



RESEARCH IRELAND

GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

2026 CALL DOCUMENT

Key Dates for the 2026 Call:

Call Open:	12:00 (Irish time) 11 September 2025
FAQ deadline:	16:00 (Irish time) 16 October 2025
Applicant deadline:	16:00 (Irish time) 23 October 2025
Supervisor deadline:	16:00 (Irish time) 06 November 2025
Research Office Endorsement deadline:	16:00 (Irish time) 13 November 2025
Call outcome:	End of April 2026
Award start date:	01 September 2026

Terms of Reference

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of this document, it is provided for information purposes only and as a guide to expected developments. It is not intended, and should not be relied upon, as any form of warranty, representation, undertaking, contractual, or other commitment binding in law upon Taighde Éireann | Research Ireland (“Research Ireland”), the Government of Ireland, or any of their respective servants or agents. Research Ireland Grant Conditions (to include General Terms and Conditions and Letters of Offer) shall govern the administration of Research Ireland Grants and awards to the exclusion of this and any other oral, written, or recorded statement. All responses to this Call for Submission of Proposals will be treated in confidence and no information contained therein will be communicated to any third party without the written permission of the applicant except insofar as is specifically required for the consideration and evaluation of the proposal or as may be required under law, including the Research and Innovation Act 2024 and the Freedom of Information Acts 1997, (Amendment) 2023 and 2014.

1. About Research Ireland

Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland (“Research Ireland”) is the national research and innovation funding agency which was established on 1 August 2024. Research Ireland amalgamates the activities of the Irish Research Council (IRC) and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI).

2. Purpose of this call document

This call document sets out detailed eligibility requirements and instructions for preparing and submitting an application to the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme.

It provides information for applicants in preparing and submitting an application for a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme. It also provides a general overview of the assessment process. Please note that all Call documentation (this Call document, Guide for Applicants, Frequently Asked Questions) should be carefully read by all applicants prior to making an application. This document, in conjunction with the [General Terms and Conditions](#), the Letter of Offer and Research Ireland’s policies set out the terms and conditions for grants funded under the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme. Research Ireland reserves the right to amend this call document at any time.

3. Programme overview

The Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme, is an established national initiative, funded by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and managed by Research Ireland. This programme supports suitably qualified postgraduate candidates pursuing, or intending to pursue, full-time research in any discipline.

The Government of Ireland programme is unique in the Irish research landscape. Among its features are:

- individual, prestigious grants for excellent research in the name of the applicant;
- the opportunity for grant recipients to direct their own research project at the early-career stage, working with a supervisor;
- an objective selection process using international, independent expert peer review; funding across all disciplines, from archaeology to zoology; and
- awards for bottom-up, non-directed research.

Applications can be made in any discipline. Please consult Research Ireland’s [research categorisation document](#) for further descriptions of the primary areas, disciplines and other research areas covered. Pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research or those introducing creative, innovative approaches are welcomed. Proposals of an interdisciplinary nature are also encouraged as it is recognised that advancing fundamental understanding is achieved by integrating information, techniques, tools and perspectives from two or more disciplines.

This programme is highly competitive, with an average success rate over the past five years of 18% on the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme. Successful grant recipients under this programme are recognised as demonstrating world-class potential as future research leaders.

4. Strategic funding partners

- A number of government departments and agencies partner with Research Ireland to support the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme as a mechanism to deliver on shared national objectives. Research Ireland's funding partners for the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme 2026 are:
 - [Environmental Protection Agency](#) – see appendix 3 for more information
 - [Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth](#) – see appendix 4 for more information
 - [Met Éireann](#) – see appendix 5 for more information
 - [Department of Foreign Affairs](#) – see appendix 6 for more information

While applicants may apply for one theme only, those who choose to apply for a strategic funding partner grant will also be considered for a Government of Ireland grant should they not be aligned with the strategic funding partner theme. Research Ireland will check that applications submitted for consideration under a strategic funding partner strand are broadly aligned with that theme. Eligible applications that clearly have no alignment with the relevant strategic funding partner theme will go forward for assessment under the core programme only.

5. What we offer

These grants will support suitably qualified research master's and doctoral candidates pursuing, or intending to pursue, full-time research in any discipline. The duration of a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship ranges from one to four years depending on the type of degree being pursued.

The value of the scholarship will be up to a maximum of €34,000 per annum in any approved year and will consist of the following:

- a stipend of €25,000;
- a contribution to fees, including non-European Union fees, paid to the host research body, up to a maximum of €5,750¹; and
- eligible direct costs of €3,250 to enable the awardee to carry out the research project.

Please note: The scholarship grant must be accepted in full, including all three budget headings listed above. Applicants are not permitted to apply for or accept funding for only one

¹ In cases where the grant recipient is a non-EU national, they may request an additional €4,000 per annum over-and-above the standard fee contribution. Any remaining differential in fees must be paid by the grant recipient and/or the Research Body.

or two of the budget headings. Partial acceptance of the grant is not allowed under any circumstances.

5.1 Duration and Structure of the Scholarship

The duration of a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship ranges from one to four years depending on the type of degree being pursued.

Applicants who are **new entrants** to the postgraduate degree for which they are seeking funding are eligible to apply for the **full duration** of the degree, as outlined below:

- **Masters by research – 2 years of funding to be granted**
- **Doctoral degree (PhD) – 4 years of funding to be granted**

Applicants who have **already commenced** their postgraduate degree but have completed **no more than the first year** may be eligible for partial funding. The duration of funding awarded depends on **the type of degree** as outlined below:

Degree type	Date of first registration ²	Academic year	Duration of funding to be awarded
Master's by research	1 Sep 25 – 31 Aug 26 (registrations prior to 1 Sep 25 are ineligible)	2025/26	1 year
Doctoral degree	1 Sep 25 – 31 Aug 26 (registrations prior to 1 Sep 25 are ineligible)	2025/26	3 years

Applicants with registration dates prior to the dates listed above may still be eligible to apply if they have a properly documented eligible career break, provided the eligible career break started before the call deadline and is equivalent to the adjustment being sought. Eligible career breaks include maternity leave, paternity leave, adoptive leave, parental leave, parent's leave, extended sick leave, and carer's leave.

If an applicant wishes to adjust their period of eligibility, the Research Body must confirm that the individual meets the requirements for the adjusted period of eligibility as per the time of the eligible break(s). Documented evidence of eligible career break should not be sent to Research Ireland unless requested. **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.** Research Offices should check the relevant documents and endorse the eligible career break request to Research Ireland:

² Exceptions to the above dates of first registration may only be made for those who have taken an eligible career break from their degree programmes.

