

Accelerating transformative research to  
deliver Ireland's energy revolution

# SEAI Energise Fellowship Programme 2026

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**SEAI National Energy Research, Development & Demonstration Funding Programme**

Date May 21<sup>st</sup> 2026

**SEAI Presenters: Francesca Martini, Joanne Fitzgerald, Janis Aleksans, Elena Camargo, Louise O'Connor**



# Dr Francesca Martini

Funded Research Programme Manager, SEAI

Welcome and Introduction



This event is being recorded



Attendees are muted with cameras off



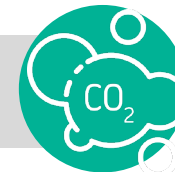
Questions submitted by clicking Q&A bubble



Questions will be answered at the end of the webinar



A recording and slides will be distributed after the event



An FAQ will be created from all questions submitted and shared



1. Introduction
2. Programme description & objectives
3. Who can avail of the programme?
4. Key timelines
5. SEAI-Based Fellowships
6. Academic Fellowships
7. Budget
8. Submitting your application
9. Q&A with SEAI panel

**Send your questions  
in the Q&A window at  
any time during  
the webinar !**

# The Role of SEAI

- We are at the heart of delivering Ireland's energy transition
- We are driving the replacement of fossil fuel usage in all sectors and across society
- Through research we are informing on the transformation of how we generate, use & think about energy





**Research** supports Ireland's energy transition not only by advancing **renewable technologies** and improving **efficiency**, but also by driving **behavioural change**, informing **policy decisions**, and creating **economic opportunities**.



**Research** supports Ireland's energy transition not only by advancing **renewable technologies** and improving **efficiency**, but also by driving **behavioural change**, **informing policy** decisions, and creating **economic opportunities**.

**Grow Ireland's capacity** to access, develop & apply international class energy RD&D

Grow the **energy sector** with **people** and **skills**



TRAINING



LEARNING



KNOWLEDGE



SKILL



COACHING



SUPPORT



DEVELOPMENT

# SEAI as a Research Funder

- Funding for Research and Innovation
- Capacity Building



**Academic  
Fellowships**

Build capacity and  
support career  
development

**SEAI-Based  
Fellowships**

Offer opportunity  
for experience in  
energy policy,  
bridging the gap

**1 Two separate calls for the different fellowship awards:**

- Academic Fellowships
- SEAI-Based Fellowships

**Watch out for the different call documents, application templates and deadlines.**

**2 New - Eligibility and eligible costs for the SEAI based fellowships have been expanded to attract also more senior and established researchers including academic staff (permanent or contracted in Third Level institutions), on a part time basis.**



# Dr. Joanne Fitzgerald

Research Funding Coordinator – Pre-award

## SEAI Energise Fellowship Programme Overview



# SEAI Energise Fellowship Programme Objectives

## Build

Build capacity in the sustainable energy sector

## Enhance

Enhance national capabilities and capacities at the energy-policy interface

## Bridge

Build capacity in bridging the gap between policy and research

## Strengthen

Strengthen knowledge to support the clean energy transition

## Career

Provide career development opportunities for participating fellows

## Skills

Provide researchers considering a transition from academia to the private or public sector with relevant skills and experience

## Research

Provide researchers with funding in their own name to advance academic career progression, while rounding out experience during the fellowship

## Experience

Provide opportunity for experience in energy policy and strategic development and implementation

## Who can avail of the programme?

Open to applicants who have support of **3rd level educational bodies:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Level body must be based in the Rep. Of Ireland.
- Applicant must have a PhD or equivalent experience\*



## What funding is available?

- Applicants may request up to €300,000 (including overheads)
- Project duration 2 years

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\*SEAI defines PhD equivalent as 4 years' full time research experience after primary degree

## Eligible 3rd level educational bodies

<b>Atlantic Technological University</b>	<b>Technological University Dublin</b>
<b>Dublin City University</b>	<b>Technological University Shannon</b>
<b>Dundalk Institute of Technology</b>	<b>Trinity College Dublin</b>
<b>Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology</b>	<b>University College Cork</b>
<b>Munster Technological University</b>	<b>University College Dublin</b>
<b>National University of Ireland, Maynooth</b>	<b>University of Galway</b>
<b>South East Technological University</b>	<b>University of Limerick</b>

## SEAI-Based Fellowships

## Vs Academic Fellowships

- Based in SEAI
- Applicants apply to a topic
- Salary plus overheads
- **Part-time option**
- **Mobility allowance**
- **Teaching buyout**

- Based in 3<sup>rd</sup> level
- Applicants can propose to develop their own research idea
- Research costs allowed

# SEAI-Based Fellowships



## SEAI Based Fellowships provide opportunity to

IMPACT

POLICY

CAREER

- Experience in energy policy
- Carry out research in areas of Irish energy policy priority, while immersed in the diverse activities carried out by SEAI.
- Bridge the gap between policy and research, have real impact
- Career development
  - Provide researchers with funding in their own name to advance academic career progression
  - Develop key skills that may open up further opportunities at the energy research-policy interface.
- Now open to more established researchers (not just early stage), including permanent staff

## 5 Topics

# Fellows located in Research & Policy Insights Directorate, SEAI

Full fellowship topic details  
available in the Call Document

SEAI-Based Fellowship topic-related questions will be accepted until  
June 4<sup>th</sup> 2026 and answers will be published in an FAQ document.  
Email into [energyresearch@seai.ie](mailto:energyresearch@seai.ie)

