



Foras na Mara
Marine Institute

Marine Research Programme

Networking & Marine Research Communication Awards

Applicant Guidelines 2026

Networking & Marine Research Communication Awards are funded by the Marine Institute under the Marine Research Programme with the support of the Government of Ireland.

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Introduction

The Marine Institute's **Networking and Marine Research Communication Awards** funding instrument provides support to marine researchers based in Ireland to communicate and promote their research internationally. These awards are aimed at showcasing Irish marine and marine-related research at international conferences and workshops, in addition to dissemination via open access publications and media productions.

Under *Partnerships, Networks and Connectivity* the [Ocean Knowledge 2030 Ireland's Strategy for Marine Research, Knowledge and Innovation, 2025-2030 \(Draft\)](#)¹ states that "competitive award schemes that provide small sums of money to support travel and networking are often highly impactful in underpinning research cooperation and the building of partnerships." The programme supports the building of networks and relationships and the potential for the development of collaborative international consortia resulting in research applications (e.g. to EU Horizon Europe and INTERREG).

Appropriate networking activities that support the goals and/or complement the objectives of national and international marine plans are also eligible, e.g. Climate Action Plan for Ireland, Food Vision 2030, Impact 2030, Powering Prosperity – Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy., EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030, EU Ocean Pact, Marine Strategy Framework, Water Framework and the Marine Spatial Planning directives.

Specifically, funding will be awarded for:

1. Post-Graduate Students (MSc and PhD), Early Stage Post-Doctoral Researchers and Research Assistants to present their marine research at an international conference or event, network with international marine experts and disseminate research carried out in Ireland on the global stage.
2. Networking opportunities including support for hosting in-person or hybrid marine conferences / workshops held in Ireland.
3. Open Access Publication costs relevant to marine research carried out to address the objectives of **Ocean Knowledge 2025-2030** where the applicant can demonstrate costs are not covered through any other funding/budget mechanisms.
4. Short/small scale media productions promoting marine research in Ireland specific to a research, knowledge and innovation priority areas outlined in **Ocean Knowledge 2025-2030**.

Note: Marine Institute research grant recipients (project leads and researchers) may not be eligible to apply if there is available budget through their current project funding. Please contact funding@marine.ie prior to commencing an application for clarification.

International Travel

Applicants applying for overseas travel should check on the latest advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs prior to travel, which is available on their website at [Travel Advice By Destination | Department of Foreign Affairs | Ireland - this is Ireland](#). This website will help Networking applicants to make informed decisions when planning a trip overseas and offers an objective assessment of any potential risks.

To reduce our carbon footprint, the Marine Institute encourages applicants to consider eligible supports that do not require travel, including Open Access Publications, media-productions and

¹ <https://oar.marine.ie/handle/10793/1994>

hybrid events (conferences, workshops and online training courses). However, we appreciate that for early stage researchers in-person attendance at events is vitally important.

What Type/Level of Support is Provided and Who Can Apply?

The awards are designed as a small-scale, flexible scheme to support networking initiatives in the marine sector. Applications will be accepted in three categories, as follows:

A. Hosting Conference / Workshop in Ireland

Description

This award provides support for the organisation of **in-person or hybrid** National/International Marine Conferences or workshops **held in Ireland**.

Eligibility

This award is open to all legal entities on the island of Ireland with the appropriate scientific and technical capacity and expertise to host a marine-themed Conference/Workshop e.g.

- Higher Education Institutes (HEIs).
- Research Institutes.
- Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
- Other Representative Organisations e.g. NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations).

Minimum and Maximum Grant-Aid

Minimum request is **2,000 Euro** and **4,000 Euro** is maximum award towards hosting costs of conferences/workshops.

Applicants are expected to have some funding secured already to cover conference/workshop costs, and the Marine Institute will **not** provide 100% funding. Proof of own contribution from the applicant organisation will be required for payment by the Marine Institute.

Type of Costs Covered

The following is an example of the typical costs covered under this award:

1. Travel and Accommodation for **International or Keynote Speakers**. Costs for delegates to attend are **not** covered.
2. Bus/Coach and Room/Venue Hire.
3. Catering costs (up to a maximum of 40% of total award). Alcohol costs are ineligible.
4. Cost associated with hosting a blended format event, including audio-visual equipment hire.
5. Costs related to marketing and promotion of the event.

Note: The costs claimed are expected to include **at least two** of the above items.

Payment Terms

- Conference and Workshop Awards are payable to organisations only.
- The successful organisation must be based on the island of Ireland (ROI/NI).
- Funding is provided for the specified event to the **named applicant (organisation) and is not transferable**.
- Awards are made **payable to the organisation that incurred the costs** as detailed by submitted receipts. Organisations must have a valid tax reference and bank account in their name. Proof of payment may be requested by the Marine Institute.