- For maternity leave, applicants will be granted an 18-month adjustment for each child born after the date of first registration for the postgraduate degree being pursued, regardless of how long the applicant took for maternity leave. If the applicant can document a longer maternity leave, the eligibility period will be adjusted by the documented amount of leave taken until the call deadline. The same principle also applies for child adoption.
- For paternity leave, applicants will be granted an adjustment equal to the documented amount of paternity leave taken for each child born after the date of first registration for the postgraduate degree being pursued. The same principle also applies for child adoption.
- For long-term illness (over ninety days for the applicant or a close family member, i.e. child, spouse, parent, sibling), applicants will be granted an adjustment equal to the documented amount of leave taken by the applicant for each incident which occurred after the date of first registration for the postgraduate degree being pursued.
- For all other eligible career breaks, applicants will be granted an adjustment equal to the documented amount of leave taken by the applicant for each incident which occurred after the date of first registration for the postgraduate degree being pursued.

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.

Documented evidence of eligible career break should not be sent to Research Ireland unless requested. Documented evidence of an eligible career break may be requested from Research Ireland 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 documented evidence of same, Research Ireland shall be entitled to deem an application ineligible and rescind any offer of award.

Full-time Grants: All Grants must operate on a full-time basis regardless of the time frame.

Location: Scholars will be based full time in the nominated Eligible Research Body for the duration of the Grant.

Start date: Successful applicants will be expected to begin the scholarship on **01 September 2026**.

Where applicants are unable to provide transcripts to the Research Office in their Eligible Irish Research Body 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 you are currently enrolled in a degree program, you must complete it by 01 September 2026**, regardless of your 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. The Research Body must confirm that the individual meets the requirements for the adjusted period of eligibility as per the time of the

eligible break(s). Eligible career breaks include maternity leave, paternity leave, adoptive leave, parental leave, parent's leave, extended sick leave, and carer's leave.

6. Eligibility

6.1 Eligibility of the Research Body

All applicants must be affiliated with an Eligible Research Body. The Research Body is the body responsible for the overall financial and administrative coordination of research programmes supported by research Grants from Research Ireland. A list of Eligible Research Bodies is available on the [Research Ireland website](#), by clicking on the "IRC Eligible Bodies" link. The Research Body will administer the funds of successful Grant recipients.

6.2 Eligibility Criteria of The Applicant (Scholar)

The programme is open to Master's and PhD candidates who will be new entrants to the postgraduate degree for which they are seeking funding. Applicants who have completed **no more than the first year of their degree** might be eligible to apply (please review section 5.1).

The following conditions also apply;

- There is no age limit for applicants to be eligible.
- All applicants must be affiliated with an Eligible Research Body, who will be responsible for verifying all results from undergraduate or postgraduate degrees named in the application.
- All applicants must have a first-class or upper second-class honours³ bachelor's, or the equivalent, degree. If the applicant does not have a first class or upper second-class honours bachelor's, or the equivalent degree, they must possess a master's degree. Research Ireland's determination of an applicant's eligibility on these criteria is final.
 - If undergraduate examination results are not known at the time of application and the application subsequently meets the funding threshold, the final degree result must be confirmed before a Letter of Offer can be issued.
- All applicants must be affiliated with an Eligible Research Body, which will be responsible for verifying all results from undergraduate or postgraduate degrees named in the application.
- Applications will only be accepted in either the Irish or English language.
- Applicants must not have had two previous unsuccessful applications to the programme. This applies regardless of whether the applicant has changed their Eligible Research Body or research topic since a previous submission.
- Applicants must not be a permanent member of staff in either an Irish or international Research Body.
- All applications require a primary supervisor willing to guide the proposed research project. Research Ireland is not in a position to assist applicants in finding a primary supervisor for their application.
- **Primary supervisors may not support more than one applicant to the Government**

³ Eligible Research Bodies are expected to be guided by QQI and the NFQ in terms of the recognition and equivalence of a degree.

of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship⁴. 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.

- Applicants from any country may hold a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship however applicants will fall under one of two categories based on nationality and residency⁵:

- **CATEGORY 1:** Applicants must meet BOTH of the following criteria:

be a national of a European Union member state (including the Republic of Ireland) OR Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom or Ukraine

AND

have been ordinarily resident⁶ in a European Union member state (including the Republic of Ireland) OR Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom or Ukraine for a continuous period of three of the five years preceding 1 September 2025.

- **CATEGORY 2:** All other applicants who do NOT meet both of the above criteria.

- While the majority of scholarships will be awarded to applicants who fall under category one, a proportion of scholarships will also be made to exceptional applicants who fall under category two. In 2025, the success rates broken down by category were as follows:

- **Overall success rate⁷**

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) = 12%

Arts, humanities and social sciences (AHSS) = 16%

- **Success rate for category two applicants⁸**

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) = 2%

Arts, humanities and social sciences (AHSS) = 3%

Please also note:

⁴ This condition relates only to applications to the current open Call and not to any existing scholars the Supervisor may be supporting under previous Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Calls.

⁵ Research Ireland reserves the right to request documented evidence of an applicant's nationality and residence. Please do not provide any personal documentation and/or information (including passport) in correspondence with Research Ireland.

⁶ Ordinarily resident refers to the applicant's place of legal and permanent residence. This will not be deemed as having been interrupted if an absence from the country of ordinary residency has been caused by the training, education or employment of the applicant or the applicant's spouse or parents.

⁷ Awards as a percentage of all eligible applications within the stream.

⁸ Awards as a percentage of eligible category two applications.

- Master's degree applicants must not currently hold, or have previously held, any Research Ireland scholarship.
- Applicants for a Master's degree must not already hold any kind of Master's degree (ie. Master's by Research or Taught Master's degree), regardless of the research topic.
- Applicants for a doctoral degree must not currently hold, or have previously held, any Research Ireland scholarship other than one which would have enabled them to obtain a Master's degree.
- Applicants who already hold a PhD are not eligible to apply to the scheme for any postgraduate degree type regardless of research topic.
- Applicants must state during the online application process whether they have submitted, or intend to submit, the same or a similar application to any other Research Ireland, Irish, or international programme.
- All degree results as entered in the application form and endorsed by the 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 listed above, 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.⁹ 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.
- This grant may be held in conjunction with other externally funded travel bursaries, equipment grants or small awards which do not exceed the amount of annual funding provided by Research Ireland in any given year provided that:
 - (a) the grant recipient seeks the approval of Research Ireland prior to accepting any such additional funding;
 - (b) the grant recipient's request for approval is endorsed by the host research body; confirming the amount, source and stipulations of any such additional funding;
 - (c) doing so does not affect the ability of the grant recipient to carry out their research project as outlined in their application;
 - (d) accepting such a grant is in line with the grant recipient's career training and development plan;
 - (e) Research Ireland continues to be recognised as the primary funder and acknowledged as such in any material relating to the grant;
 - (f) there is no significant overlap with the research project that has been funded by Research Ireland;
 - (g) the relevant information is recorded as part of the required progress reporting; and
 - (h) compliance with Irish laws and regulations on taxation in respect of any additional funding will be a matter for the grant recipient, their host Research Body and the Office of the Revenue Commissioners.

6.3 Eligibility Criteria of the Primary Supervisor

⁹ Supporting, non-returnable material must be forwarded in a timely manner to the Research Body for inspection before the grant can commence. Research Ireland reserves the right to request this material for inspection. All transcripts must be appropriately stamped and signed to confirm that they are official documents of the institution.