1. Future Visioning: Ireland's Sustainable Energy System and Society
2. Integration of Environmental Impacts (Beyond Scope 1 Emissions) into Long - Term Strategic Electricity Sector Scenario Planning
3. Developing National Electric Vehicle Fleet Charging Profiles in Ireland
4. Developing a Methodology for Projecting Long-Term Drivers of Energy Demand in Industry and Services Sectors
5. Securing the Clean-Power Supply Chain for a Renewable Energy-Based Electricity System: Critical Materials, Components, and Strategic Dependencies

# Jim Scheer

Head of Data and Insights, SEAI



# Energise Fellowship Programme SEAI-based Fellowships



Jim Scheer – Head of Data and Insights SEAI



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

- Applicants submit a research proposal to one of five topics
- **New for 2026!**
  - Shorter application process focussed on your suitability for the fellowship.
  - Detailed workplan plan as first deliverable, if awarded- when in SEAI
  - Faster evaluation process (but there is an interview)
- Applicants have the support of a 3<sup>rd</sup> level institution and an academic sponsor.
- After successful evaluation, funding awarded to 3<sup>rd</sup> level institution.
- Fellows are based in SEAI, hosted by the relevant team.

# Definition of Project Roles – SEAI-Based Fellowships



## Definition of Project Roles – SEAI-Based Fellowships



### **Fellowship Applicant:**

The Fellowship Applicant will be responsible for the research activities, reporting, dissemination and other duties associated with the proposed fellowship in-line with SEAI policies.

## Definition of Project Roles – SEAI-Based Fellowships



### Academic Sponsor:

Based within the Sponsor Organisation

Takes **administrative responsibility** for the Fellow

Academic Sponsors **must be core-funded members of academic staff** with an employment contract that covers the entire duration of the fellowship.

## Definition of Project Roles – SEAI-Based Fellowships



Fellowship Applicant

Academic Sponsor

### **Organisation Sponsor:**

The confirmed 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Educational Body supporting the fellowship application.

## Definition of Project Roles – SEAI-Based Fellowships



Fellowship Applicant

Academic Sponsor

Organisation Sponsor

### **SEAI Supervisor:**

Provides support and guidance for the duration of the Fellowship.

## Definition of Project Roles – SEAI-Based Fellowships



Fellowship Applicant

Academic Sponsor

Organisation Sponsor

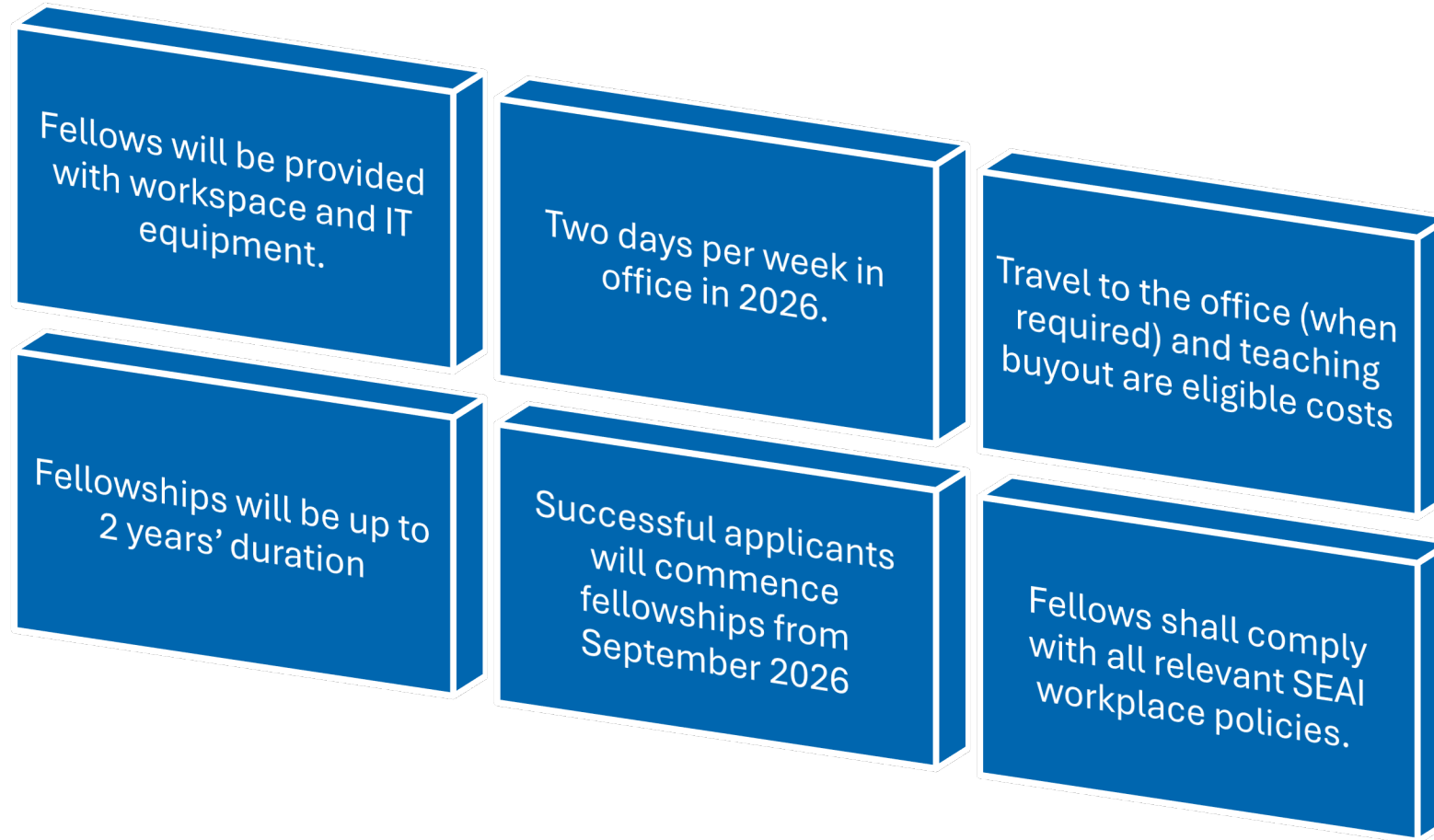
SEAI Supervisor

### Organisation Approver:

Approves the application.