B. Researcher Awards – Event Attendance & Training Opportunities

Description

This award provides for attendance to:

- Present papers/posters at international (overseas) Conferences/Workshops.
- Complete national/international marine-related Training Courses.

Eligibility

This Award is open to:

- Students currently carrying out a research Master's or PhD and registered at an academic institution on the island of Ireland (ROI/NI). Students may only apply for funding for events taking place up to the final date of their college registration. Proof of support by the Research Supervisor is required.
- Research Assistants carrying out marine-related research and employed at academic or research institutions on the island of Ireland. Must have completed a postgraduate degree qualification in the past six years (from 2020 onwards).
- Early stage post-doctoral contract researchers carrying out marine-related research and employed at an organisation on the island of Ireland. Applicants must have been awarded their PhD in the past six years (from 2020 onwards).
- Staff working for marine-focused Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Other Representative Organisations based on the island of Ireland. SME/NGO representatives are not required to present at international conferences/workshops. Limit of two attendees per event per SME/NGO.

Minimum and Maximum Grant-Aid

- Minimum request is **400 Euro**.
- Maximum **800 Euro** for attendance at online events/training courses.
- Maximum **1,000 Euro** for travel to UK & EU Member Countries.
- **1,500 Euro** for travel to all other Countries. **Note:** this request can be increased to a **maximum of 2,000 Euro** where the distance **exceeds 4,000 kilometres from Ireland**.

Type of Costs Covered

The following is an example of the typical costs covered under this award:

- Conference/Workshop Registration costs.
- Training Course fees.
- Travel and Accommodation costs - use public transportation and obtain best value.
- Poster Printing. Please refer to FAQ for further details. Visa costs are **not** covered.

Payment Terms

- Researcher Awards are payable to organisations only. **Note: The Marine Institute will not make payments to Individuals under this call.**
- Awards are made **payable to the organisation that incurred the costs** as detailed by submitted receipts. Organisations must have a valid tax reference and bank account in their name. Proof of payment may be requested by the Marine Institute.
- Funding is provided for the specified event/activity linked to the individual **named on the application form** and is not transferable.
- Training Courses must have relevance to the research currently undertaken by the applicant (e.g. training on data analysis software tools or statistics courses).

C. Marine Research Communication

Description

This award provides grants to:

- Provide funding towards **Open Access Publication** costs to disseminate marine research findings.
- Preparation and dissemination of research outputs, focusing on communicating research impact, through the generation of policy briefs, infographics, visualisation tools, etc.
- Provide funding towards the cost of **Media Productions** depicting and promoting marine research in Ireland suitable for broadcast on social/multi-media.

Eligibility

This award is open to all legal entities on the island of Ireland (ROI/NI) with the appropriate scientific and technical qualifications and expertise e.g.

- Higher Education Institutes (HEIs).
- Research Institutes.
- Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
- Other Representative Organisations e.g. NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations).

Minimum and Maximum Grant-Aid

- Minimum request is **500 Euro**.
- Maximum **3,000 Euro** for Open Access Publications.
- Maximum **3,000 Euro** for Media Production costs.

Type of Costs Covered

Typical costs covered under this award:

- Open Access Publication costs e.g. Journal publication fees.
- Visualisation/infographics design costs.
- Design and print costs (e.g. for policy briefs).
- Media production costs for short video clips or other short/small-scale media productions e.g. audio-visual equipment/prop hire and editing suite costs.

Payment Terms

- Marine Research Communication awards are payable to organisations. Awards are made **payable to the organisation that incurred the costs** as detailed by submitted receipts. Organisations must have a valid tax reference and bank account in their name. Proof of payment may be requested by the Marine Institute.
- **For open access publications, a link to the publication** will be required prior to payment by the Marine Institute. **The lead applicant must be the named first or second author on the publication.**
- **A link to the Media Production** will be required prior to payment by the Marine Institute.

General Rules

Individual applicants cannot receive more than **two awards** in any calendar year. Applicants must submit a separate application for each event.

Due to increased demand and available funding, **there is a limit of three applications from the same organisation per event (fourth application submitted will be ineligible)**

Networking activities **do not include exhibiting**; persons in receipt of Marine Institute supports for exhibiting are not eligible to apply for a networking award for travel to that exhibition.

Applicants **must travel from (and return to) the island of Ireland (ROI/NI)** where attending an event in-person. If this condition is breached, the offer of grant-aid will be withdrawn.

Grant-aid is subject to available funding, which is allocated on an annual basis. In the event that the annual budget is allocated in full prior to the final submission date of 29th October 2026 (**for applications to attend events up to 28th February 2027**), a notification to this effect will be posted on the Marine Institute website funding pages <https://www.marine.ie/Home/site-area/research-funding/research-funding/current-funding-opportunities>.