In addition to meeting the criteria set by their Research Body for acting as a research supervisor, the primary supervisor must also meet the following eligibility requirements as defined by the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme:

- The primary supervisor must be based at an Eligible Research Body in Ireland that is approved by Research Ireland.
- The primary supervisor must be a permanent member of academic staff or a contracted member of academic staff who hold a primary contract of employment (minimum 50% FTE) that will span, at least, the period of the Grant
- The primary supervisor must be a suitably qualified experienced member of staff to supervise postgraduate research students.
- Research fellows are not eligible to act as primary supervisors.
- The supervisor must have the capacity to support the proposed research project, including access to necessary facilities and resources.
- **Primary supervisors may not support more than one applicant to the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship¹⁰.** 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.
- Retired Academic Staff (RAS) may be permitted to support applications to Postgraduate Scholarship programme, subject to the discretion of the host Research Body. The eligibility of a RAS member to act as a Primary Supervisor depends on the Research Body's assessment that the individual remains active in their research field and that the applicant will have regular and adequate access to them throughout the duration of the research programme. The inclusion of a RAS member in a Primary Supervisor role must be supported by institutional assurance of their continued academic engagement and availability.

7. Ineligible applications

Applicants must complete a preliminary eligibility quiz to gain access to an application form. Passing of the preliminary eligibility quiz and provision of access to the application form should not be taken as confirmation that all eligibility requirements for the programme have been met. All Call documentation (this Call document, Frequently Asked Questions, Guide for Applicants) should be carefully read before applying to the programme.

In addition to the criteria outlined in section 5, applications will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered for funding, and any grant offer will be withdrawn if:

- **the Research Office endorses multiple applications with the same primary**

¹⁰ This condition relates only to applications to the current open Call and not to any existing scholar the Supervisor may be supporting under previous Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Calls.

supervisor, all applications will be deemed ineligible. Primary supervisors may support no more than **one** applicant to the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship programme. As such, primary supervisors should endorse only **one** submitted application¹⁰. There is no restriction on the number of applications for which a supervisor may serve as secondary or co-supervisor.

- an applicant submits more than one application to a given call;
- the preliminary eligibility quiz on the online system is submitted without a primary academic supervisor's name;
- the name of the primary academic supervisor included in the preliminary eligibility quiz on the online system does not match that on the application form;
- an application has not been submitted via the online system by the relevant deadline. No hard copies or email forms will be accepted;
- an application does not have all the required participant forms, i.e. primary supervisor form, completed in full and submitted via the online system by the relevant deadline. No hard copies or email forms will be accepted;
- an application is incomplete or exceeds the word limits;
- an application includes additional materials other than those requested;
- an application includes materials in a format other than those requested;
- it is found at any stage during the process that any section of an application has been plagiarised or is not the applicant's own work (see section 14 for more information);
- any information supplied in an application is false, misleading, or unverifiable with appropriate documentation;
- the research project as proposed in the application form is currently or has previously been funded either in full, or in part, by Research Ireland or any other funding agency;
- the applicant is not a new entrant or has a date of first registration for the postgraduate degree for which they are seeking funding that falls before the date specified in Section 5.1.
- the application is not endorsed by the applicant's Research Body, i.e. the Vice-President/Dean of Research or their authorised nominee, via the online system by the relevant deadline;
- canvassing on behalf of the applicant occurs;
- it is not evident to the assessors that the application is an individual and original project, written by the applicant and distinctively different to any other proposals.
- it becomes apparent to Research Ireland at any stage of the application, assessment or award process that an applicant does not meet the eligibility criteria.

Please note that assessment of an application should not be taken as confirmation that all eligibility requirements for the programme have been met. The status of applications in terms of eligibility may change over the course of the Call process. In the event of an unsustainable number of applications, Research Ireland may implement a triage step to reduce the number of proposals at the review stage.

8. How to Apply

All applications must be submitted via the online system by the relevant deadline. It is strongly encouraged that application and participant forms are submitted well in advance of the relevant deadline as heavy server traffic on the day may slow down their submission. **Applicants are advised**

not to wait until the day of the deadline to register on the system or submit their application. If an applicant needs to submit their application on the closing day, it is strongly recommended to do this at least eight hours before the deadline. No hard copies or email forms will be accepted. No additional material, beyond that requested in the application form, will be accepted and the inclusion of any such material may render the application ineligible. All applications require a primary supervisor willing to guide the proposed research project. The primary supervisor must complete and submit an endorsement form as part of the application process. Failure to submit these forms by the deadline will render the application ineligible. Research Ireland is not in a position to assist applicants in finding a primary supervisor for their application. 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.

Prior to creating an application, applicants should contact and discuss their research project with the proposed primary supervisor. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to inform the proposed primary supervisor of their nomination. This should be done well in advance of completing the online application.

For reasons of transparency and fairness to all applicants, Research Ireland will not enter into written or telephone correspondence with any individual about the assessment process or their eligibility to apply. In the first instance, applicants should contact the research office in their proposed Research Body for information and clarification on the call. It is highly recommended that applicants contact the research office well in advance of submitting an application. If the research office is unable to answer a query, the research office should email it to postgrad@researchireland.ie for answer through the frequently asked questions (FAQ) process. An updated FAQ document will be published on the [GOIPG funding call website](#).

9. Proposal Review Procedure and Criteria

Following submission, all proposals will be checked for compliance with all mandatory criteria (e.g., all sections complete, uploads are appropriate, all endorsements are complete). Proposals identified as ineligible at this stage will be withdrawn without review. Please note that assessment of an application should not be taken as confirmation that all eligibility requirements for the programme have been met. The status of applications in terms of eligibility may change over the course of the Call process. In the event of an unsustainable amount of applications, Research Ireland may implement a triage step to reduce the number of proposals at the review stage.

10. Research Ireland Policies and Positions

In addition to complying with the [General Terms and Conditions](#), applicants are expected to be familiar and consult with Research Ireland policies/positions and with all relevant national policies when preparing their application to any programme. All members involved in the funded research should be apprised of the following non-exhaustive list of

relevant policies. Please note that some policies are being updated to reflect the expanded remit of Research Ireland and in the interim, the existing policies of the legacy agencies should be followed.

- Animal Usage
- Research Integrity
- Maternity Paternity and Adoptive leave Policy
- Appeals Process
- Child Protection
- Data Protection Policy
- Open Research
- Data Management
- Grant Budget Policy
- Disability Policy

10.1 State Aid and Research Ireland Grant Funding

As per Research Ireland's Grant Conditions (inclusive of Research Ireland's General Terms and Conditions,¹¹ Letters of Offer and Research Ireland policy documents¹²), all Research Ireland funding granted is subject to, and must be compliant with, State aid legislation based on Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).¹³

Namely, research activities undertaken as part of a grant awarded under the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme, and agreed to subject to Research Ireland's General Terms and Conditions, must be "non-economic" in nature and designed to ensure that any funding received does not, directly or indirectly, give rise to the granting of State aid.