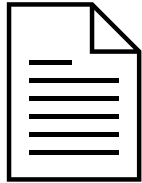
**NB! application is not considered submitted until approved by organisation approver.**

# SEAI-based Fellowships – Important Information



# SEAI-based Fellowship Application

Call Doc  
Guidance



1

- Fellowship Suitability

2

- Excellence and Innovation

3

- Relevance and Impact

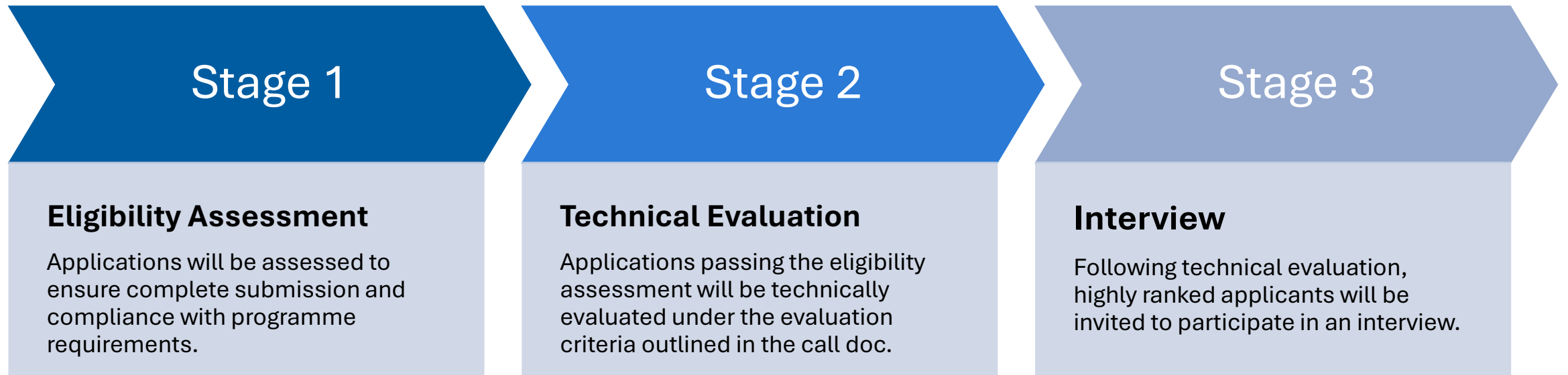
4

- Budget

5

- Letter of support

## SEAI-Based Fellowships



# Stage 1: Eligibility

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## Submission

- ✓ Complete
- ✓ On time
- ✓ All required docs
- ✓ AI

## Compliance with Programme

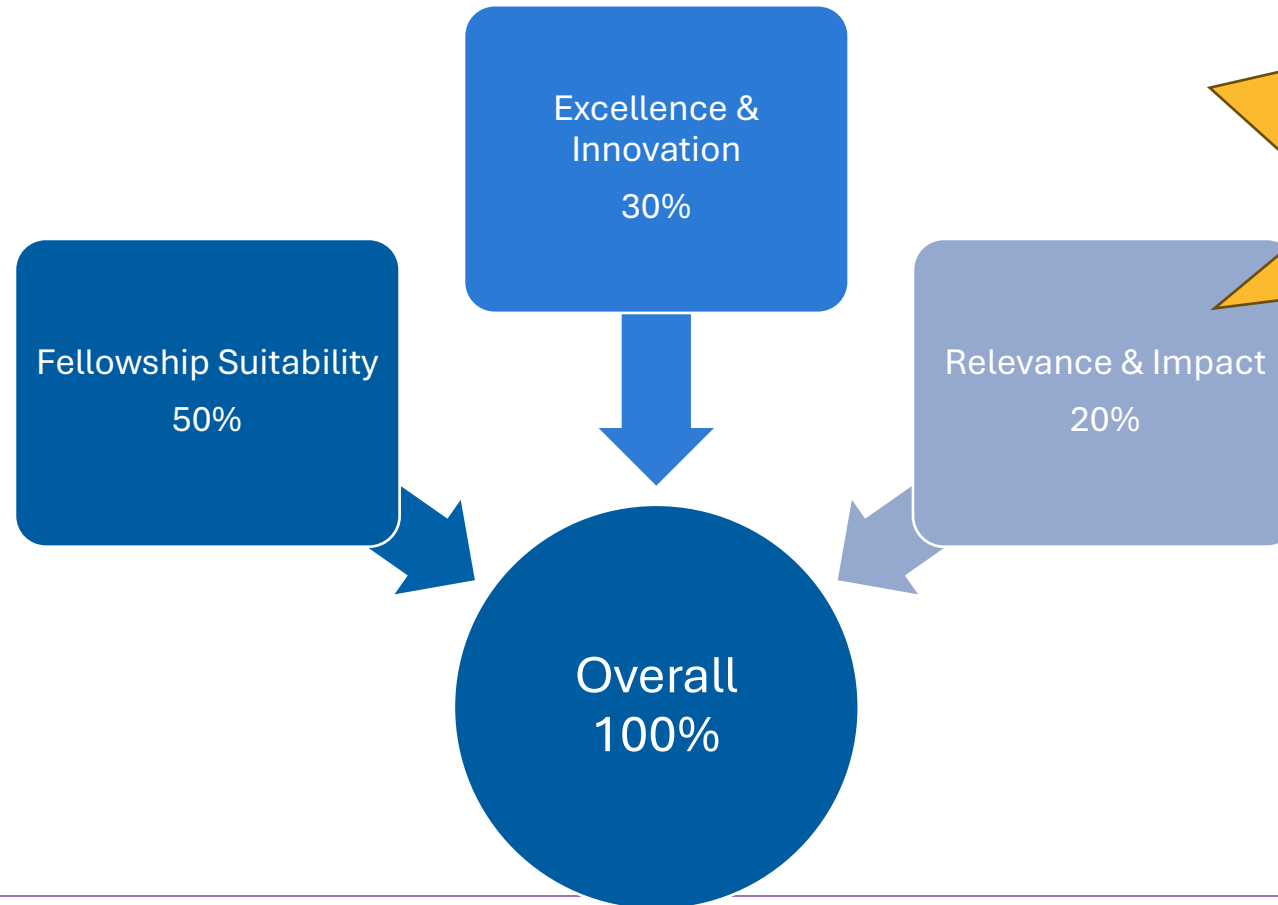
- ✓ Addresses the topic
- ✓ PhD or equivalent

