# 2026 Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

# 02/10/2025

FAQs will be published every Thursday until 16 October 2025 or as necessary.

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 grant

If you do not find the answer to your query in the call documentation, you should contact the research office in your proposed eligible research body, which will provide information and clarification on the call. Research offices can send any queries they are unable to clarify to postgrad@researchireland.ie

1. **ELIGIBILITY**

**Q: The applicant does not have funding for the project being submitted; however, the potential supervisor has funding for this research project under another grant (that is not funded by Research Ireland), that may be allocated towards consumables and PhD, (should the applicant be successful). Can the applicant select the option highlighted below?**

***Please confirm ALL of the following eligibility points:***

***I have not had 2 previous unsuccessful applications to the Goverment of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme Research Ireland postgrad programme.***

***My Academic Supervisor is based at (Name of Research Body).***

***The research project, as proposed in my application form, has not previously been funded (either in full, or in part) by any funding agency (NB: Does not apply to ongoing projects).***

**A:** As per the Call Document, applications are expected to be entirely the applicant’s own work. Applicants who apply using work that is not entirely their own will be made ineligible and will be prohibited from applying for Research Ireland funding in the future.

**Q: 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?**

**A:** 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.

**Q: 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 Research Ireland or any other funding agency”. A potential applicant is currently receiving external funding for a Research Master’s and is looking to transfer it to a PhD and apply for the scholarship to fund the PhD. Can you please confirm if this is permitted, or would they be deemed ineligible due to their Master’s being externally funded?**

**A:** 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 to complete their degree, or to those who are transferring from a master’s to a PhD.

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

**A:** Research Ireland does not require English Language Certificates. However, you should check what (if any) are the English language requirements determined by the Eligible research body in which you will be enrolled for research master’s or PhD.

**Q: Is an application for a PhD by Artefact eligible under the terms and conditions of the GOIPG programme? Are Professional Doctorates, including medical doctorates, eligible under the terms and conditions of the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship (GOIPG) programme?**

**A:** 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 eligible research body, and meet the principles of the framework and the NFQ definition referenced above

**Q: A potential applicant has applied twice to this scheme. The second time, the application was placed on the reserve list. As this application was deemed worthy of funding, can they apply again this year?**

**A:** As per the Call Document, applicants must not have had two previous unsuccessful applications to the relevant GOI (Government of Ireland) programme. If an application was initially on the reserve list and no grant was subsequently made, this means that the status of the application was updated to ‘unsuccessful’ on the system. If an applicant has had two unsuccessful applications, they are therefore deemed ineligible to apply again.

**Q: A potential applicant registered for a Structural Doctoral degree in January 2025 and had 6 months of documented sick leave during this period. Are they eligible to apply for this scheme?**

**A:** No, this applicant is not eligible to apply. As per the Call Document, applicants with registrations to a Structured Doctoral Degree prior to 01 September 2025 are ineligible. The documented sick leave taken (6 months) is not equivalent to the adjustment that is being sought. i.e. 8 months. Verification of an eligible career break may be requested from the Research Office of the eligible research body.

Please note that any personal health and/or medical documentation and/or information (including evidence of a medical diagnosis/diagnoses) should not be sent to Research Ireland.

**Q: Is it possible for Research Ireland to award funding to a project in the area of fossil fuel research that examines improving fuel injector efficiency in heavy engines/turbines that could eventually lead to improved environmental sustainability?**

Yes, such an area of research can be funded. Please note that as per the Call Document, Research Ireland is not in a position to award funding for research activity under any of the following prohibited areas:

▪ human cloning for reproductive purposes.

▪ genetic modification of human beings that could make such changes heritable (with the exception of research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be funded).

▪ creation of human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.

**Q: A PhD student registered for their Structured Doctoral Degree after 2022. Are they eligible to apply for 1 year of funding?**

**A:** As per the Call Document, applicants with registrations to a Structured Doctoral Degree prior to 01 September 2025 are ineligible.

**Q: A PhD student completed year 1 of their PhD programme during 2024-2025. Owing to personal issues, the student has decided to suspend their registration for the AY2024-26 and hopes to resume their studies in September 2026. Is the student eligible to apply? What would be the eligible duration of funding?**

As per the Call Document, for applicants who have already completed part of the postgraduate degree for which they are seeking funding, the duration of funding to be awarded is dependent on the type of degree being pursued and the date of first registration. Applicants who have a date of first registration prior to 01 September 2025 are not eligible to apply. Exceptions to the above date of first registration may only be made for those who have taken an eligible career break from their degree programmes. Eligible career breaks include maternity leave, paternity leave, parental leave, adoptive leave, prolonged sick leave and carer’s leave. Verification of an eligible career break may be requested from the Research Office of the eligible research body at any stage of the application, assessment or award process. Should it become apparent to Research Ireland, at any stage of the application, assessment or award process, that an applicant does not meet the conditions set out herein for adjustment of the period of eligibility or cannot provide verification of same, Research Ireland shall be entitled to deem an application ineligible and rescind any offer of grant.

