

Proposal to engage in Horizon 2020 Teaming for the Arts and Humanities
Trinity College Dublin

How does Teaming work?

The objective of the Teaming Call is to create, or upgrade existing, Centres of Excellence, through effective partnerships between leading research institutions and low performing partners. The partner in the low performing Member State will lead the application and should be a national/regional authority or a research funding agency. Funding of between EUR €0.2-€0.5m is available for the initial development of a Business Plan for the Centre of Excellence and, following evaluation by an expert panel, the highest ranked Business Plans could request funding of between EUR €15 and €20m for the start-up and implementation of the Centre. Further information on the Call, including the stages of a Teaming project and the funding available to successful partnerships, is available here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-widespread-2014-1.html#tab1>

What can TCD offer a partner under the Teaming call?

- Assistance in preparing the proposal to Horizon 2020 WIDESPREAD-1-2014 Call (Deadline: **17th September 2014**) drawing on the expertise of successful grant writers based in the TLRH.
- Assistance in defining the vision for the development of, or upgrading of an existing, Centre of Excellence drawing on the expertise of the TLRH management staff and its researchers in Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Cultural Identity research
- Access to the development model and business planning process employed by Trinity College in the establishment, governance and performance evaluation of the Trinity Long Room Hub, Arts & Humanities Research Institute (established in 2006)
- Long-term support to the future Centre of Excellence in the form of expert guidance, technical assistance, researcher mobility programmes etc.

What is TCD looking for in a partner under the Teaming call?

- Connections to the managing authorities for the Structural Funds in their country and a track record in leveraging Funding. Proposals must include commitments from the national/regional authority to commit financial resources (e.g. ESI Funds) for implementing the future Centre.
- A demonstrated commitment to the development and long term investment in Arts, Humanities and Cultural Identity research & innovation in their Member State
- Commitment to a long-term partnership with the TLRH
- A demonstrated track record in project management and the ability to commit resources to the preparation of the proposal and the management of the grant, if successful

Contact Details

Dr Jennifer Edmond, Director of Strategic Projects
Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Trinity Long Room Hub
Trinity College Dublin
Tel: +353(1) 8964224
Email: edmondj@tcd.ie

Strengths of the TLRH as an institution of excellence

Established in 2006 the [Trinity Long Room Hub](#) (TLRH) is one of Trinity College Dublin's (TCD's) flagship research institutes. It aims to harness the research strengths of its nine constituent College schools many of which enjoy a particularly strong international reputation (e.g. the School of English at TCD is placed 25th in the world and 7th in Europe by the 2014 QS University Rankings by Subject). The TLRH is dedicated to advancing world-leading interdisciplinary research in the arts, humanities and cultural identity. Specifically it has:

- established and prioritised collaborative, thematic and translational research pathways in underutilised disciplines
- re-imagined the research relationship between the College Library, the researchers and the university
- strengthened TCD's international profile in the area of Arts and Humanities research
- built mobility opportunities within Europe and internationally for senior scholars
- Created strong support pathways for early career researchers and senior scholars
- Engaged in an extensive programme of public engagement and outreach
- Built connectivity with the representatives with the non-academic sector including local business and cultural community

The TLRH has been instrumental in expanding opportunities for researchers across its schools by creating a dynamic research environment especially for interdisciplinary research projects. The following are some of the features that have come to characterise its reputation as an excellent and innovative research centre both at national and international level.

Strategic Research Prioritisation

Since its establishment, the TLRH has identified and developed a number of strategic research themes around which there is a critical mass of activity across its constituent schools. It has used these themes to focus the development of research activity in a strategic way. The two research themes which the TLRH is currently working on are 'Digital Humanities' and 'Identities in Transformation'. The first of these themes is aligned with the Irish Government's National Research Prioritisation exercise under the priority area *Digital Platforms Content and Applications*. The second theme reflects work by over 70 researchers and their postgraduate students across 10 of TCD's 24 schools. It explores how identity is linked to processes of transformation on the level of history and culture. The development of research activities under both of these themes is recognised and supported at College level and they have been assigned 'Theme Champions' to promote and steer their development.

Strong International Profile

One of the core strengths of TCD is its strong international profile and TLRH builds on and enhances this reputation in all of its activities. Through its Digital Humanities theme the TLRH is the Coordinator of the FP7 funded [CENDARI](#) (Collaborative European Digital Archive Infrastructure) project, a €6.5M FP7 Research Infrastructure for medieval and modern history

which involves 14 European partners. TLRH also contributes to other European collaborative initiatives like the [Europeana Cloud](#) (ICT PSP) and [NeDiMAH](#) (ESF) networks projects.