## Financial

- ✓ Budget submitted
- ✓ Correct costs requested

# Stage 2: Technical Evaluation Criteria

## SEAI-Based Fellowships



Top Tip: Ensure to address all the evaluation criteria described in the call document

## 2026 Energise Fellowship Calls – Outline timelines

SEAI-based Fellowships	
<b>Call Open</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<b>Application Deadline</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<b>Stage 1: Eligibility</b>	June 2026
<b>Stage 2: Technical Evaluation</b>	June 2026
<b>Stage 3: Interview</b>	July 2026
<b>Fellowships Commence</b>	From September 2026

All call details are available at:

<https://www.seai.ie/grants/research-funding/research-fellowship/>

Dr Janis Aleksans

RD&D – Pre-award, SEAI

# Academic Fellowships



# Academic Fellowship overview



Applicants submit a research proposal based on their own research idea



Applicants have the support of a 3<sup>rd</sup> level institution and an academic mentor.



After successful evaluation, funding awarded in applicants name to 3<sup>rd</sup> level institution.



Fellows are based within their third level institution.



Opportunity to develop your own research idea/area

## Definition of Project Roles – Academic Fellowships



Fellowship  
Applicant

Academic  
Mentor

Organisation  
Sponsor

Organisation  
Approver

## Definition of Project Roles – Academic Fellowships



### Academic Mentor:

Based within the Sponsor Organisation and will take **administrative and mentoring responsibility** for the Fellow if the applicant is successful.

Academic Mentors **must be core-funded members of academic staff** with an employment contract that covers the entire duration of the fellowship.

## Definition of Project Roles – Academic Fellowships



### Academic Mentor:

### Organisation Approver:

Approves the application on SmartSimple.

