



Irish Cancer Society Research

Translational Researcher Scholarship Programme 2022: Expression of Interest

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated on 31.01.2022

Table of Contents

Who can apply?	2
Research Project Eligibility	4
Supervision	5
Funding.....	7
Expression of Interest Deadline	8
Progression to Full Application	9
Start of Research Scholarship Programme	10
Additional FAQs	10

Who can apply?

1. I have a degree in microbiology. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, this award is open to biomedical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, life sciences or medicine graduates.

2. Can a student with only a 2.2 honours degree or lower apply for a Scholarship?

No, you must have obtained (or expect to obtain) a first or upper second class honours bachelor degree to apply for a scholarship.

3. I received a 2.2 in my undergraduate degree but received a distinction- or merit-level master's degree, am I eligible to apply?

Yes, you can apply if you have a distinction- or merit-level master's degree.

4. Are the scholarships available for students to study abroad?

No, the research must take place at a host institution in the Republic of Ireland. This must be one of the HRB's [approved host institutions](#).

5. Are non-Irish citizens living in the Republic of Ireland eligible to apply?

Yes, if you are a non-Irish citizen but are eligible to study in Ireland, and you meet the eligibility criteria, you can apply for a Scholarship. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure they are eligible to study in Ireland.

6. Are Scholarships tenable for individuals studying in Northern Ireland?

Scholarships are tenable only for researchers who will conduct their research in the Republic of Ireland. This is because the money raised for the Irish Cancer Society to fund cancer research is raised in the Republic of Ireland.

7. Can I apply for funding if I have already begun my PhD?

No, you can only apply for a scholarship if you have not yet commenced your PhD.

8. Is there an upper age limit to the application?

No, there is no upper age limit.

9. I completed my undergraduate degree a number of years ago, am I still eligible?

You will only be eligible if you have been working in a field relevant to your proposed PhD study i.e. maintenance of skills and knowledge gained during your undergraduate studies. To discuss eligibility in such cases, please contact grants@irishcancer.ie.

10. Can medical doctors apply for the PhD Scholarship?

Yes, medical doctors may apply for the scholarships. However, the proposed project must be in the area of one of the Irish Cancer Society's strategic research themes (see section 1.4 in the Translational Research Scholarship 2022-EOI document).

11. I wish to complete my PhD in 3 years, can I apply?

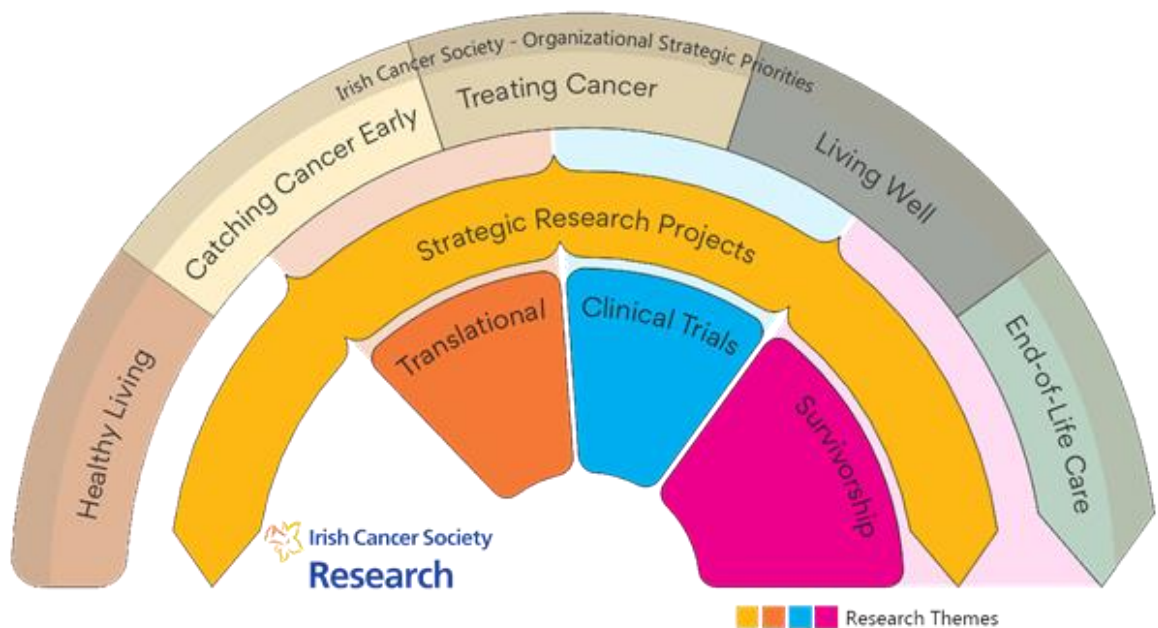
No, the Scholarship must be 48 months in duration.

