.ie).

Q. How long will it take before my organisation receives payment?

A. Payment will normally be made by bank transfer 7 to 10 days after the Research Funding Office (see contact details at the end of this document) have confirmed that all documentation has been received. You will be copied on the email notification to your Organisation confirmed that payment is approved and advising of the payment amount. **Payment will be paid into (credited) to the budget code/research account as advised to the Marine Institute in your application form.** Please note that year-end is a particularly busy time and payments may take longer than normal to process. **On your application form, please do not enter bank details.**

Q. I attended a conference/workshop/training course, but am unsure what types of receipts I need to submit?

A. For conference/workshop/training course please submit the following copy invoices/receipts:

- 1) Flight (from Ireland to nearest airport to event showing the price & applicant name)
- 2) Accommodation (showing the dates & applicant name) – shared accommodation costs will be split

- 3) Conference Fee or Training Course Fee
- 4) Poster Printing (if applicable)
- 5) Other travel (Ireland public transport - bus/train to & from airport and overseas public transport, unless taxi used overseas due to safety concerns).

If receipts 1 to 3 cover the total amount awarded, then you do not need to submit any other receipts.

Do not submit receipts for food/meal costs as these will not be reimbursed. **Other costs not covered are visa costs, car rental, mileage, fuel, tolls and parking.**

Please ensure that they are legible (not too reduced in size). If you cannot read it, then the Research Funding Office cannot read it either!

Q. What receipts are required for publication costs/media productions?

A. Relevant receipts e.g. journal invoice for publication costs, visualisation design costs and invoices/receipts for costs associated with media production e.g. equipment hire/editing suite costs.

Q. Do I need to post original documents?

A. No. The scanned originals submitted as PDF are acceptable to us.

Q. We hosted a workshop in Ireland. What types of receipts should I submit?

A. Copy invoices/ receipts for keynote speakers (not attendees/delegates) travel & accommodation costs, venue hire, audio-visual equipment hire, catering costs and promotion/marketing costs. Refer to section on *How to Claim Grant-aid* in the *Applicant Guidelines*.

Q. I am having problems uploading my report and receipts, who do I contact?

A. Please contact the Research Funding Office contacts shown below.

Q. Can the award be split?

A. No. We will reimburse your organisation only, to avoid any chance of duplicate payment.

Q. If my actual costs are less than the amount awarded, what happens?

A. Only receipted costs up to the amount awarded are paid. If you are awarded 1,000 Euro, but your receipts total 700 Euro, then we will pay 700 Euro. If you are awarded 1,500 Euro, but your receipts total 2,000 Euro, then we will only pay 1,500 Euro.


Q. Can my offer of award be withdrawn or the grant cancelled for any reason?

A. Yes. If an applicant makes a fraudulent claim or misrepresentation e.g. double claiming of expenditure, then the Research Funding Office will cancel the award, and no payment will be made.

Q. What if I have more questions?

A. Then please contact the Research Funding Office, by phone or email – see below.

Research Funding Office Contacts

 091 387200

RIMS/SmartSimple Queries rims.support@marine.ie

Any Other Queries funding@marine.ie

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