**NB! application is not considered submitted until approved by organisation approver.**

# Academic Fellowships – Important information



# Academic Fellowship Application

Call Doc  
Guidance



1

• Fellowship Suitability

2

• Excellence and Innovation

3

• Relevance and Impact

4

• Implementation

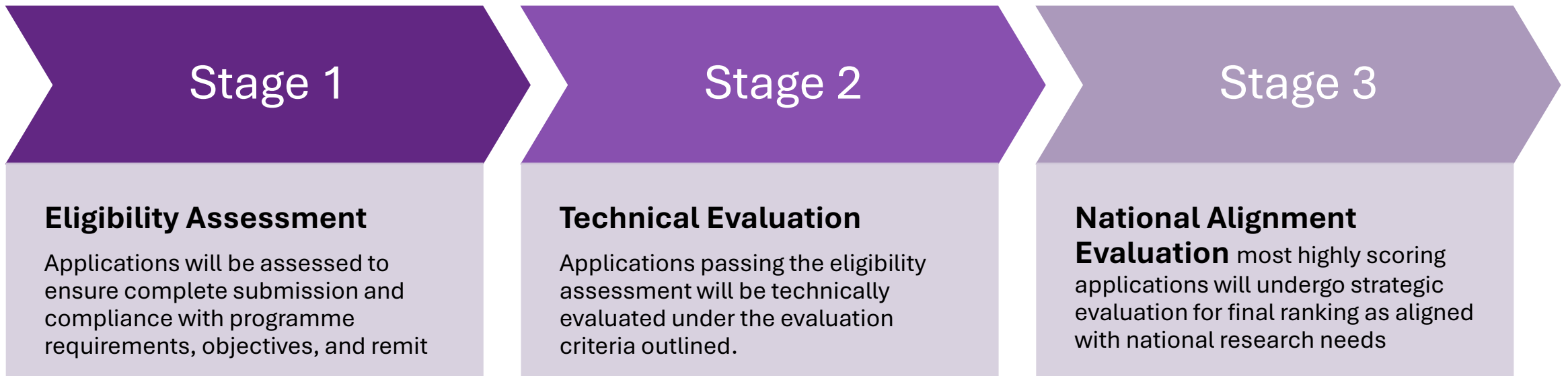
5

• Budget

6

• Letter of support

## Academic Fellowships



# Stage 1: Eligibility

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## Submission

- Complete
- On time
- All required docs
- AI

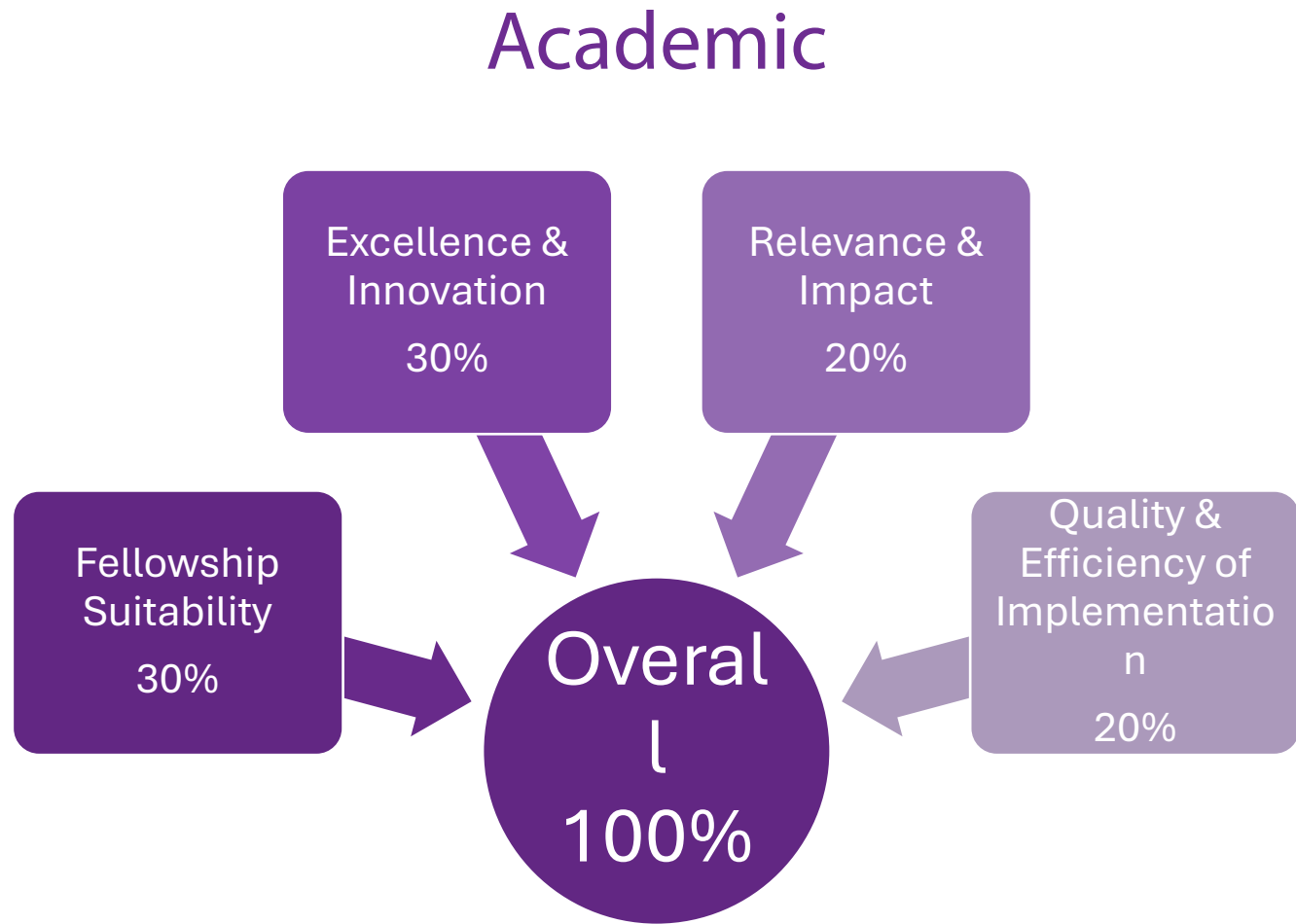
## Compliance with Programme

- Is in remit of SEAI
- PhD or equivalent

## Financial

- Budget submitted
- Correct costs requested

# Stage 2: Technical Evaluation Criteria



Top Tip: Ensure to address all the evaluation criteria described in the call document

## Documents outlined in the call document

- Climate Action Plan
- Programme for Government
- DCEE Statement of Research and Innovation Needs 2026-2028
- 2030 Climate and Energy Framework
- Ireland's National Energy and Climate Plan
- The Strategic Energy Technology Plan
- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill (2021)
- Impact 2030: Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy
- Project Ireland 2040: Building Ireland's Future

## 2026 Energise Fellowship Calls – Outline timelines

Academic Fellowships	
<b>Call Open</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<b>Application Deadline</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<b>Stage 1: Eligibility</b>	June 2026
<b>Stage 2: Technical Evaluation</b>	July 2026
<b>Stage 3: National Alignment</b>	August 2026
<b>Fellowships Commence</b>	From Q4 2026

All call details are available at:

<https://www.seai.ie/grants/research-funding/research-fellowship/>

# Elena Camargo

Programme Executive – Research Finance, SEAI

Budget and Finance



## SEAI & Academic Fellowships Budget

The maximum allowable budget is €300,000

Budget Category	Additional Supports	SEAI Fellowship	Academic Fellowship
<i>Staff Costs</i>	Applicants employed directly through the Fellowship award	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Teaching buy-out Academic or Faculty staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	Fellowship on a part-time basis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<i>Travel</i>	Actual, directly necessary Travel costs	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Mobility Allowance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<i>Materials</i>		N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Equipment</i>		N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Overheads</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# SEAI Fellowships - Budget