Where an application for funding involves an 'undertaking'¹⁴ or industry party, recipients of grant funding under the Research Ireland Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme are required to demonstrate compliance with the conditions of "effective collaboration" and that the conditions relating to the allocation between the parties of the results and/or intellectual property rights arising from the collaboration comply with one of the conditions set out in paragraphs 29 and 30 (as appropriate) of the 2022 Framework for State aid for research, development and innovation (2022/C 414/01) (the "Framework").¹⁵

Research Ireland has set out guidance to support how the programme of research or project is developed and undertaken in accordance with these conditions. See 'Guidance on State aid for

¹¹ [Research Ireland Grant Terms and Conditions - Research Ireland](#)

¹² <https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/>

¹³ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016XC0719\(05\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016XC0719(05)&from=EN)

¹⁴ The concept of an "undertaking" under EU competition law rules is an entity that is engaged in an "economic activity" regardless of its legal status or the way that it is financed. An activity is economic in nature when it involves offering goods or services on a market.

¹⁵ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2022.414.01.0001.01.ENG

applicants to, and recipients of, Research Ireland Grant funding' for further information.¹⁶ To support compliance with “effective collaboration”, Applicants must complete and return an “Industry Collaboration Form” (ICF) to Research Ireland on or before the date that the Collaborative Research (or Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement (CRA) has been ‘agreed’ with, or signed by, the relevant (industry) partner(s). The ICF should be used by Applicants to assist in defining the relationship with the industry partner(s). Further, a copy of each CRA arising from the grant must be held on file by the relevant Research Body. Research Ireland may request a copy of the signed CRA to be provided (as advised in the General Terms and Conditions) to be held on file by Research Ireland for audit purposes. The ICF and related guidance, inclusive of an FAQ document, can be found on the Research Ireland website.¹⁷ Applicants are advised to seek independent legal advice in advance of applying to Research Ireland for funding where further clarification is sought.

11. Applicant Gender Identity and the Research Ireland External Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy 2023-2028

Research Ireland seeks to provide equal outcomes for all applicants so that Ireland can attract and retain the most talented, creative and innovative researchers, thereby maximising its collective research intelligence. To support a level playing field for all applicants, the applications to this funding call will adhere to a gender-blind assessment process. Details of the applicant’s gender identity will not be provided to the international assessors. As such, profile information containing the name and gender identity of applicants is not provided to reviewers during the assessment process.

Applicants are, therefore, asked to refrain from identifying their gender when completing their application forms. We also ask that supervisors use ‘the applicant’, and ‘they/them’, when providing their observations, rather than the applicant’s name or pronouns which would identify their gender identity. Applicants are advised to consult the sex/gender dimension statement in Appendix 1 in advance of completing the personal, ethical and sex/gender statements section of their application.

Research Ireland is committed to building equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) within the Irish research and innovation sector. The Agency recognises that excellent research stems from diverse and inclusive teams, which reflect our society and the communities we serve. As such, Research Ireland aspires to proactively lead in driving the EDI agenda forward through the research and research teams that it funds.

In Research Ireland’s External Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy 2023-2028¹⁸, increasing the number of women and members of Historically Underserved Communities in Applicant Teams are key objectives. As such, women and members of Historically Underserved Communities are strongly encouraged to apply to this programme.

Research Ireland’s External EDI Strategy aims to be a key driver of an inclusive research culture, lead in minimising barriers to participation in the research endeavour and ensure that its investment reflects the input of researchers that are representative of society, and thus the outputs are relevant

¹⁶ [State Aid – Research Ireland](#)

¹⁷ [State Aid – Research Ireland](#)

¹⁸ <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/gender/>

to society. Gender identity data gathered will inform the diversity of the applicant group. It will help to inform future iterations of this and similar programme calls. The data gathered will also inform how we can best improve the representation of other Historically Underserved Communities, including individuals from underrepresented genders, in our portfolio of Grants awarded.

12. San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)

Research Ireland is a signatory of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)¹⁹ and, as such, is aligning its review and evaluation processes with DORA principles. Research Ireland has reinforced its commitment to the core principles by joining DORA as a member²⁰. To this end, all types of research output are recognised, and Research Ireland is committed to assessing the quality and impact of research through means other than journal-based indicators/metrics and research performance-based indicators/metrics such as impact factors and H-index. In the spirit of supporting open research and as a signatory to Ireland's National Action Plan for Open Research 2022-2030²¹ and a signatory of Plan S²², Research Ireland will also consider a commitment to making data and other types of research open and accessible. To complement these activities and further reinforce Research Ireland's commitment to the overarching objectives of the Narrative CV, Research Ireland is a signatory to the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment²³ and is a member of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)²⁴.

As noted, Research Ireland's policies are under development and will be added to the Research Ireland [website](#) once finalised. For information on other policies:

- Visit <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/> for information relating to Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)
- Visit <https://research.ie/about-us/policies/> for information relating to the Irish Research Council (IRC)

For any questions concerning Research Ireland, SFI or IRC policies, please contact by email at researchpolicy@researchireland.ie.

13. ORCID

ORCID provides a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes researchers from each other and, through integration in key research workflows such as manuscript and grant submission, supports automated linkages between a researcher and their professional activities ensuring that their work is recognised. If an applicant does not currently have an ORCID, please register for one at www.orcid.org in advance of submitting an application.

¹⁹ <https://sfdora.org/read/>

²⁰ Contributor level membership

¹⁴ [National Action Plan | National Open Research Forum \(norf.ie\)](#)

²² <https://www.coalition-s.org/>

²³ https://coara.eu/app/uploads/2022/09/2022_07_19_rra_agreement_final.pdf

²⁴ <https://coara.eu/>

14. Plagiarism and related issues

Applications are expected to be entirely the applicant's own work. Random sampling for evidence of plagiarism and excessive duplication will be carried out during the application and award process. Plagiarism is defined as the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit. It will be deemed that excessive duplication has arisen when significant portions of multiple applications to Research Ireland are similar or identical in content.

If such instances of plagiarism or excessive duplication are identified by Research Ireland at any stage during the application or award process, the relevant application(s) will be deemed ineligible, grant offers will be withdrawn, or active grants will be terminated. Such instances of plagiarism or excessive duplication will also be brought to the attention of the host Research Body and the applicant in question will be prohibited from applying for Research Ireland funding in the future.

15. Assessment Process

All applications will be assessed solely on the basis of the material provided at the time of submission. Applicants should not include any additional links to online research profiles or supplementary information. Any such additional material will render the application ineligible.

Applications are checked by Research Ireland for eligibility. Please note that assessment of an application should not be taken as confirmation that all eligibility requirements for the programme have been met. The status of applications in terms of eligibility may change over the course of the Call process.

Grant recipients will be selected following a transparent, merit-based, impartial and equitable selection procedure, based on international peer review. There are separate funding streams for STEM and AHSS. Each stream is assessed independently on a competitive basis. Profile information containing the name, date of birth and gender of applicants is not provided to reviewers during the assessment process.

