

# Fast Track Work Permit Scheme for Non-EU Researchers



**Find out how your company can streamline the recruitment of non-EEA researchers for R&D projects and save money on work permit fees.**

The Fast Track Work Permit Scheme for R&D (known as Hosting Agreements) enables approved research active enterprises to recruit highly qualified experts from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) for their R&D departments in Ireland.

Since the scheme was introduced in 2007 over 40 companies have saved more than €528,000 in work permit fees. 4,700 researchers have been hired and 60 companies are accredited so far with scope to grow this number significantly.

The Hosting Agreement System is managed on behalf of the Department of Business Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI) by EURAXESS Ireland.

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*“The EURAXESS Hosting Agreement Scheme has been an invaluable tool to BD’s Research Centre hiring talent from across the globe. The ease of the process has afforded us the opportunity to make the transition into BD as seamless as possible. These researchers contribute to our mission and ability to make a direct impact on patients, and the world of healthcare through our R&D Efforts. In addition, the hosting agreement has allowed us to build culturally diverse teams across a variety of disciplines.”*

**Amanda Bevan**, HR Business Partner, BD Research Centre Ireland (RCI) Limerick

## Benefits of the scheme for companies and prospective employees:



- Free of charge fast track recruitment of non-EEA qualified experts for R&D
- Quick and free accreditation process to use the scheme
- No need to apply for a work Permit to DBEI
- Exemption from the Labour Market Needs Test
- Quicker visa processing time
- Employment duration from only 3 months to permanent
- Min salary level is much lower compared to other work permission schemes in Ireland from €23,181 per annum to €30,000 if a researcher has dependants in Ireland
- Spouses and children can join immediately
- Spouses can work freely without any working permission in Ireland
- Exemptions from the need of any permission to work after 24 months on a Hosting Agreement
- Free, professional immigration advice from EURAXESS Ireland on matters related to the employment of researchers

## Applying for Accreditation:

Research active organisations in both the public and private sectors must apply to the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI) for Fast Track Work Permit

for R&D (Hosting Agreement) accreditation. Once approved, the organisation is then able to offer ‘Hosting Agreements’ to third country researchers to carry out defined research.

## More information:

### Accreditation process:

**David O’Neill** or **Gary Phipps**  
Innovation Research and Development Policy,  
Department of Business, Enterprise and  
Innovation  
Tel: +353 1 631 2185 or Tel: +353 1 631 2484  
Email: [researcherhostingaccreditation@dbei.gov.ie](mailto:researcherhostingaccreditation@dbei.gov.ie)

### Administration Process:

Hosting Agreements are submitted by the research organisation to EURAXESS Ireland for processing and validation. The office is the Government-appointed central processing house for Hosting Agreements and plays a key role in the accreditation and immigration process.

Hosting agreements are managed by:

**Dr Magdalena Wislocka**,  
Head of EURAXESS Ireland  
Tel: +353 1 799 6030  
Email: [magda@iua.ie](mailto:magda@iua.ie)