## ***Important Notes***

***\*\* Applicants should refer to the [SEAI RD&D Budget Policy 2026 Document and Call document](#) when completing the budget sections of their application.***

***\*\* STAFF COSTS : Applicants should apply for the appropriate point on the IUA scales, commensurate with experience. Please refer to <https://www.iua.ie/for-researchers/researcher-salary-scales-career-framework/>***

***\*\* Please provide a justification to support each category of budget costs set out in your application. For categories with no costs set out, please input N/A into the justification section.***

***\*\* Please note that the budget itself will need to be submitted before the application can be submitted for approval by your organisation's Approver.***

# Louise O'Connor

Programme Executive, SEAI

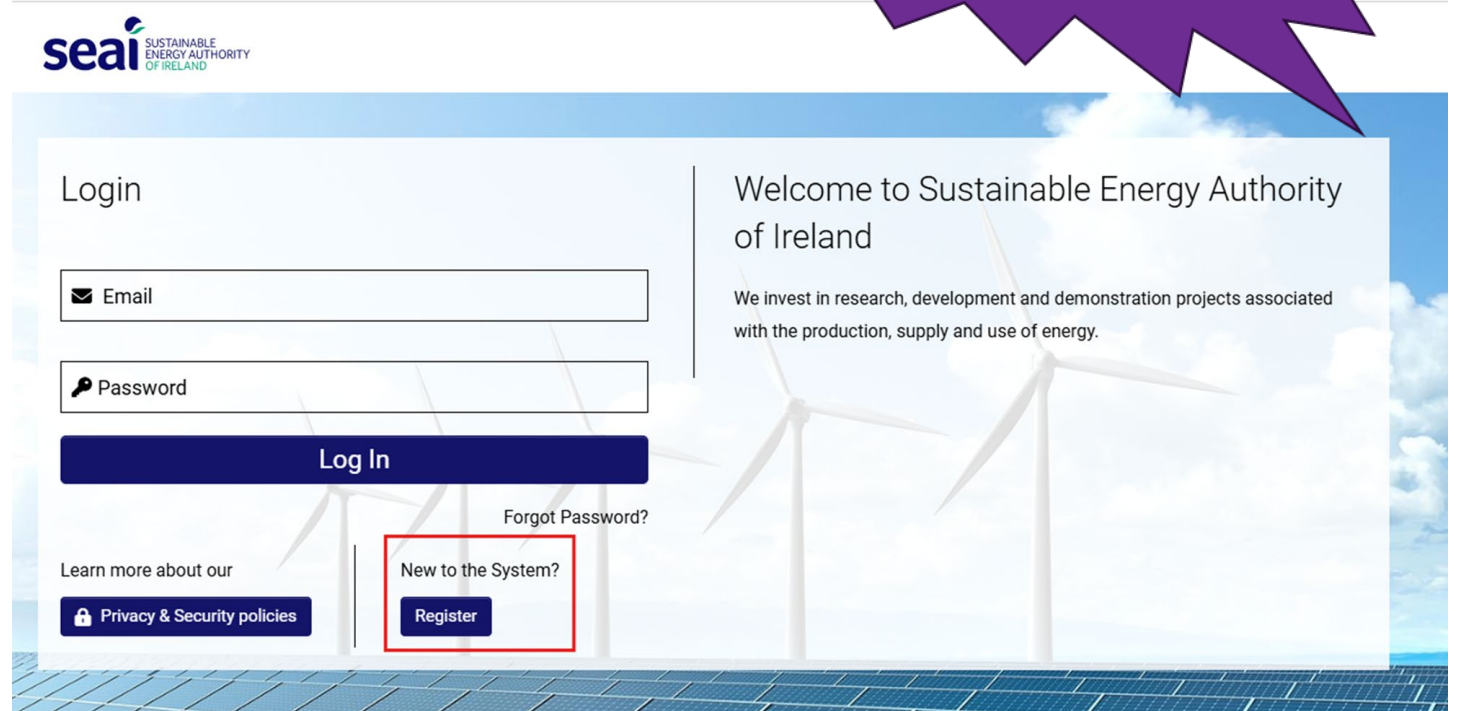
## How to submit your application



# Submitting your application

- All applications should be submitted via SEAI's Grant Management System (GMS) SmartSimple before the submission deadline.

<https://seai.smartsimple.ie/>



**seai** SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY AUTHORITY  
OF IRELAND

## Login

✉ Email

🔑 Password

**Log In**

[Forgot Password?](#)

Learn more about our

[Privacy & Security policies](#)

New to the System?

**Register**

Welcome to Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

We invest in research, development and demonstration projects associated with the production, supply and use of energy.

# Registration

- New users will need to register.
- Fellowship applicants should select 3rd Level Educational Bodies
- Select your 3<sup>rd</sup> level body under Organisation Name
- Begin typing your organisation name into the Organisation Name field
- A list of matching organisations will be displayed below the field – click on an option to select it
- Complete the form and click Submit.