Applications will be sent for remote evaluation to an outer international assessment board (IAB). Each application is assessed by at least two independent, international reviewers. Each assessor submits their evaluation, and applications are ranked in order of merit. The top ranked applications are then referred to an inner IAB where they are assessed by two further independent, international reviewers before being discussed at an inner IAB panel meeting relevant to the particular funding stream. The primary responsibility of the inner IAB is to determine a quantitative ranking of the applications presented to it, arrive at an overall judgement of standard and make final recommendations to Research Ireland.

While outer IAB members may be more familiar with the specific research field of the proposed project, the inner IAB will be made up of representatives with significant overarching experience who may have a more general understanding of the field. Thus, it is important that the application is written so that both outer and inner IAB members can clearly understand the research proposed therein and form a fair evaluation and assessment of whether it is of a sufficient standard to recommend for

funding.

Applications are assessed under four headings:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • Applicant | 40% Review Weighting |
| • Project | 40% Review Weighting |
| • Training and Career Development | 10% Review Weighting |
| • Environment | 10% Review Weighting |

Assessors consider all four headings and allocate scores as per the evaluation criteria detailed in appendix 2. Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves fully with the evaluation criteria prior to making an application. If the total average score is the same between two or more applications, applications with the same average scores will be ranked according to the higher average score under the project category. If a tie still remains, the ranking will be determined by the highest average scores in the following order: applicant, training and career development, and finally, environment. Research Ireland will then fund down the ranked list presented to it by the international assessment board until funding is exhausted. Research Ireland's decision on whether to make an award under either programme is final.

Research Ireland is precluded from discussing results of the competition or the outcome of individual applications over the telephone or in writing. Feedback to unsuccessful candidates will consist of the score assigned by the international assessment board. The score assigned by the international assessment board is final and no correspondence will be undertaken in relation to individual assessments or scoring. Additional qualitative feedback will not be provided.

16. Intellectual Property Management

Intellectual Property (IP) management practices will be in accordance with national guidelines. In particular, the management of IP arising out of the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarships must comply with the practices and procedures described in the [RDI Framework](#) and [Ireland's National IP Protocol 2019](#). The arrangements related to the management of IP arising from the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarships are the responsibility of the Research Body.

17. Frequently Asked Questions

Please read this Call Document thoroughly. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) are available on the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme [webpage](#). For general queries, including eligibility queries, please contact the Research Office of the Research Body you intend to submit your application through. If the research office is unable to answer a query, the research office should email it to postgrad@researchireland.ie for answer through the frequently asked questions (FAQ) process. An updated FAQ document will be published on the funding call website.

18. Applicant Acknowledgement of Terms and Conditions

Submission of an application confirms that Research Ireland's General Terms & Conditions have been read and understood; that the applicant meets eligibility requirements; that the project is in full agreement with all legal and regulatory matters governing research in Ireland; that no aspect of this project is already being funded from another source and that all details provided are correct; that the information supplied in the application is correct and the research proposal is their own work. Failure to do so, or to comply with requirements outlined in this call document, will deem an application ineligible resulting in its withdrawal. Research Ireland's Grant Conditions shall govern the administration of Research Ireland grants and awards to the exclusion of this and any other oral, written, or recorded statement.

1. Overheads are not applicable to this Grant.
2. For the purpose of the Grant, the Doctoral/ master's Candidate will be synonymous with the Lead Investigator. The Lead investigator is required to engage in full-time research in their Research Body during the funding term to develop the Research Programme and training and career development plan. They must be a registered full-time student at the host Research Body and not be a full-time employee of the host Research Body or any other organisation, including any undertaking. The Lead Investigator must maintain a physical presence within their department or school in their Research Body for the duration of the Grant, be a resident in the Republic of Ireland and their residence be within a reasonable travelling distance of the Research Body.
3. For the purpose of the Grant, the Supervisor and the Lead Investigator (Doctoral/master's Candidate) will be members of the Research Team, as defined in Research Ireland's General Terms & Conditions.
4. The Supervisor will have a well-defined role as the person responsible for supporting and guiding the Lead Investigator (Doctoral/ master's Candidate) and ensuring the quality of the research produced under the Grant.
5. The Eligible Research Body is responsible for verifying all results from undergraduate or postgraduate degrees named in the application. However, Research Ireland reserves the right to request the original and/or certified copy of the Doctoral/ Masters Candidate's undergraduate and postgraduate degree certificate(s) or transcript(s) at any stage of the Grant term. Original and/or certified copies of documents must be submitted to postgrad@researchireland.ie at the top of this letter within a maximum of two weeks of the request date. Failure to submit the required documents may result in the suspension or termination of the Grant. Research Ireland's decision on this matter is final.
6. The Research Body is responsible for ensuring that ethical issues relating to the Research Programme are identified and brought to the attention of the relevant approval or regulatory body. Approval to undertake the research must be granted before any work requiring approval begins but no later than three months after the start date of the Grant.

7. The Research Body, the Lead Investigator and the Supervisor shall not make any public announcement about the Grant until after Research Ireland's official announcement, the timing of which will be advised in due course.
8. All publicity, including public lectures, publications, print materials and press releases, television and radio advertisements, websites, film, video and audio recordings associated with or arising from for this Research Programme must contain acknowledgement of funding received from 'Research Ireland' and any Strategic Funding Partner, where applicable. Please refer to clause 20 in Research Ireland's [General Terms & Conditions](#).
9. The Lead Investigator is permitted to engage in additional duties such as teaching, tutoring, or demonstration work in a Research Body during the Grant, provided:
 - a. the work is relevant to the Research Programme and consistent with the Lead Investigator's training and career development plan;
 - b. the Lead Investigator has the written permission of their Supervisor;
 - c. the work does not prevent the Lead Investigator from carrying out the Research Programme;
 - d. such additional duties are detailed in the required Progress Reports.
10. Research Ireland expects the host Research Body to ensure that:
 - a. the Lead Investigator is appropriately remunerated for additional duties such as teaching, tutoring, or demonstration work;
 - b. additional duties contribute to the professional development of the Lead Investigator; and
 - c. additional duties are taken into account as part of the relevant evaluation or appraisal systems.
11. The Research Body agrees that no part of the stipend will be considered remuneration for any teaching, tutoring, or demonstration work.

APPENDIX 1

GUIDANCE ON THE SEX/GENDER DIMENSION STATEMENT

In accordance with the Research Ireland External Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy²⁵, all applicants must complete a statement articulating the consideration of biological sex and/or social gender variables in their research programme.

To complete this section, please consider the following questions:

Is sex as a biological variable taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings?

Is gender as a socio-cultural factor taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings?

If the answer is yes, please describe how sex and/or gender considerations will be integrated into your research proposal.

If no, please explain why sex and/or gender are not applicable to your research proposal.

