

NDA Research Promotion Scheme:

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Question:** Are studies relating to people with mental health conditions in marginalised groups and communities eligible for consideration?

**Answer:** Yes. Under the Disability Act 2025, disability includes physical, sensory, intellectual or mental health impairments which would give rise to a substantial restriction on someone's capacity to participate in the life of the community. The UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognises that that disability is an evolving concept resulting from the interaction between persons with impairments (including physical, mental, intellectual or sensory) and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society.

1. **Question:** Are studies relating to the intersection of different disability identities and experiences eligible for consideration?

**Answer:** Yes.Intersectionality is framework used to understand how societies include or exclude people based on their various identities including different identities related to disability and impairment.

1. **Question:** Is a PhD or MSc student eligible to apply?

**Answer:** The call for proposals states explicitly that this scheme is not a scholarship scheme, so it is not open to part-fund someone's PhD or MSc research.

1. **Question:** Our organisation does not have a strong internal research expertise, but we want to apply, how should we do this?

**Answer:** In these situations, we suggest that you reach out to an academic institution, or similar organisations, to make a joint application. Contacting research offices in different Higher Education Institutes or posting a notice on the [PPI Opportunities National Noticeboard is](https://ppinetwork.ie/get-involved/ppi-opportunities-noticeboard/) a good start if you are not aware of relevant researchers or research centres.

1. **Question:** ‘Only organisations which can deliver a satisfactory final draft within 12-18 months of signing the grant agreement will be eligible for consideration.’ Does this mean that the entire research project needs to be completed within that timeframe?

**Answer:** Yes. It is expected that the entire research project, including delivery of a satisfactory final report, is completed within 12-18 months.

1. **Question:** Are the referees to be selected on behalf of the principle  
   investigator or on behalf of the entire research team?

**Answer:** References are required on behalf of the project manager who takes overall responsibility for project and/or the listed project team members who have experience conducting commissioned research.

1. **Question:** Does the RPS grant cover costs associated with dissemination?

**Answer:** Yes. A breakdown of dissemination costs can be included as part of the proposal.

1. **Question:** Why is the NDA continuing with the RPS2023 -24 theme ‘Disability in Marginalised Groups and Communities’?

**Answer:** Following discussion and consultation with Disabled Persons Organisations and an Irish Traveller Organisation we proposed to continue with the theme of - Disability in Marginalised Groups and Communities. This year however we are emphasising our particular interest in proposals for studies focused on disability issues within Traveller and/or Roma communities.

1. **Question:** Why are proposals to analyse secondary data welcome?

**Answer:** High quality proposals to analyse secondary data are encouraged because they can be cost effective and efficient ways of using existing data to answer new questions.

1. **Question:** What is meant by ‘applicants should also show how their research is of sufficient scale to give findings that could be generalised’

**Answer:** While thegeneralisability ofresearch findings (from qualitative and/or quantitative methods) is always a matter of degree,applicants should keep in mind that the NDA provides evidence-informed advice the Government on disability policy and practice. This means that research funded under the RPS should ideally produce findings that are broadly applicable. Research for policy typically requires insights from robust evidence grounded in methodologically rigours studies.

1. **Question:** How do we know if VAT is applicable?

**Answer:** It is the responsibility of the applicants, not the funder, to determine if VAT is applicable.

1. **Question:** Our organisation is based outside Ireland; can we apply to the Scheme?

**Answer**: There is no restriction on the nationality of the researchers or where they are based.However, applicants should be aware that, as an agency whose statutory remit is to advise the Irish government on disability policy and practice, the National Disability Authority's main interest in funding this piece of work is what it may tell us that could inform policy and practice in Ireland.