



Social, Nursing, and Allied Health Research Scholarship 2021

Expression of Interest Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Updated: 26/01/2021

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Who can apply?

1. Can a student with only a 2.2 honours degree 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.

2. 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 obtained a distinction- or merit-level master's degree.

3. Can I complete my PhD part-time?

A part-time scholarship is only allowable for nursing and allied health applicants who will hold a concurrent clinical post in their professional field during the course of the scholarship. Applicants studying an academic discipline are not currently permitted to complete the PhD part-time.

4. I am a nurse or allied health professional, can I complete the PhD full-time?

Yes. Nurses and allied health professionals may complete the PhD part-time or full-time.

5. Are the scholarships available to students studying abroad?

No, the research must take place at a host institution in the Republic of Ireland.

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

Yes, if you are a non-Irish citizen but are eligible to study or work in the Republic of Ireland, and you meet the eligibility criteria, you can apply for the scholarship.

7. Can I apply to study abroad, such as in the USA?

No, funding is only available for research being conducted in the Republic of Ireland.

8. Can medical doctors apply?

No. Medical doctors are not eligible for this award. However, they may be eligible for the translational scholarship. Please see www.cancer.ie/research/researcher-hub/apply-for-funding for details of other funding schemes.

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

No, there is no upper age limit.

10. 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. This includes students on the master's registry wishing to transfer to the PhD registry.

Research Project Eligibility

1. I am studying psychology but my project is translational science, can I apply?

No. Both the applicant and the project must be in the social, nursing, or allied health sciences.

2. I want to develop a new intervention, can I conduct a randomised controlled trial (RCT)?

A randomised controlled trial will only be eligible if the appropriate previous development phases have been complete e.g. theory-driven intervention development, feasibility investigation. Additionally, any intervention study must be completed within the maximum time frame of the award i.e. the award will only fund a complete intervention development phase.

3. My research is in palliative care, is it eligible?

Yes, cancer projects in palliative care are eligible.

4. My project doesn't align with the Irish Cancer Society strategy, can I still apply?

No, projects must align with the Irish Cancer Society Strategy (2020-2025).

5. I am unsure if my project is eligible?

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

Institution eligibility

1. Can the scholarship be conducted in Northern Ireland?

Scholarships are only available for individuals who propose to carry out their research at host institutions 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. However, applicants can conduct research in collaboration with institutes in Northern Ireland and abroad.

2. My proposed host institute is a university that is not listed on the HRB's list of approved institutions, can I still apply?

No. A host institution must be currently listed on the HRB's list of approved host institutions: <https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/before-you-apply/all-grant-policies/approval-of-host-institutions/>

3. My proposed host institute is a hospital, can I still apply?

Any host institution, including clinical sites such as hospitals, must be currently listed on the HRB's list of approved host institutions: <https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/before-you-apply/all-grant-policies/approval-of-host-institutions/>

Supervision

1. Can a supervisor sponsor more than one student for separate applicants who are both applying for a scholarship?

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

2. Can a supervisor sponsor the same project twice under two different applicants?

No, a project cannot be submitted more than once. Applications with the same project from different applicants will be automatically discounted. However, unsuccessful projects submitted in previous years may be resubmitted.

3. Is it necessary to have two supervisors?

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

4. Can there be more than two supervisors?

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

5. 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.

6. 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 and budget

1. How many scholarships are available?

This is funding available for one Scholarship in 2021.

2. Is there an overall target for the amount of funding granted?

The maximum funding granted for a Scholarship is €160,000 over 4 years full-time or up to 8 years part time (for clinical applicants). This funding includes a provision of €5,000 for a Mobility and Capacity Building Element.

3. Is the award transferable to another applicant?

No. If, for whatever reason, the applicant cannot complete the research, it cannot be transferred to another applicant.

4. Should I budget for a stipend or salary?

If you are studying an academic topic, such as psychology, social science, sport science, etc., then you are eligible for a stipend of €18,500 per annum.

If you are currently working in a clinical role (e.g. nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy) and intend to take time away from this role for the PhD, then the IUA salary scales may be used: <https://www.iua.ie/for-researchers/researcher-salary-scales-career-framework/>. This is not a requirement and nurses/AHPs may, if necessary, apply for the €18,500 stipend.

5. I am studying an academic subject but wish to pursue a PhD in an allied health topic.

Am I eligible for the IUA salary rate?

No. IUA scales should only be used for applicants with a professional qualification in nursing or allied health.

6. 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.

Submission of Application

1. Who needs to sign off and approve an application?

The lead applicant and all supervisors must approve the application on the system before it is submitted for review.

2. Does the research office at the host institution need to approve the application?

Approval from the host institution is required in the form of a Declaration of Support, downloadable from the online application. The head of Department at the proposed host institution should complete this form. However, the host institution does not need to approve the online form

Full Application

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

Early April 2021.

2. How long will I have to complete the full application?

Applicants will have approximately 4 weeks to complete the full application.

3. What will the full application entail?

The full application will look for more specific and in-depth details such as research project background, hypothesis, objectives, methodology; plus details on mobility and capacity building element, research environment, and budget. Additionally, shortlisted applicants will be required to detail Public and Patient Involvement plans and provide lay summaries for the PPI reviewers to evaluate. Shortlisted applicants will be given all information required in April 2021.

4. Is it mandatory to travel abroad for the mobility and capacity building element mandatory?

No. The applicant may choose to either travel to a national or international research group or lab or complete a substantial and distinct non-mobility initiative which facilitates academic and clinical networking; encourages national and/or international cooperation and collaboration; and promotes the development of new skills and/or perspectives. As such, travel is not mandatory.

5. Can I use the mobility element funding to visit research institutions within the Republic of Ireland?

The mobility element funding may be used to visit research institutions based nationally or internationally.