

IRNN/HRB Research Nurse/Midwife Support & Development Grant

The Health Research Board (HRB) have awarded grant funding to the Irish Research Nurses Network (IRNN) to support IRNN activities during a three year period from 2018 – 2021.

The funding has been granted for 5 specified purposes:

1. Support for IRNN National Conference and other IRNN activities
2. Conference and event attendance by IRNN members
3. Funding for attendance at national and international committee/working group meetings by IRNN representatives, where that person is a member or observer of the group
4. Support continuing education and innovation or quality improvement initiatives
5. Completion of a national scoping exercise to ascertain the number of research nurse and midwife positions in Ireland, their employment structures, roles and responsibilities.

This information sheet provides guidance for IRNN members on completing an application for support from the grant.

Process for applying for financial support for travel or education.

Research nurses/midwives who are members of IRNN can now apply for funding to engage in professional development activities as outlined in points 2-4 above. The applicant must be able to demonstrate that their planned activity is relevant to the research nurse/midwife role and will benefit their professional development and/or their organisation. The applicant is asked to avail of co-funding by their employer/organisation if at all possible.

Application and Review Process

1. Applicants must be members of IRNN
 - a. Unless an exception is justified the applicant must have been an IRNN member for a minimum of 6 months prior to making their application
 - b. A longer period of membership (minimum one year) may apply for requests for large amounts of funding.
2. Application forms are available on the IRNN Website: <https://irnn.ie/grants/>
3. Each Research Nurse/Midwife requesting funds must submit their completed application as directed on the application form.
4. Although applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, the Committee will on occasion make calls for applications for specific purposes – e.g. attendance at the IRNN or UKCRF annual conference or other significant events.
5. Applications for funding will be reviewed, and funding allocated, by the IRNN Grant Committee. Funds from the grant will only be released or reimbursed following authorisation by this committee.
6. The Committee will have the authority to make a funding decision based solely on the written application. The Committee may ask applicants to provide additional information about the request.



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7. The Committee may approve, deny or defer a request, or may request additional documentation or information before making a final decision.
8. The Committee will attempt to announce funding decisions within one week of each meeting date.
9. The Committee will consider funding elements of event attendance including, but not limited to, transport costs, accommodation (as appropriate to attendance at event), and conference fees. Funding will not include alcohol, tips, entertainment, airport parking, or incidentals such as Internet fees or long-distance phone calls.
10. After attending the approved event, and where appropriate, the applicant will be asked to provide feedback about the event, either in a written report or through presentations at local or national networking events.
11. IRNN will be required to provide reports about funding allocation to the HRB annually, which may include personally identifiable information about recipients of funding.

Deciding Factors

This grant has been awarded in recognition of the importance of the research nurse/midwife within the research infrastructure and of the support IRNN provides for clinical research nurses and midwives in Ireland. The following is a non-exhaustive list of factors the Committee will consider when reviewing applications:

- The nature of the desired event
- The applicant's role in the event (e.g. committee membership, poster or oral presentation)
- The relevance of the event to the applicant's professional practice and development.
- The relevance of the event to the applicant's workplace, IRNN and Irish research infrastructure
- The applicants efforts to minimise costs (such as securing part funding from their institution or alternative sponsorship)
- The extent to which the applicant has contributed to, or participated in, IRNN activities on prior occasions, if applicable
- The details supplied by the applicant about the costs to attend the event (such as submitting accurate estimates of travel, accommodation costs, etc.)

Funding Limitations

- Funding available is limited – in the event of competition for available funds in particular categories the committee will adjudicate based on the information provided in the application and may decide to offer partial funding
- Except in exceptional circumstances only one application per individual will be considered per year.

Note: Applicants must take note of the amount of funding approved. In accepting the offer made by the IRNN Grant subcommittee the applicant accepts responsibility for excess costs that occur.



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