Please note that any personal health and/or medical documentation and/or information (including evidence of a medical diagnosis/diagnoses) should not be sent to Research Ireland.

**Q: A student is currently enrolled in a 48-month PhD. Their date of first registration was 06 September 2023, and they took a leave of absence from October 2024 - September 2025 (11 months) due to health reasons. Is the student eligible to apply?**

**A:** No, this student is not eligible to apply. As per the Call Document, applicants with registrations to a Structured Doctoral Degree prior to 01 September 2025 are ineligible. The documented sick leave taken (11 months) is not equivalent to the adjustment that is being sought. i.e. 24 months. Verification of an eligible career break may be requested from the Research Office of the eligible research body.

Please note that any personal health and/or medical documentation and/or information (including evidence of a medical diagnosis/diagnoses) should not be sent to Research Ireland.

**Q: A supervisor wants to support one PhD and one MSc applicant as primary supervisor under the GOIPG programme. Can they endorse only one of these or can they endorse one for each degree type?**

**A:** Primary supervisors may not support more than one applicant to the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship. As such, Primary Academic Supervisors should endorse only one submitted application, independent of the degree type being pursued. If the Research Office endorses multiple applications with the same primary supervisor, all applications will be deemed ineligible. There is no restriction on the number of applications for which a supervisor may serve as secondary or co-supervisor. Secondary and co-supervisors do not endorse applications.

**Q: A non-EU applicant began their programme in January/2025, while an EU applicant started their studies in May/2025, so they are both still in their First Year. Are they eligible to apply?**

Please kindly note that the award start date is 01 September 2026. Therefore, applicants whose date of first registration falls between 01 September 2025 and 31 August 2026 (those in the first year of their studies) are eligible to apply. Those with a date of first registration before 01 September 2025 would have entered the second year of their degree before the start of the award. As per the Call Document, registrations prior to 01 September 2025 are ineligible. Exceptions to the date of first registration may only be made for those who have taken an eligible career break from their degree programmes. Further clarification can be found in section 5 of the Call Document.

**Q: If a student registered for a PhD in September 2024, but has only completed taught modules, and no research for the PhD has started, are they eligible to apply for this scholarship?**

**A:** As per the Call Document, registrations prior to 01 September 2025 are ineligible. Exceptions to the date of first registration may only be made for those who have taken an eligible career break from their degree programmes. Further clarification can be found in section 5 of the Call Document.

**Q: If an applicant enrolled in a Master's programme that began in September 2024, but intends to transfer to a PhD programme between now and August 31st, 2026, and will be seeking funding for the final three years of their PhD — are they eligible to apply for funding?**

**A:** As outlined in the Call Document, applicants whose date of first registration is prior to 01 September 2025 are ineligible to apply for funding.

In this case, the applicant began their Master's programme in September 2024, which means their date of first registration is prior to the 01 September 2025. This applies regardless of when they transfer to a PhD programme.

Therefore, the applicant is not eligible to apply for funding.

**Q: An intending applicant is in Year 2 of the Structured PhD in September 2025 where Year 1 required them to register on the Master's register in the first instance (September 2024). Similarly, another applicant initially registered as research master's student in September 2023 and completed the transfer thesis in May 2025, at which point they registered for the PhD degree. Are these applicants eligible to apply?** \*\*New\*\*

**A:** As per the Call Document, section 5.1, those with date of first registration prior to 01 September 2025 are ineligible.

1. **APPLYING TO THE PROGRAMME**

**Q: An applicant applied last year and was unsuccessful. When reapplying this year, they wish to know if it is ok to re-use sections of their previous application. Should the applicant clarify what sections that have changed, and which remain the same from the previous submission?**

**A:** If an applicant has had only one unsuccessful application, they are eligible to apply again. Please see section 6 from the 2026 Call Document: *Applicants must not have had two previous unsuccessful applications to the programme, including to strategic partner themes*. This applies regardless of whether the applicant has changed their eligible research body or research topic since a previous submission.

It is advised that applicants review the updated “General Application Feedback” document available on the [website](https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/government-ireland-postgraduate/), which might help improve their application. The applicant will be asked to clearly describe the modifications to their research proposal since it was previously submitted.

**Q: Should the applicant be registered in a postgraduate course at an eligible research body before applying for the scholarship?**

**A:** Applicants do not have to be a registered student at an eligible research body before applying for a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship grant.

**Q: Can a research fellow employed at the eligible research body act as the supervisor?**

**A:** No, postgraduate students must be primarily supervised by suitably qualified and experienced permanent members of academic staff at the host institution.