While there are research projects in which biological sex and/or gender may not be relevant in terms of the research content, it is well established that, where relevant, integrating sex and gender analysis into the design, implementation, evaluation and dissemination of the research can lead to better results and opportunities. If relevant sex-gender issues are missed or poorly addressed, research results will be partial and potentially biased. In worst-case scenarios poor consideration of the sex-gender dimension in research can result in real-world applications based on inaccurate results or conceptions. Full consideration of the sex-gender dimension in research content is a requirement for all Research Ireland Grants.

The integration of the sex-gender dimension in research is commonly mistaken for the integration of gender balance in research teams. These are two distinct matters, and the gender balance of a team should not be used to answer the sex-gender dimension in research question. We recommend this short video [here](#) from the European Commission on the integration of sex/gender dimension in research.

Definitions

Sex refers to a set of biological attributes in humans and animals. It is primarily associated with physical and physiological features including chromosomes, gene expression, hormone levels and function, and reproductive/sexual anatomy. Sex is usually categorised as female or male. Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, expressions, and identities of girls, women, boys, men, and gender diverse people. It influences how people perceive themselves and each other, how they act and interact, and the distribution of power and resources in society. Gender is usually conceptualised as a binary (girl/woman and boy/man) yet there is considerable diversity in how individuals and groups understand, experience, and express it. The Irish charity, BelongTo provides a list of terminology associated with gender [here](#).

Resources

The following links provide positive and negative examples that result from the inclusion or exclusion of sex and gender in research respectively. These may be useful for applicants to

²⁵ <http://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/gender/>

complete the sex-gender dimension statement in the application:

General

[Stanford University resource concerning the sex-gender aspects of research](#)

[The gender dimension in research | Kilden](#)

STEM

[Online training for integrating sex and gender in health research](#)

[Article about the dangers of drug testing on all-male animal populations](#) (animal studies, drug design)

[Gender research focus in agricultural technology and botanical science](#) (agriculture, botanical science)

[Machine learning reinforcing gender stereotypes](#) (machine learning)

AHSS

[Book by Trine Rogg Korsvik & Linda M. Rustad on the gender dimension in research](#) (multiple examples provided in the chapter, Safe Societies)

[Article on urban design principles that take into account the needs of women and minority groups](#) (urban design)

How to consider the potential gender dimension and implications for your research

The following is provided to help applicants complete the sex/gender dimension statement in the application. This is taken from the '[Gender in EU-funded research](#)' toolkit, which aims to give the research community practical tools to integrate gender aspects into their research, including gender equality (equal outcomes for women and men) and integration of sex/gender analysis in research content.

The best possible research validity: Research should take into account the differences between men and women in the research population, and results will be more representative. General categories such as 'people', 'patients' or 'users' do not distinguish between men and women. Research based on such categories may well draw partial conclusions based on partial data. For example, research on a new breast cancer treatment should include male patients, so as to draw a complete picture. Most basic research with animal models focuses on males to the exclusion of females (Zucker et al., 2010; Marts et al., 2004). Research on economic miGrants cannot limit itself to male points of view if it wants to understand the whole miGrant population.

Research ideas and hypotheses: The relevance of biological sex and/or gender for and within the subject matter needs to be analysed and an assessment made as to whether these are relevant variables. The formulation of hypotheses can draw upon previous research and existing literature. Indeed, the body of knowledge on sex/gender issues has been steadily growing over recent decades and can serve as interesting reference material to build new hypotheses for future research.

Project design and research methodology: While research methodologies may vary, they all strive to represent (aspects of) reality. Whenever this reality concerns humans, any sound methodology should differentiate between the sexes and take into account the men's and women's situations equally. Groups such as 'citizens', 'patients', 'consumers', 'victims' or 'children' are therefore too general as categories.

Research implementation: *Data collection tools* (such as questionnaires and interview

checklists) need to be gender-sensitive, use gender neutral language, and should make it possible to detect the different realities of men and women. This will help to avoid gender bias. For example, answers to be provided by the 'head of household' are not necessarily valid for all household members.

Data analysis: In most research concerning human subjects, data is routinely disaggregated by sex, which would logically lead to analyses according to sex. However, to date this is still not common practice. Systematically taking sex as a central variable and analysing other variables with respect to it (e.g. sex and age, sex and income, sex and mobility, sex and labour) will provide significant and useful insights. Involving gender-balanced end-user groups in the course of the research is also a good way of guaranteeing the highest impact.

Dissemination phase – reporting of data: Collecting and analysing sex and/or gender specific data is not enough if they are omitted from the published results. Sex and/or gender should be included in 'mainstream' publications as it is as much part of daily reality as any other variable studied. Specific dissemination actions (publications or events) for sex and/or gender findings can be considered. Institutions and departments that focus on gender should be included in the target groups for dissemination. Publications should use gender-neutral language.

Checklist for sex and/or gender in research content

Research ideas phase:

If the research involves humans as research objects, has the relevance of biological sex and/or gender to the research topic been analysed?

If the research does not directly involve humans, are the possibly differentiated relations of men and women to the research subject sufficiently clear?

Have you reviewed literature and other sources relating to differences in the research field?

Proposal phase:

Does the methodology ensure that (possible) sex/gender differences will be investigated: that sex/gender differentiated data will be collected and analysed throughout the research cycle and will be part of the final publication?

Does the proposal explicitly and comprehensively explain how sex/gender issues will be handled (e.g. in a specific work package)?

Have possibly differentiated outcomes and impacts of the research on women and men been considered?

Research phase:

Are questionnaires, surveys, focus groups, etc. designed to unravel potentially relevant sex and/or gender differences in your data?

Are the groups involved in the project (e.g. samples, testing groups) gender-balanced? Is data analysed according to the sex variable? Are other relevant variables analysed with respect to sex?

Dissemination phase:

Do analyses present statistics, tables, figures and descriptions that focus on the relevant sex/gender differences that came up in the course of the project?

Are institutions, departments and journals that focus on gender included among the target groups for dissemination, along with mainstream research magazines?

Have you considered a specific publication or event on sex/gender-related findings?

APPENDIX 2

GOIPG - EVALUATION CRITERIA²⁶

➤ **MAXIMUM APPLICANT MARKS = 40**

APPLICANT, including:

- Track record and research potential of the applicant
 - Quality
 - Significance and relevance of the applicant's key achievements
 - Applicant's personal statement
- Match between the applicant's profile and the proposed research project
- Evidence of independent thinking
- Quality of the reference provided by the primary supervisor

➤ **MAXIMUM PROJECT MARKS = 40**

PROJECT, including:

- Clarity and coherence of the proposed research
- Quality of the proposed research design and methodologies
- Feasibility of the proposed milestones, deliverables and contingency plans
- Consideration as to how the proposed research will advance state of the art and make a contribution to existing knowledge
- Plans for dissemination and knowledge exchange of the proposed research
- Consideration of the relevant ethical issues and sex/gender dimension
Where relevant, does the application directly align with the strategic funding partner's themes and priorities?