Research Project Eligibility

1. What type of projects are eligible?

This scholarship is specifically intended to fund research that is aligned with the [Society's Strategy \(2020-2025\)](#) and its [Research Roadmap](#). Proposed projects can be in any of the following areas: a) translational biomedical research, b) clinical trials, c) survivorship, or d) strategic priorities.

If you are unsure of your project eligibility, please contact grants@irishcancer.ie



2. I am unsure if my project is eligible, how do I ask for advice?

If you have any concerns please contact grants@irishcancer.ie.

Supervision

- 1. Can a supervisor sponsor more than one student for separate projects who are both applying for a Scholarship?**

Yes, a supervisor can sponsor more than one scholarship applicant.

- 2. Can a supervisor sponsor a project more than once but with different applicants who are both applying for a Scholarship?**

No, a project cannot be submitted more than once. Applications with the same project from different applicants will be automatically discounted.

- 3. Is it necessary to have two supervisors?**

Yes, two supervisors must be identified when completing your application through the Irish Cancer Society [Gateway Grant Tracker](#) online system.

- 4. What is the purpose of having two supervisors?**

It is often good practice for there to be two supervisors for every student, as it provides back up for those situations where one supervisor is ill, leaves, or issues arise with the supervisor-student relationship. In addition, it can provide breadth and support to the project. It is important that all supervisors are aware that they have a responsibility for the student and there is no scope for nominal supervision.

The role of each supervisor will vary according to the research project. In many cases one supervisor will play a major role in directing the research and the role of the second supervisor will be more supportive. However, both supervisors have a responsibility for the student's progress and will be expected to take an active role in the supervision process.

One supervisor may have a minimum of 1 year's post-doctoral experience. In having this criteria, we are encouraging more junior members of research teams to be actively involved in the research project and to be recognised as a supervisor.

5. Can there be more than two supervisors?

You can include additional supervisors but they must have a documented and active role in the research as collaborators. Such proposed relationships should be described in the application.

6. Do supervisors need to be permanent members of staff?

The most experienced supervisor must hold a post at the proposed host research institute that covers the duration of the scholarship.

Ideally the second supervisor should also hold a contract for the duration of the PhD. However, given this person is only required to have 1 year postdoctoral experience, we will consider any co-supervisor who can demonstrate their commitment to the supervision of the student throughout the whole study period.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their supervisors also meet the host institution's requirements for a research supervisor.

7. Why do I need to submit CVs for my two proposed supervisors as part of the application process?

The research track record of the supervisors, relative to their career stage, will be assessed as part of the overall research scholarship application.

Funding

1. Is there an overall limit for the amount of funding granted?

The total value of the Irish Cancer Society Research Scholarship is €160,000. €155,000 of this should be utilised to cover stipend, fees, materials and dissemination will be for a maximum of four years. A mandatory provision of €1,000 is also included within this budget to support Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) in the proposed research project*. An additional mobility/capacity building funding of up to a maximum of €5000 will be available. This important element is intended to provide awardees experience that goes beyond the traditional research environment in developing the awardee's career. In order to encourage well-rounded researchers with varied experiences, applicants are required to develop a mobility or capacity building element as part of their award application. Information on this element will be provided to the applicants shortlisted to the full application stage.

