

**2023 Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme
Frequently Asked Questions**

FAQs will be published every Thursday until 13 October 2022.

New questions will be marked ****New****

Updated questions will be marked ****Updated****

Questions are grouped under the following headings:

1. Eligibility
2. Applying to the programme
3. Conditions of award

1. Eligibility

A potential applicant has earned a 2.2 bachelor's degree from a university in the past; however, they have since been awarded a first-class (1.1) Higher Diploma from an Irish institution. According to Irish NFQ standards, a Higher Diploma and an Honours bachelor's degree are both listed as level 8. As such, is this student eligible thanks to their 1.1 Higher Diploma?

As per the Call Document, *'All applicants must have a first class or upper second-class honours bachelor's, or the equivalent, degree', and 'Host institutions are expected to be guided by QQI and the NFQ in terms of the recognition and equivalence of a degree.'*

According to Irish NFQ standards, a higher diploma and an honours bachelor's degree are both listed as level 8. As such, the applicant in question is eligible as a result of their first-class higher diploma.

According to the guide, applications will be deemed ineligible if *"the research project as proposed in the application form has previously been funded either in full, or in part, by the Irish Research Council or any other funding agency"*. A potential applicant is currently receiving external funding for a research Masters and is looking to transfer it to a PhD and apply to the scholarship to fund the PhD. Can you please confirm if this is permitted, or would they be deemed ineligible due to their Masters being externally funded?

This clause applies to projects that have already been completed, not ongoing projects. Therefore, it does not apply to any applicants currently registered for a master's or PhD who wish to apply to the programme for funding to complete their degree, or to those who are transferring from a master's to a PhD.

A potential applicant would like to apply for one year of funding as they are aiming to be transferred from a Masters to the PhD register this year. They first registered in September 2018, but due to Covid they received HEA funding for a 12-month extension. Would they be eligible to apply for one-year funding, even though their first registration took place prior to the 1st September 2020?

The IRC understands that some research degrees have been disrupted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, applicants who have been granted formal extensions to their degrees due to the pandemic (whereby no additional fees were charged by their host institution) can apply for funding despite having registered for their degree prior to the dates listed in the Call Document.

The potential applicant is therefore eligible to apply for one year of funding provided that fees were not charged during the 12-month extension granted by their host institution. Evidence of the extension granted by their host institution will be required at award offer stage. Failure to produce such evidence will result in the award offer being withdrawn.

Applicants are asked to clearly outline this information in the free text box corresponding to the degree that was extended in the 'track record' section of the application.

Is it possible to apply without English language certificate, for example IELTS, TOEFL, CAE?

The IRC does not require English Language Certificates. However, you should check what (if any) are the English language requirements determined by the Irish higher education institution in which you will be enrolled for research master's or PhD.

Is an application for a PhD by artefact eligible under the terms and conditions of the GOIPG programme?

Are Professional Doctorates eligible under the terms and conditions of the GOIPG programme?

The [National Framework for Doctoral Education](#) commits the key stakeholders in Irish graduate education and research to the highest standards in the provision of doctoral education and research. One of the principles of this framework is that the *successful completion and examination of the research thesis, comprising work of publishable quality, is the basis for the award of the doctoral degree. **The thesis can be presented in a variety of formats.***

Furthermore, according to the [Irish National Framework of qualifications](#) (NFQ), 'Doctoral programmes are between three and four years in duration (...) Varying doctoral programmes now exist, including professional and performance/practice-based doctorates'.

A PhD by artefact or formats other than a monograph (e.g. publication; creative/performance practice) and Professional Doctorates are therefore eligible, as long as they are supported and awarded by the host institution, and meet the principles of the framework and the NFQ definition referenced above

2. Applying to the programme

Should the applicant be registered in a postgraduate course at an eligible HEI before applying for the scholarship?

Applicants do not have to be a registered student at an eligible HEI before applying for a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship award.

Can applicants use in-text citations or footnotes with a bibliography as part of the application, and are these included in the word count?