➤ **MAXIMUM TRAINING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT MARKS = 10**

TRAINING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL, including:

- Clarity and quality of training and career development plan
- Potential for the development of new research-related and transferable skills and competencies, including those relevant to employment outside the traditional academic sector
- Capacity to acquire new knowledge
- Clarity of thought as to how the scholarship will impact on the applicant's career path

➤ **MAXIMUM ENVIRONMENT MARKS = 10**

ENVIRONMENT, including:

- 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

²⁶ Applicants are invited to carefully consult the *General Application Feedback* document available on the [webpage](#) to ensure they are addressing all aspects of the evaluation criteria.

APPENDIX 3

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP²⁷

BACKGROUND

In partnership with Research Ireland, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites applications for an Environmental Protection Agency Postgraduate Scholarship, hereinafter referred to as an EPA Postgraduate Scholarship.

The EPA is an independent public body established in July 1993 under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992. Its purpose is to protect, improve and restore our environment through regulation, scientific knowledge and working with others. As part of its wide range of functions the EPA manages an environmental research programme that delivers essential scientific support for environmental policy development, implementation and broader decision making. EPA Research focuses on achieving environmental objectives, informing policy and bringing together researchers and research users. The EPA also has responsibility for coordinating environmental research in Ireland.

The EPA Research Programme is a Government of Ireland initiative funded by the Department of Climate Energy and the Environment.

More information on the EPA and its Research Programme is available at: www.epa.ie

EPA RESEARCH PROGRAMME 2021-2030

[EPA Research 2030](#) is a ten-year high-level framework for the EPA's research programming (2021-2030), designed to be agile, responsive and flexible. Within this framework, the EPA research programme plays an important role in generating evidence to support the design and implementation of effective and robust policy, evaluate its outcomes, and demonstrate its value.

EPA Research 2030 has a thematic structure, comprising the following four interconnected hubs that bring an integrated and cross-sectoral approach, enabling holistic management and protection of our environment:

- Addressing climate change evidence needs
- Facilitating a green and circular economy
- Delivering a healthy environment
- Protecting and restoring our natural environment

²⁷ While applicants may apply for one scholarship theme only, those who choose to apply for a strategic funding partner scholarship will also be considered for a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship.



As part of EPA Research 2030, a detailed consultation is undertaken on a three-year cycle to identify key research areas and actions, including emerging challenges and knowledge requirements for each of these research hubs. The EPA Thematic Research Priorities 2024-2026 are available on [our website](#).

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

The EPA Research Programme has a strong focus on policy and is driven by national regulations and European directives. The scope of EPA-funded research is informed by its relevance to policy and its alignment with the key activities of the EPA. Consideration of the interactions between social, behavioural and economic factors as an integral component of environmental research is essential to inform enhanced governance and more effective implementation of environmental policies and strategies.

Proposals are invited for innovative research to provide evidence to support environmental policy in Ireland. Applicants must clearly demonstrate the relevance of their proposed research to the work of the EPA and national environmental policy.

Thematic research areas of strategic interest include:

a. **Addressing climate change evidence needs**

Climate change is already having an impact in Ireland and strong mitigation and adaptation measures are needed. Research is essential in providing the evidence necessary to improve our knowledge systems and inform policy decisions that will advance our

ambitions to be carbon neutral and resilient to climate disruption.

b. Facilitating a green and circular economy

Environmental and sustainability challenges are inextricably linked to economic activities and lifestyles. Research is needed to contribute to the mainstreaming of sustainable management of natural resources and waste, unlocking the potential of the circular and bio-economies, and boosting competitiveness, through resource efficiency and deployment of innovative technologies and solutions.

c. Delivering a healthy environment

A clean, vibrant and safe environment is a prerequisite for good health and wellbeing. Environmental degradation, pollution, as well as known and emerging substances of concern threaten our health and that of our supporting ecosystems. Research will contribute to understanding the risks and benefits, and to identifying appropriate policy and behavioural responses.

d. Protecting and restoring our natural environment

Our natural environment provides us with clean air and water, food and the raw materials to sustain us and our economy. Research is required to inform and support a cross-sectoral approach to managing our natural environment and for the development of policies relating to the regulation of emissions and activities, and the protection of our water, land and ecosystems

APPENDIX 4

POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN CHILDHOOD DISADVANTAGE IN IRELAND²⁷

BACKGROUND

In partnership with Research Ireland, the Department of Children, Disability and Equality invites applications for the Postgraduate Scholarship in Childhood Disadvantage in Ireland.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, DISABILITY AND EQUALITY

The Department of Children, Disability and Equality's mission is to enhance the lives of children, young people, adults, families and communities, recognising diversity and promoting equality of opportunity. Please read the Department's [Statement of Strategy 2023-2025](#) for a comprehensive overview of current strategic priorities. These include:

- Developing, implementing and influencing evidence informed policies and legislation that improve the outcomes for those we serve.
- Ensuring the provision of a range of quality and sustainable services, underpinned by strategic investment, that meet the needs of individuals, families and communities.
- Helping those who are vulnerable, including children, young people and at risk individuals, to overcome adverse circumstances and to achieve their full potential.
- Promoting the development of a progressive, respectful and equal society, informed by the experiences of past generations and seeking to respond to the needs of survivors.
- Working in partnership with individuals, families and communities, and across Government Departments, public bodies and civil society to achieve better outcomes.

The Department is also in the process of developing its Statement of Strategy 2025 – 2027. The new Strategy will focus on the Minister's responsibilities following the transfer of Integration and Youth functions from this Department. This new Statement of Strategy will reflect and be informed by the Government commitments in the Programme for Government - Securing Ireland's Future in addition to key Departmental policies and objectives including:

- implementing Young Ireland, the Government's national policy framework for children and young people, supporting them to achieve their potential
- promoting the development of a progressive, respectful and equal society, including for persons with disabilities, in line with a rights-based approach and with a particular focus on intervention and proactive support by supporting the State's response to the needs of survivors of institutional trauma
- making high-quality early learning and care and school-age childcare, accessible
- ensuring that parents are supported to parent confidently and positively
- ensuring child welfare and protection systems are effective and responsive
- promoting and supporting evidence-based policy and letting children and young people participate in decisions that affect their lives

²⁷ While applicants may apply for one scholarship theme only, those who choose to apply for a strategic funding partner scholarship will also be considered for a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship.

- supporting the State's response to the needs of survivors of institutional trauma

POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN CHILDHOOD DISADVANTAGE IN IRELAND

In partnership with Research Ireland, the Department of Children, Disability, and Equality invites applications for the Postgraduate Scholarship in Childhood Disadvantage in Ireland. This scholarship has been established in memory of the children who died in Mother and Baby Institutions. Applications are invited from those wishing to undertake research in the area of childhood disadvantage. Possible areas of strategic interest include, but are not limited to the following themes:

- a) Children who live/have lived with social and/or economic disadvantage.
- b) Children who experience/have experienced difficulties or disadvantage due to living with disabilities or additional needs (broadly defined).
- c) Children from migrant populations, Travellers, or Roma who experience/or have experienced disadvantage as a result.
- d) Children who are living in state care, including transitions into, through and out of, and pathways between, care services.
- e) Children who are affected by missing or incomplete medical records.
- f) Research on contemporary and emerging issues impacting child safety and wellbeing, including the impact of smartphone usage and online access to children living with social or economic disadvantage.
- g) Intergenerational experiences of childhood disadvantage.