Please note that full details of budget guidelines will be provided at the full application stage of this funding award.

2. How many Irish Cancer Society Translational Researcher Scholarships are available?

There is one scholarship available in 2022: this scholarship is for Translational Cancer Researcher Scholarship. The application of the highest quality will be awarded funding, regardless of cancer type or research theme.

3. Does the grant cover host institute overheads?

As a charity, the Irish Cancer Society is not in a position to pay for host institution overheads for its research funding.

Expression of Interest Deadline

1. When do expression of interest applications need to be in by?

Applications must be submitted online through [Gateway Grant Tracker](#) by **3pm Tuesday 22 February 2022**. If you have any concerns please contact grants@irishcancer.ie.

2. Do the signatories have to approve the application by this deadline?

Yes. All signatories (your two proposed supervisors) have to approve the application by this deadline. They can do this through their online portal.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their application is approved by all signatories before the deadline. Please ensure that the application is submitted with sufficient time allowed for the signatory to approve.

Progression to Full Application

1. When will applicants find out if they have been shortlisted to submit a full application?

Applicants will find out if they have been shortlisted to submit a Full Application in late March/early April 2022.

2. What will the full application entail?

The full application will look for more specific and in-depth research project details such as project background, hypothesis, objectives, methodology, ethical considerations and plans, plus a revised, detailed public and patient involvement plan, sharing of research findings, mobility/capacity building element, research environment, budget and impact plan.

Shortlisted applicants will be provided guidance documents on how to complete the full application.

3. Will the application review process be exactly as outlined in the guidance document?

This document is used for guidance only. The Irish Cancer Society reserves the right to modify the review process. Applicants however will be notified of any relevant modification to the review procedure.

4. Will I need to attend an interview?

If your full application is shortlisted, you will be expected to attend an interview in June 2022 (date to be confirmed). Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, this is expected to be held virtually.

Start of Research Scholarship Programme

1. When does the successful Research Scholar commence their programme?

The successful Research Scholar will begin their PhD in September 2022, and will continue their research for 48 months. Please note, the commencement of the PhD in September 2022 must be in line with any public health guidelines in place in Ireland at that time due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional FAQs

1. When is the EOI deadline?

The Expression of Interest round closes on the 22 February at 3pm.

2. How many scholarships are available or will be funded?

There are two scholarship awards: one for researchers with a translational biomedical background, and another for individuals with a background in social science, nursing and allied health.

3. Must the PhD Scholar be identified at the time of application?

The application must be developed and submitted by the proposed PhD scholar. The proposed supervisor cannot submit an application and select a PhD student at a later date.

4. Where can we find the appendix referring to PPI?

The public and patient involvement appendix can be found at the end of the guidelines document and it has also been uploaded separately on the website [here](#).

5. Can the research be carried out in another country other than Ireland if the host institution is based in Ireland?

The scholarship includes provision for a Mobility and Capacity Building Element. This element allows scholars to travel and conduct research at a national or international institution.

6. Can you mix and match for the capacity building element?

If robustly justified there may be scope for a hybrid capacity building element. Please email grants@irishcancer.ie with more information.

7. Can you give an example of a non-mobility initiative element?

The non-mobility initiative is a project-based programme of work, which results in networking, national/international cooperation, and professional development. The broad scope allows applicants to come up with their own initiative; however, examples might include:

- establishing an early career research network or group to promote collaboration
- running a small conference or summer school

8. Can you explain how to budget for pro-rata PhD students?

Clinical applicants who will take time away from their clinical duties may budget an appropriate stipend using the IUA scale that is commensurate with their skills and experience. This must be within the total grant budget and allow adequate resources for running costs, fees, training/education, dissemination, and PPI. Please note that the host institution may have their own rules regarding stipend rates and should be consulted if budgeting above €18,500 per annum.