



Research Scholarship Programme 2019: Expression of Interest

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated on 28/01/19

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

3. Are the scholarships available to students studying abroad?

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

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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

No, there is no upper age limit.

8. 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.

9. 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 biomedical science (for the biomedical scholarship) or social and allied health science (for the social and allied health scholarship).

Biomedical Research Project Eligibility

1. What does novel treatment mean?

Novel treatment means any drug or formulation (such as siRNA or DNA complexes) that have not been approved for use in humans as a treatment for any disease type.

2. The drug/formulation in my project has been approved for use in a different cancer type or disease type, is my project eligible?

Once the drug/formulation has been approved for use in humans as a treatment for any disease type then the project is eligible.

3. I am unsure if my project is eligible?

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

Supervision

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Can there be more than two supervisors?

There can be no more than two supervisors. However, it is perfectly acceptable for other more senior researchers to have a documented and active role in the research as collaborators. Such proposed relationships should be described in the application.

9. 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.

10. 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 covering stipend, fees (please note a maximum budget of €8,500 per year is allowable for college registration fees), materials and dissemination will be up to €32,000 (for the Biomedical Research Scholarship)/€30,000 (for the Social and Allied Health Sciences Research Scholarship) per year for a maximum of four years. Additionally, mobility funding of up to a maximum of €7,000 for travel to a national or (preferably) international research institution in furtherance of advancement of the research project aims, over the course of the programme, should be included in the application. A mandatory provision of €1,000 is available to support Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) in the proposed research project*

A further fund, up to a maximum of €2,000 will also be available in the final year of the scholarship towards dissemination of research in a high impact journal. This funding is separate to the travel and dissemination budget which must be detailed in the budget section of the application.

In their final year, the successful scholar will need to apply for this dissemination funding support in advance of the planned publication. Each application (scholar mobility element and dissemination awards respectively) will be reviewed before a funding decision is made.

** Please note that the €1,000 available for PPI may be supplemented with funds from the annual €32,000/€30,000 budget. However, the annual €32,000/€30,000 budget may **not** be supplemented with the PPI fund.*

2. How many Irish Cancer Society Research Scholarships are available?

There are two scholarships available in 2019: One for biomedical science and one for social and allied health sciences.

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 26th February 2019**.*

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 at the end of March 2019.

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, and plans plus details on patient and public involvement, mobility element, research environment, and budget.

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

3. What will the Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) section of the full application entail?

In this section, you will be asked to describe your plan for integrating PPI into your research project. For example, you will be asked to describe who the key stakeholders will be; what aspects of the proposed research will include PPI; what your procedure for integrating PPI into these aspects will be, how you will ensure PPI is not tokenistic; and detail PPI infrastructure available within your university and how it will be utilised.

4. Will I need to attend an interview?

If your full application is shortlisted, you will be expected to attend an interview in Dublin 30th/31st May 2019 (date to be confirmed). The interview panel will consist of academic researchers and a patient representative. Each member of the interview panel will have an equal vote.

Start of Research Scholarship Programme

1. When do successful Research Scholars commence?

Successful Research Scholars will begin in October 2019.