The impact of intersectionality of the above areas of disadvantage is also an area of strategic interest.

APPENDIX 5

MET ÉIREANN POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP²⁷

BACKGROUND

In partnership with Research Ireland, Met Éireann invites applications for **Met Éireann Postgraduate Scholarships**.

MET ÉIREANN

Met Éireann is the Irish National Meteorological Service as recognised by the World Meteorological Organisation under an international convention since 1950. Met Éireann is responsible for the production and dissemination of authoritative, high-quality weather and climate services to protect life and property and the promotion of wider societal and economic wellbeing. Through its Weather and Climate Research Programme, Met Éireann is instrumental in Ireland's research capacity building efforts, addressing vital scientific questions and building resilience against climate challenges. Met Éireann maintains mission critical 24/7 operations, systems and infrastructure needed for successful provision of weather forecasts, severe weather warnings and regulated services to decision-makers, emergency management and Irish aviation.

Priorities

- Met Éireann continues to provide an **effective authoritative voice on meteorology and climatology** in Ireland, supported by focused research, underpinned by a strong ongoing commitment to excellent customer service standards and by exploiting all communications platforms. Met Éireann funds the Professorship of Weather and Climate Research at UCD aimed at developing weather and climate services for Ireland using AI and data science and leads the national [Destination Earth](#) coordination group;
- Met Éireann continues to strengthen its **support for emergency management** during extreme weather events by focusing on users' needs and increasing the relevance of weather information to users' concerns. This effort includes development of impact-based forecast services, using stakeholder vulnerability and exposure datasets and Met Éireann's state-of-the-art meteorological information;
- Met Éireann is prioritising the **development of the climate services** it provides to support improved societal outcomes in relation to planning and preparing for climate change impacts, through the translation and transfer of climate knowledge to researchers and decision-makers in policy and business. For example, Met Éireann's [TRANSLATE](#) project is producing standardised national climate projections and helping produce future climate information to further support climate adaptation in Ireland, leveraging the considerable international research already underway;

²⁷ While applicants may apply for one scholarship theme only, those who choose to apply for a strategic funding partner scholarship will also be considered for a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship.

- Met Éireann is **developing flood forecasting capacity** and operating its Flood Forecasting Centre. Fluvial (river) models for all Irish catchments have been developed and the transfer of the OPW's Tide and Storm Surge Forecasting Service to Met Éireann has taken place. To ensure effective communication of flood alerts and advisories to the main stakeholders, a communications strategy is in place and its implementation is aided through the procurement of an appropriate dissemination system;
- Met Éireann continues to **develop a modern integrated meteorological infrastructure**. Increased high performance computing capacity, an improved observational dataset, robust business continuity management capability, modern weather radar network and resilient and agile ICT services are essential to providing better weather and climate services **MET ÉIREANN POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS**.

In partnership with Research Ireland, Met Éireann invites applications for Met Éireann Scholarships which will develop research to provide evidence in support of specific thematic areas of strategic interest to Met Éireann (see below).

Please read [Met Éireann Strategic Plan 2024 – 2034](#), entitled “**Ready for change - preparing Ireland for changing weather and climate**”.

Possible thematic areas of strategic interest include:

- Climate services;
- Climate modelling;
- Specialised weather & climate research, e.g. impact, satellite, marine-, agri-meteorology;
- Applications of AI, Machine Learning, Data Analytics to weather & climate services;
- Weather & climate monitoring and observing systems and instrumentation;
- Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) modelling;
- General forecasting & flood forecasting;
- Dissemination & communication of weather & climate information;
- Perception & interpretation of weather & climate information;
- Decision making & emergency management in extreme weather events;
- Socio-economic impact of weather & climate information;
- Multi-hazard early warning system.

APPENDIX 6

ANDREW GRENE POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION²⁷

BACKGROUND

In partnership with the Research Ireland the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) invites applications for an Andrew Grene Postgraduate Scholarship in Conflict Resolution.

Ireland's policy for international development, [A Better World](#), is a whole of government policy for Ireland's international development cooperation. It updates Ireland's traditional focus on 'the poorest of the poor' to realise the pledge of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to reach 'the furthest behind first'.

The vision outlined in *A Better World* is of a more equal, peaceful and sustainable global community. It incorporates Ireland's international development cooperation and humanitarian action, along with human rights, peacekeeping, disarmament and security policies and actions. It commits Ireland to developing regional approaches to dealing with instability and conflict, highlighting specific needs across the African continent, the Middle East, Latin America, Asia and Small Island Developing States

ANDREW GRENE POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

1. Thematic

Applicants' proposed research must be coherent with one or more of the four policy priorities identified in *A Better World*, within the overarching objective to reach those furthest behind first:

- Gender equality;
- Reducing humanitarian need;
- Climate action;
- Strengthened governance.

2. Regional

DFAT's preference is that 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 fragility²⁸.

²⁷ While applicants may apply for one scholarship theme only, those who choose to apply for a strategic funding partner scholarship will also be considered for a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship.

²⁸ 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](#).

DFAT will award funding to successful proposals that focus on one of the two following areas:

a. Women, peace and security

Ireland's [Third National Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions](#) (known collectively as the Women, Peace and Security Agenda), was launched in June 2019. The National Action Plan (NAP), which aligns closely with *A Better World*, sets out how Ireland will continue and enhance its implementation of the WPS agenda across the four pillars of Prevention, Participation, Protection and Promotion and will run for a five-year period from 2019-2024. The NAP is a key instrument in driving Ireland's strong commitment to gender equality in fragile and conflict affected contexts, including:

- strengthening women's leadership and meaningful participation in peace processes, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention;
- addressing root causes of conflict;
- strengthening protection of women and girls from conflict related harm;
- promoting a gender perspective and expertise in peace and security.

Research is encouraged in particular in improving the evidence-base for women's participation in decision-making around peace and security and in understanding the impact of harmful social norms, including masculinities and discriminatory gender norms on gender equality and on positive engagement of men and boys as stakeholders and advocates for supporting the WPS agenda.

b. Post-conflict reconciliation

Reconciliation involves rebuilding relationships and trust damaged during conflict, whether between different groups or between citizens and the State. As each conflict is unique, reconciliation takes different forms in different post-conflict settings: as national political dialogue; truth-telling; transitional justice and prosecutions; reparations (individual and collective); reintegration; peace education; and human rights-sensitive institutional reform. Reconciliation is context-specific and context-sensitive, meaning that each society must find its own way towards reconciliation, informed by the particular nature of the conflict or the character of the transition, and by the crucial role played by women in reconciliation processes. Ireland has actively sought to engage in two-way lesson-sharing with countries that have gone through and/or are going through their own reconciliation processes. Research is encouraged on comparative lessons in these contexts and in particular relation to Ireland's key partner countries and specific countries affected by conflict and fragility²⁹.

²⁹ 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](#).