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

**A:** 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.

**Q: Is a GANTT chart mandatory?**

**A:** GANTT charts are not compulsory, and applicants can submit their application without including one. Please note that we recommend applicants to review the “General Application Feedback” document before applying.

**Q: 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)?**

**A:** 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 disclosed in any uploaded 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 Call Document, 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.

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

**A:** All publications, whether single-authored or co-authored, should be listed in the *Research Achievements*section of the application form. Please do not upload or attach publications as separate files, as these would be considered supplementary material. As stated in the Call Document, section 15: *Applicants should not include any additional links to online research profiles or supplementary information. Any such additional material will render the application ineligible.*

**Q: Are applicants prohibited from mentioning ethnicity?**

**A:** Applicants are not prohibited from mentioning ethnicity. However, we advise applicants, where possible, to not mention identifying criteria about them (name, gender etc.) as Research Ireland 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 not identify themselves in the application.

**Q: Is it possible for an application to the GOIPG call, to include research to be carried out in conjunction with a charity?**

**A:** Please note that the research project must be the work of, and conducted by, the grant recipient and affiliated with an Eligible Research Body. The research project must be entirely the applicant’s own work.

**Q: Is it possible for a supervisor to act as primary supervisor on more than one GOIPG application in the current call window?**

A: Primary supervisors may endorse only **one** application to the GOIPG programme. However, they may act as co-supervisors on multiple applications. Each application must be in support of an individual and original project, written by the applicant.

**Q: Can a student apply for Research Ireland funding if they are currently part-time, with the intention of switching to full-time if they secure funding? Should they indicate that as an intention in their form and, if so, where?**

**A:** As per the Call document, students with a date of first registration before 01 September 2025 are not eligible to apply to the programme.

As also outlined in the Call Document, the programme supports suitably qualified research master’s and doctoral candidates pursuing, or intending to pursue, full-time research in any discipline. Therefore, should the candidate secure funding, they must be registered as full-time student when the grant starts. As indicated in the online system for the ‘Career Training Development Plan’ section*: Please highlight any additional information which has not been included elsewhere in the application*. Therefore, an applicant can use this section to acknowledge their intention to conduct full-time research in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

**Q: Is there any possibility of making an exception to the first registration date if a researcher is/ was on a part-time master/ PhD contract?**

**A:** As per the Call Document, exceptions to the date of first registration may only be made for those who have taken an eligible career break from their degree programmes. Eligible career breaks include maternity leave, paternity leave, parental leave, adoptive leave, prolonged sick leave and carer’s leave. Verification of an eligible career break may be requested from the Research Office of the eligible research body at any stage of the application, assessment or award process.

Should it become apparent to Research Ireland at any stage of the application, assessment or award process that an applicant does not meet the conditions set out herein for adjustment of the period of eligibility or cannot provide verification of same, Research Ireland shall be entitled to deem an application ineligible and rescind any offer of award.

Please do not provide any personal health and/or medical documentation and/or information (including evidence of a medical diagnosis/diagnoses) in correspondence with Research Ireland.

**Q: An applicant does not have a separate Bachelor's and Master's diploma but a combined diploma which would be equal to a Bachelor's + Master’s degrees. How should the applicant enter their qualifications - in both the Bachelor and Masters boxes?**

**A:** As per the Call Document, all degree results as entered in the application form and endorsed by the eligible research body must be the applicant’s overall results and verifiable as such on official transcripts. Regardless of whether they are relevant to the eligibility requirements, conditional awardees will be required to submit official transcripts for each degree listed in the application confirming the overall result, date of graduation and awarding institution. If such transcripts cannot be presented, or do not verify the information exactly as detailed in the application, any conditional offer of an award will be withdrawn and no Letter of Offer will be issued. Therefore, an applicant must complete the relevant sections exactly as shown in their diploma and/or transcripts. Please note that both the “Bachelor’s degree (or equivalent)” and “Master’s degree (if applicable)” sections contain a free text box indicating “*Any additional information relating to this degree or your final grade can be included here*” where the applicant can provide clarifications on their degree.

**Q: An applicant is in the process of completing a Master’s degree. Should they enter the details about the Master's in the application form and include an estimated graduation date?**

**A:** As per the Call Document, all degree results as entered in the application form and endorsed by the eligible research body must be the applicant’s overall results and verifiable as such on official transcripts. Regardless of whether they are relevant to the eligibility requirements, conditional awardees will be required to submit official transcripts for each degree listed in the application confirming the overall result, date of graduation and awarding institution before any letter of offer is issued. If such transcripts cannot be presented, or do not verify the information exactly as detailed in the application, any conditional offer of an award will be withdrawn. Therefore, while an applicant can include their ongoing master’s degree, they should not complete the “Graduation Date” section if they do not know the exact information that will be confirmed by their future diploma and/or transcripts. Please note that in the “Master’s degree (if applicable)” section there is a free text box indicating “*Any additional information relating to this degree or your final grade can be included here*” where the applicant can provide clarifications on their degree, including their expected date of graduation.