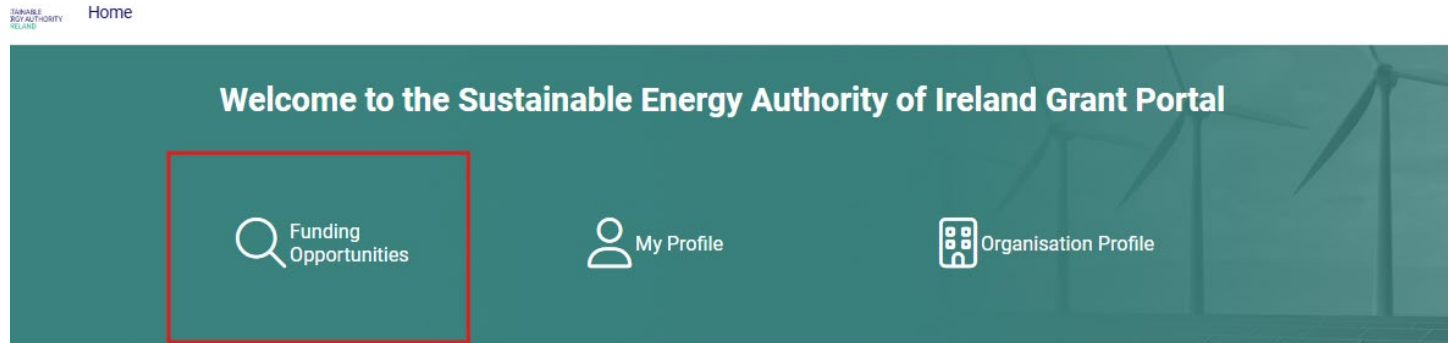
The screenshot shows a registration form with the following sections and highlighted elements:

- New to the System?**: A box containing a blue **Register** button.
- Registration Options**: A section titled "I am applying as:" with three radio button options: **3rd Level Educational Bodies** (highlighted with a red box), **Public Sector/Semi State Bodies**, and **Companies/Other**.
- Organisation Information**: A section with a link "Already have an account? Login" and an "Instructions" box. Below the instructions is a text input field for **\* Organisation Name** (highlighted with a red box).
- Contact Information**: A section with a text input field for **\* Title**.

If you are encountering any problems with SmartSimple please contact [researchgms@seai.ie](mailto:researchgms@seai.ie)

# Submitting your application

- Once you have registered and logged into the portal, Click Funding Opportunities



Call



**Academic Fellowship**  
SEAI Energise Academic Fellowships 2026  
Deadline: 30/06/2026 01:00 PM

[Apply Now](#)

Call



**SEAI Fellowship**  
SEAI Energise SEAI-Based Fellowships 2026  
Deadline: 11/06/2026 01:00 PM

[Apply Now](#)

- Select the Call you are applying for
  - The SEAI Based Fellowship
  - Academic Fellowship
  - Click Apply Now

# Submitting your application

- Please refer to the application guidance within the Call document.
- Only **fully complete applications** received **prior to the 13.00 application deadline** will be considered for evaluation.

## Programme Documents

- [SEAI Energise Fellowship Programme 2026 Call Document - SEAI Based Fellowship](#)
- [SEAI Energise Fellowship Programme 2026 Call Document - Academic Fellowship](#)
- [SEAI RD&D Budget Policy](#)

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<https://www.seai.ie/grants/research-funding/research-fellowship/>

# Submitting your application

- Please complete the mandatory questions below.
- Please press **SAVE DRAFT** before starting the application.
- Some information is copied directly from your organisation and user profiles and will appear in a read-only state within this form. If the information displayed is not current, please update your organisation and user profiles prior to completing and submitting this form.
- If you wish to communicate with staff regarding your application, use the **Notes** tab located within the left side menu.

## Application Summary

CONTACT INFORMATION **PROJECT DETAILS** SUITABILITY EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION RELEVANCE & IMPACT IMPLEMENTATION DECLARATIONS WORK PLAN BUDGET

- Complete all sections of the online application form
- Application Guidance can be found in the Call documents.
- Click Save Draft regularly

Save Draft

Submit

Withdrawn

# Submitting your application

**Application Summary**

CONTACT INFORMATION | PROJECT DETAILS | SUITABILITY | EXCELLENCE

Lead Applicant

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Lead Applicant Organisation

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Academic Mentor/Sponsor

\* Approver

If you cannot find your approver, reach out to SEAI staff.

Select One

## Action Items

APPLICATIONS (4) | ACTIVITIES (11) | PARTNER CLAIMS (0)

1-4 of 4

#	Application ID	Type	Project Name	Organisation	Primary Contact	Status
1	26-SEAI Fellowship-1538-2026	SEAI Fellowship	2026 SEAI based fellowship test	Trinity College Dublin	Robert Egan	Pending Approval

Pending approval status means your application is sitting with your organisation approver.

**NB:** applications need to be approved by your Organisation Approver within the SmartSimple portal in order to be submitted.

# Submitting your application – Budget

CONTACT INFORMATION PROJECT DETAILS SUITABILITY EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION RELEVANCE & IMPACT IMPLEMENTATION DECLARATIONS WORK PLAN **BUDGET**

## Budget Summary by Year

Project Funding Sources	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total costs (€)	Applicant contribution €	SEAI Grant Amount requested €	SEAI Contribution of Funding (% of total)
	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	0%
<b>Total Project Funding</b>	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	

## Budget Summary by Project Cost Category

Project Participants	Internal Staff	Postgraduate fees	Equipment	Materials	Travel	External Consultants	Total Direct Project Costs	Indirect Costs	Total Project Costs	SEAI Funding %	SEAI Funding €
	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	0%	€0
<b>Total Project Funding</b>	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0		€0

## Budget

Open your budget to add/edit as needed. All budgets must be submitted to submit this application.