Applicants must also read the FAQ document available on the call notification webpage.

How is your Application Assessed?

Applications will be externally assessed on the basis of four criteria:

- 1) The benefit to the recipient/host institution,
- 2) The likely contribution to national or international policy or strategic objectives,
- 3) The justification provided in the application (e.g. demonstration of research collaboration and dissemination of findings), and
- 4) Value for money.

Each of the four criteria have the same weighting. The Marine Institute may offer support at a lower rate than requested. **Applicants will receive notification of the outcome by the 15th of the month following the relevant close date.** Please ensure that you submit your application in plenty of time prior to the event.

Successful applicants will be issued with a letter of award that outlines the grant funding, and requirements and due date for submission of the report and receipts. The letter of award **must be signed and returned to the Marine Institute within one month**, otherwise the offer of grant-aid will be withdrawn.

What Costs can be Claimed?

- Eligible costs include those additional costs necessary to support the proposed activity, e.g. conference registration, training course fees, journal publication fees, editing suite costs, etc.
- Grant support must not represent budget substitution or profit.
- Food and meals are **not** covered, except for hosting a conference in Ireland.

How to Claim Grant-aid?

Payments are on a reimbursement basis and will be conditional on:

- (a) The successful achievement of identified targets/goals, including submission of a short report detailing the outcome/benefits gained by the Grantee.
- (b) The submission and acceptance of **all relevant receipts**. For example:
 - i) **Host Conference**: Keynote speakers' travel and accommodation, coach hire, venue hire, catering costs (limited as specified above), audio-visual equipment hire and publication of meeting materials (typically 6 to 8 invoices/receipts).
 - ii) **Attend Conference/Workshop**: Registration fee, flight & associated travel, accommodation costs and poster printing (typically 4 to 5 invoices/receipts).
 - iii) **Attend Training Course**: Course fee, flight & associated travel and accommodation costs (typically 4 to 5 invoices/receipts).
 - iv) **Open Access Publications**: Journal publication invoice/receipt (1 invoice/receipt).
 - v) **Media production**: Hire of audio/visual equipment costs, prop hire costs, video editing suite costs (1 to 2 invoices/receipts).
- (c) **The claim being submitted to the Marine Institute Research Funding Office within one month of completion of the event** for which support has been provided.

Only costs incurred after the award is granted can be funded. Reimbursement is conditional on submission of relevant reports and receipts. **Receipts should be in the name of the applicant or the applicant's organisation.** It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all receipts are retained for submission and reimbursement by the Marine Institute.

Successful applicants who are unable to travel for whatever reason should notify the Marine Institute as soon as possible by sending an email to funding@marine.ie that they wish to cancel the award.

Application Procedure & Deadline

Applications should be made via the Marine Institute's online **Research Information Management System (RIMS)**.

- If you are already registered on RIMS, please visit <http://marine.smartsimple.ie>.
- To register as a new user please email rims.support@marine.ie with a password request, please include details of your organisation.
- Where a Master's or PhD student is applying for a Researcher Travel Award, they must have the support of their Research Supervisor. Your Research Supervisor must register on RIMS and provide you with their RIMS Registration number. The RIMS Registration number is located under 'My Profile' on your RIMS Portal.

Note: There are no security/confidentiality issues with providing students with this Registration number.

The Networking Initiative will remain open on a two-monthly rolling basis, subject to continued funding availability, with a planned budget of **140,000 Euro in 2026** and submission deadlines as follows:

1. Thursday 26th February 2026
2. Thursday 30th April 2026
3. Thursday 25th June 2026
4. Thursday 27th August 2026
5. Thursday 29th October 2026 (for events up to 28th February 2027)

Applications must be submitted at least one month in advance of the conference, workshop, working visit, etc. (e.g. for an event commencing on 10th June 2026 applicants must submit their application no later than 10th May 2026).

For assistance with registration on the Marine Institute Research Information Management System (RIMS) and the application process please email rims.support@marine.ie.

Publicity and Impact

Recipients should acknowledge the funding provided by the Marine Institute as follows:

"Networking & Marine Research Communication Awards are funded by the Marine Institute under the Marine Research Programme with the support of the Government of Ireland."

This wording should be used in presentations, posters and any other publicity, in addition to the Marine Institute logo – a PowerPoint slide will be provided to all successful applicants.



Media Production Award recipients will provide the Marine Institute with a copy of the completed media production and grants the Marine Institute a royalty free license in perpetuity to use this copy on the Marine Institute's website and social media channels.

Networking Award Lifecycle