**Q: An applicant intends to transfer from their current master's degree to a PhD. What is the correct way of answering the query “will you be a new entrant to the degree for which you are seeking Research Ireland funding?”**

As per the Call Document, students who have a date of first registration prior to 01 September 2025 are not eligible to apply to the programme. For applicants who have already completed part of the postgraduate degree for which they are seeking funding, the duration of funding to be awarded is dependent on the type of degree being pursued and the date of first registration as outlined. A student with a date of first registration between 01 September 2025 and 31 August 2026 is not a new entrant.

**Q: Is it obligatory to include a secondary supervisor? Can an applicant submit an application which includes a primary supervisor only?**

**A:** All applications must include a primary supervisor who agrees to support the proposed research project. An application cannot be submitted without a primary supervisor. Including a secondary supervisor is optional and entirely at the applicant’s discretion.

**Q: Regarding secondary supervisor eligibility: must they also hold a contract that covers the full duration of the grant?**

**A:** There are no formal eligibility requirements for secondary supervisors, as including a secondary supervisor in an application is not a mandatory requirement.

1. **CONDITIONS OF THE GRANT**

**Q: An applicant to the upcoming Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme works full-time. They would like to know if they would be obliged to forfeit their full-time employment or to take a career break for the duration of the scholarship.**

**A:** As per the Call document, applicants must not be a permanent member of staff in either an Irish or international Research Body. As per the terms and conditions of the grant, during the funding term, a postgraduate grant holder must: (a) be a registered full-time student at an eligible research body; and (b) not be a full-time employee of the eligible research body or any other organisation.

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

**A:** As per terms and conditions of the grant, students can hold SUSI grant or any other awards as long as they do not exceed the amount of annual funding provided by Research Ireland in any given year.

**Q: Are professional Doctorates supported by the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme?**

As per the Call Document, Research Ireland funds the following under the GOIPG scheme:

* Structured Research Master’s degree
* Structured doctoral degree

**Q: Must a postgraduate supervisor have a PhD qualification in their own right or does a research track record qualify in lieu?**

**A:** A postgraduate supervisor does not need to have a PhD qualification; their research track record is assessed during the evaluation process. As indicated in the call document, the evaluation criteria include the suitability and ability of the supervisor(s) to provide adequate supervision; quality of infrastructure and facilities provided by the eligible research body; match between the applicant, supervisor(s) and the eligible research body. Please note that as per assessors’ comments in the “General Application Feedback” document, inexperienced supervisors/mentors can also mention, in their primary supervisor’s form, more senior colleagues who may assist them in their supervisory duty.

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

**A:** 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.

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

A: As per the 2026 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.

**Q: If successful, can an applicant register for their degree at both the eligible research body listed in their application and another European institution?**

A: No. As per the Call document and the terms and conditions of the grant, all Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship grant recipients must be registered and obtain their degree through an eligible Irish Research Body.

**Q: If successful, can the applicant reside in another country that is not the Republic of Ireland for the duration of the award?**

As per the terms and conditions of the grant, the grant recipient must maintain a physical presence within their department or school in their eligible research body for the duration of the grant, reside in the Republic of Ireland and within a reasonable travelling distance of the eligible research body.

**Q: Is there any impact or effect on the assessment of applications should a potential supervisor be supporting for example four or multiple applicants?**

**A:** Academic Supervisors may act as Primary Supervisor for **no more than one applicant** to the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship programme. As such, Primary Academic Supervisors should endorse only **one** submitted application. If the Research Office endorses multiple applications with the same primary supervisor, all applications will be deemed ineligible.

There is no restriction on the number of applications for which a supervisor may serve as secondary or co-supervisor.

**Q: Is there any circumstance where the scholarship can begin later to accommodate post-graduates who did not first register in September?**

**A:** No. As per the Call Document and the terms and conditions of the grant, the grant start date is 1 September 2026. Where applicants are unable to provide transcripts for verification by the deadline stated in the outcome notification, an extension will be granted. However, in such cases, the scholarship may not commence before **01 March 2027.** If an applicant is currently enrolled in a degree program, they must complete it by **01 September 2026, regardless of the intended scholarship start date.**

In the case of eligible career breaks, the start date of the scholarship may be further delayed, subject to prior approval from Research Ireland. Eligible career breaks include maternity leave, paternity leave, adoptive leave, parental leave, parent’s leave, extended sick leave, and carer’s leave.