As per the indicative application form, supplementary information such as a bibliography can be uploaded in PDF format. Any information uploaded as part of the PDF will not be included in the word count. Please note that supplementary material should only include essential information required for the interpretation and understanding of the proposed research.

****Updated****

The wording in the application seems to suggest that a GANTT chart is mandatory, but any other supplementary information is optional. Could you clarify whether the GANTT chart is in fact mandatory?

GANTT charts are not compulsory, and applicants can submit their application without including one.

To make this clearer, we have now amended the wording on the online form and on the indicative form uploaded on the website, to the following: *'If you have supplementary information, e.g. GANTT chart (to illustrate the project timelines, milestones and deliverables), diagrams or a bibliography, which accompany your research proposal, please upload them here in PDF format...'*

****New****

Is there a limit to the number of files that can be uploaded as supplementary material, should they be uploaded as one PDF file and is there a file size limit (in Mb or Gb)?

The supplementary material should include files such as a GANTT chart to illustrate the project timelines, milestones and deliverables, in PDF format. Supplementary information, e.g. diagrams or a bibliography, should ONLY include essential information required for the interpretation and understanding of the proposed research. Applications will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered for funding if they include additional information about the research proposal or applicant, such as CV. Gender should not be uploaded in PDF files, e.g. use initials instead of first names if you have a publication listed in the bibliography.

More than one PDF file can be uploaded, being the total maximum file limit of 2GB.

Please note that, as per 2023 Call Document (section 8), an application will be deemed ineligible if it includes additional materials other than those requested and includes materials in a format other than those requested.

In the *Research Achievements* section, can applicants include publications they have co-authored?

All publications, single-authored and co-authored should be listed in the *Publications* section only.

Are applicants prohibited from mentioning ethnicity?

Applicants are not prohibited from mentioning ethnicity. However, we advise applicants, where possible, to not mention identifying criteria about them (name, gender etc.) as the Irish Research Council seeks to gender-blind the assessment process.

As such, profile information containing the name and gender of applicants is not provided to reviewers during the assessment process.

Supervisors are asked to use terms like “*the applicant*” rather than identifying the applicant in their reference forms. We would ask that applicants also do not identify themselves in the application.

3. Conditions of award

Can students still apply to the call if they hold a SUSI grant?

As per Terms and Conditions of the award, students can hold SUSI grant or any other awards as long as they do not exceed the amount of annual funding provided by the Irish Research Council in any given year.

Are professional Doctorate students eligible to apply for the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme?

The Irish Research funds the following under the GOIPG scheme:

7.1. *Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme:*

7.1.1. An applicant who is a new entrant to the postgraduate degree for which they are seeking funding is eligible to apply for funding for the full duration of the degree as outlined below:

Degree type	Duration of funding to be awarded
Research master's degree	1 year
Structured research master's degree	2 years
Traditional doctoral degree	3 years
Structured doctoral degree	4 years

Does a postgraduate supervisor or mentor must have a PhD qualification in their own right or does a research track record qualify in lieu?

Postgraduate supervisor or mentor does not need to have PhD qualification, their research track record is assessed during the evaluation process of the research project. As indicated in the call document, the evaluation criteria includes: suitability and ability of the supervisor(s) to provide adequate supervision; quality of infrastructure and facilities provided by the host institution; match between the applicant, supervisor(s) and the host institution.

Can an applicant apply to the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme and submit the same project to the Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Postgraduate Scholarship)?

Yes, an applicant can apply for both the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme and the Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Postgraduate Scholarship). If successful in both programmes, an applicant can only accept one of the scholarships.

****New****

For the Andrew Grene Postgraduate Scholarship in Conflict Resolution, would DFA accept an application with Ukraine as the focus?

As per the 2023 Call Document, Andrew Grene Postgraduate Scholarship proposals should focus on at least one of Ireland's key partner countries and/or on specific countries supported by Ireland that are affected by conflict and fragility: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Cambodia, Colombia, Laos, Myanmar, Palestine, Vietnam; Small Island Developing States.