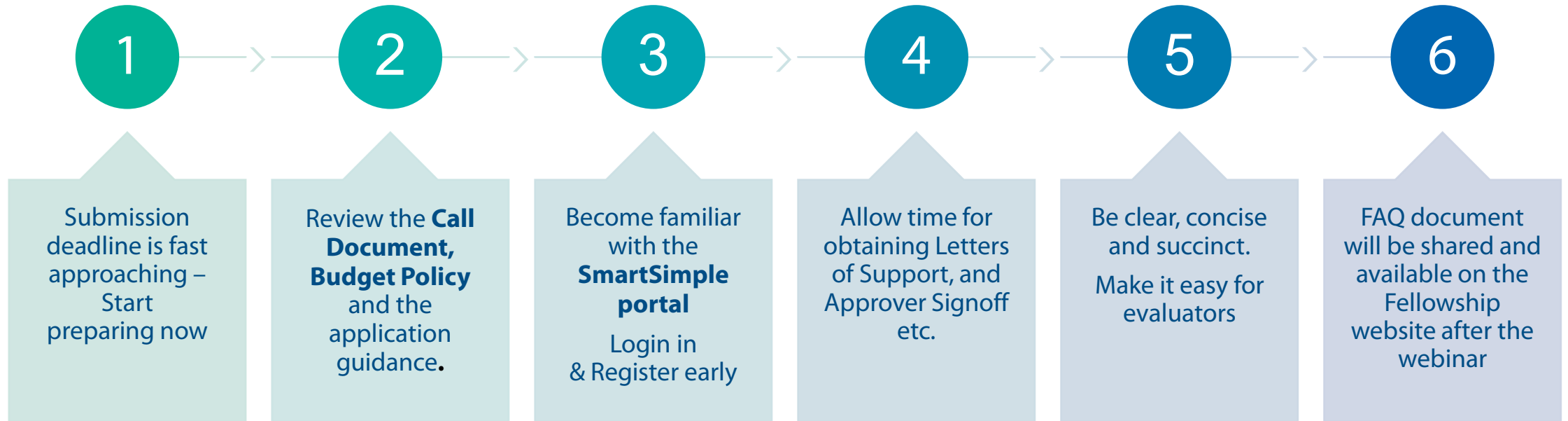
1-1 of 1 < >

#	Organisation	Primary Contact	Total Project Cost	Maximum Support	Total Applicant Contribution	Total SEAI Request	Activity Status
1	University of Limerick	John O'Connell	€0	0%	€0	€0	Draft
			€0		€0	€0	

< BACK

- The budget will need to be submitted before the application can be submitted.
- Once the budget is submitted it cannot be edited.

# Top tips

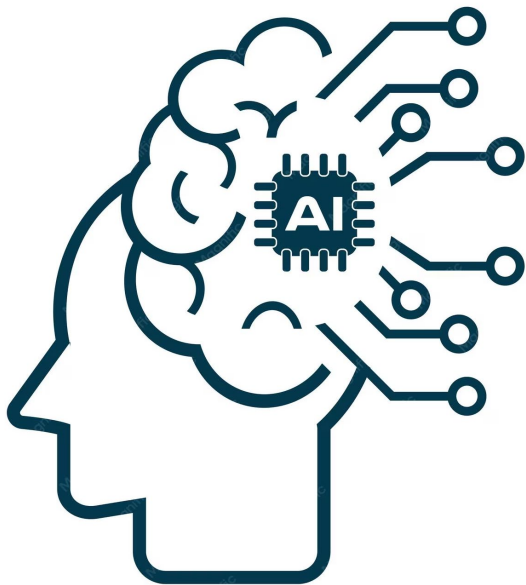


- Only fully complete and approved applications received in advance of the deadline will progress to evaluation
  - **Organisational approval is required in SS before the application deadline**
    - For Call queries, please contact [energyresearch@seai.ie](mailto:energyresearch@seai.ie)
    - For queries relating to SmartSimple please contact [researchgms@seai.ie](mailto:researchgms@seai.ie)

# A word about AI

The EU Commission has issued “[Living Guidelines on the Responsible Use of Generative AI in Research](#)” (updated May 2026). These directly address **proposal writing and research conduct**.

At SEAI:



- We recognise that AI has value and offers opportunities for scientific research as we look to solving future problems in energy.
- However, with applications we need to consider **transparency, ethics, data privacy and human perspectives**.
- We place the **highest priority on your individual ideas and contributions**
- **We will look for this in applications** as well as **your evidence** that preparatory work and literature reviews have been carried out systematically to support your application.
- We ask for **transparency** in declaring where and how you used AI tools in the preparation of your application and would also caution applicants in using novel ideas in AI tools.
- Use of AI is acceptable and not penalized, but **inappropriate use of AI can make your application ineligible**.

- ✅ **Use AI as support:** drafting, structuring, and editing only
- 👩 **You are responsible:** full accountability for all AI-assisted content
- 🔍 **Be transparent:** disclose tools, purpose, and extent of AI use
- ✅ **Verify everything:** check accuracy, bias, and sources rigorously
- ⚖️ **Protect integrity:** avoid plagiarism; respect GDPR, IP, confidentiality
- 🚫 **Avoid sensitive uses:** no AI in peer review or evaluation processes
- 🧠 **Human oversight: AI assists—humans have ideas, decide and validate**

# Q&A Session





**THANK  
YOU**

**SEAI National Energy Research, Development  
& Demonstration Funding Programme**

**e:** [energyresearch@seai.ie](mailto:energyresearch@seai.ie)

**w:** <https://www.seai.ie/grants/research-funding/research-fellowship/>

