



Irish Cancer Society Research

Appendix 1: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

PhD Research Scholarship Award 2026

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Who can apply?

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

Yes, this award is open to all graduates with a relevant background in either the translational biomedical, clinical research or survivorship space, e.g. biomedical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, nursing, mid-wifery, psycho-social, occupational therapy, psychology, dietetics, radiology, genetic counselling, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, life sciences, dentistry or medicine graduates. If you have any further queries about your eligibility, email grants@irishcancer.ie for guidance.

2. I have a degree in a translational/biomedical area (e.g. microbiology) but I am interested in conducting a Survivorship project. Can I apply to the Survivorship stream?

No, you must have obtained or expect to obtain a degree that is relevant to the stream you are applying for. All applicants will be assessed for eligibility.

3. Can a researcher 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's degree to apply for a scholarship.

4. 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.

5. Are the scholarships available for researchers to study abroad?

No, the research must take place at a HRB-approved host institution in the Republic of Ireland, as outlined in our guidelines. A national or international mobility element is included in this Scholarship, which permits a short international secondment for up to 3 months. The mobility element should

be conducted within the first 3 years of the scholarship and must be organised by the PhD researcher and their supervisory team.

6. Are non-Irish citizens living in 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 – please contact your proposed institution for further details.

7. I completed my Bachelor's and/ or my Master's internationally. How do I translate my grades?

Please contact the international office of those universities as they are best placed to advise.

8. I am completing the application but cannot find my current institution on Grant Tracker. What do I do?

Please email grants@irishcancer.ie with your reference number and current institution details.

9. Are Scholarships open to individuals looking to research in Northern Ireland?

No, applicants must be based at a HRB-approved host institution in the Republic of Ireland (see application guidelines for detailed list). However, research proposals which involve international data collection (e.g., Northern Ireland) may be considered. Please direct specific queries to grants@irishcancer.ie.

10. Can I apply for funding if I have already commenced my PhD?

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

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

No, there is no upper age limit.

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

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

13. Can medical doctors apply for the PhD Scholarship?

Yes, medical doctors may apply for the scholarship.

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

Yes, the Scholarship may be completed over 3 or 4 years in a full-time capacity. Please check with your proposed Host Institution to confirm if it permits PhDs of 3 years.

15. If I apply to the Irish Cancer Society PhD Scholarship and another scholarship, will this negate my application?

No, you can apply to both scholarships. However, if you are awarded both scholarships, you must withdraw one. We cannot double-fund one PhD project.

Research Project Eligibility

1. What type of projects are eligible?

All proposals must be aligned with the [Irish Cancer Society Strategy](#) (please ensure you refer to this document prior to submitting an application). Proposed projects must address our strategic priorities AND align with one of the following research themes: a) translational biomedical research, b) clinical trials/clinical research or c) survivorship. Projects may also address strategic priorities. Please refer to the Application Guidelines document for further information on this call. 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.

3. Can the Irish Cancer Society provide a list of eligible projects?

No. The onus is on the potential researcher to develop their project with the help of their proposed supervisor.

Supervision

1. Does the Irish Cancer Society have a list of supervisors I can reach out to?

No, it is the responsibility of the researcher to identify and contact their desired supervisor. If you are unsure of who contact, you could search for labs within the Republic of Ireland who are carrying out cancer research that interests you; or reach out to your course coordinator and other relevant personnel at your preferred host institution.

2. Can a supervisor sponsor more than one researcher for separate projects who are both applying for a Scholarship?

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

3. 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.

4. 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. The primary supervisor may be able to suggest a secondary supervisor.

5. What is the purpose of having two supervisors?

It is often good practice for there to be two supervisors for every researcher, as it provides back up for those situations where one supervisor is ill, leaves, or issues arise with the supervisor-researcher 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 researcher 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 researcher'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 this case, we are encouraging more junior members of research teams to be actively involved in the research project and to be recognised as a supervisor.

6. Can there be more than two supervisors?

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

7. Can I have a clinical supervisor (M.D. only)?

Yes, but only as an additional/secondary supervisor. Your two primary supervisors must hold PhDs.

8. 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 supervisors who can demonstrate at least 1-year commitment to the supervision of the researcher 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.

9. 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 Fees

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

The total value of the Irish Cancer Society PhD Scholarship 2026 covers stipend, fees, running costs, equipment, materials, training, travel & dissemination, Public and Patient Partnership (PPP), and Mobility Element.

Total funding for the **Translational** Biomedical and Clinical Research Award is **€190,000** (€185,000 Project Budget & €5,000 additional Mobility Element).

Total funding for the **Survivorship** Research Award is **€140,000** (€135,000 Project Budget & €5,000 additional Mobility Element).

The mobility element funding is worth up to a maximum of €5,000 and will be available to successful applicants. 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.

Please note that full details of budget guidelines are provided in the full application guidelines and appendices of this funding award.

2. How many Irish Cancer Society Scholarships are available?

There are two Irish Cancer Society Scholarships available in 2026: one for Translational Biomedical and Clinical Research, the other for Survivorship Research.

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.

4. Are there any budget stipulations specific to this call?

Yes, there are multiple budget stipulations to this call:

- The PhD stipend is set at a rate of €25,000 per year for full-time applicants.
- A set provision of €2,000 must be allocated to Patient Partnership costs.
- Translational Biomedical or Clinical projects have a maximum budget of €50,000 for wet-lab consumables and materials.
- Costs for conference attendance must be included for each year of this Scholarship in the Travel and Dissemination budget. Costs for presentation of research from this scholarship must be included for at least 1 year (e.g., poster printing). All PhD researchers are expected to attend at least 1 IACR conference.

If you have any questions about the budget for this call, please contact grants@irishcancer.ie.

5. As an international researcher, would the rest of the remaining registration fees be covered by my proposed institution?

This award will cover up to €8,500 in PhD registration fees for full-time postgraduate researchers. Please contact the Research Office at your proposed institution as they would be best placed to answer this query.

Application Deadline

1. When do complete applications need to be in by?

Full applications must be submitted online through [Gateway Grant Tracker](#) by **3pm Tuesday 7th April 2026**. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered. 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) must 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 Interview

1. 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.

2. When will applicants find out if they have been invited to interview?

Applicants will find out if they have been shortlisted to interview in late-May 2026. Interviews will be conducted in mid-June 2026. Comments from the review of the application will be passed on to applicants, to be addressed during the interview. These interviews will be held virtually.

Start of PhD Research Scholarship

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

Successful PhD researchers are permitted to begin their scholarship from 01 September 2026 (at the earliest). If you have any queries about start dates, please contact grants@irishcancer.ie.