TLRH staff and student mobility is enabled through initiatives like the Marie Curie funded SPECTRESS (Social Practice, Cultural Trauma and Re-establishing Solid Sovereignities) project coordinated by the TLRH which is aligned to the Identity in Transformation research theme. This project enables the mobility of academic staff and doctoral students through research fellowships in Brazil, India and Japan. The TLRH also organises and funds a visiting research fellows programme which brings leading international scholars to the institute for periods between four weeks and six months from all over the world.

The TLRH contributes to the policy landscape for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences research. The TLRH Director, Prof Juergen Barkhoff, is on the executive board of the Coimbra group of universities (a European association of multidisciplinary universities of high international standard) which shares best practice and influences educational policy.

Involvement in these outward-looking activities ensures that the Institute's researchers are brought into contact with their international counterparts in their respective fields and have an opportunity to learn from best international practice.

Providing a supportive environment for researchers

The TLRH is dedicated to supporting both early career stage researchers and established senior research staff. The TLRH is home to 44 early stage researchers annually who are nominated by their schools and whose work has been recognised by attracting external funding. With regard to established staff the TLRH runs an annual competitive Research Incentive Scheme which makes awards of up to €4,000 available on a competitive basis to enable staff undertake research and dissemination activities linked to the Institute's research priorities.

The TLRH has also built attractive mobility opportunities within Europe and internationally for senior scholars via the Marie Curie SPECTRESS project which provides short term research fellowships for staff as well as the Transnational Access programme of the CENDARI project.

Industry and Non-Academic Sector Engagement

There is an increasing awareness that research addressing the socio-economic challenges that Europe faces requires input across many disciplines and sectors and this is reflected in the structure of funding calls and requirements at both European and national level. Cognisant of this and committed to the translation of research into usable outcomes for the benefit of society, the TLRH has developed strong partnerships and relations with industry and other non academic sectors (libraries, archives, galleries, museums, performance spaces and festivals). The TLRH has coordinated the innovative 'Consultations' programme which comprises of a series of private small group discussions on issues of national importance bringing together leaders from the Irish business, academic, professional, cultural and public sectors. The consultations programme form an official part of the President of Ireland's Ethics Initiative and is sponsored by an industry partner. The facility to tap into these well-established networks

enables researchers affiliated to the TLRH to explore multi sectoral approaches for their work which in turn makes them more competitive for funding opportunities at both national and European level.

Public Engagement and Outreach

The TLRH organises and promotes an intensive calendar of events and lectures which are open to the public and draw on relevant work taking places across its constituent schools. In recent years a number of events and lecture series have attracted significant public and in some cases media interest and attendance. These activities have enhanced the visibility of work being undertaken in the Institute and ensured that the public has an opportunity to learn from the research outputs produced. It is also helps build advocacy for humanities research by demonstrating its benefits to society.

The Trinity Long Room Hub has a strong track record of public engagement, building on TCD's established strengths and programmes in the wider area of public outreach. In 2013 the TLRH managed and hosted Ireland's contribution to the [Marie Curie Researchers' Night](#), the first time this European-wide initiative was held in Dublin.

Leveraging and Managing Competitive Funding

The Trinity Long Room Hub has developed a solid track record in winning competitive research funding in a relatively short period of time. The TLRH currently houses the €6.5M CENDARI research infrastructure (2012-2016) funded under FP7, the €535k SPECTRESS Marie Curie IRSES project (2014-2017) and is involved as partner in a number of other FP7 projects. The construction of the Research Institute building was itself co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as part of a competitive capital grant awarded in 2008, involving the leveraging of national funding by the Irish Higher Education Authority. The Institute staff has amassed considerable experience in responsibly managing European funding, including reporting and audit.

Transparent Governance and Administration Structure

The TLRH has established a robust and transparent governance structure to oversee its activities and to which it is directly accountable. This structure involves two boards - the Institute board and the Directors of Research Forum - which regularly review the delivery of the Institute's strategic goals and priorities. The Institute board, which meets four times per year, is composed of a number of TCD representatives as well as four external members, two of whom represent International Research Institutes and centres. The Directors of Research Forum, which meets on a monthly basis, guides the research mission of the Institute. It is composed of the Directors of Research of the TLRH's constituent schools. The TLRH's strategy and activities are overseen by the Centre Director who is responsible for delivering on its mission. The TLRH Director is supported by the Director of Strategic projects who develops opportunities for the Institute in the area of funding and other initiatives and by the TLRH Manager who oversees the day to day operation of the Institute's activities. Other core support staff includes an event organiser and executive assistant.