



Social Science, Nursing, and Allied Health Research Scholarship 2022

Expression of Interest Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Who can apply?

1. Can a student with only a 2.2 honours degree apply for a scholarship?

No, you must have obtained (or expect to obtain) a first or upper second class honours bachelor degree to apply for a scholarship.

2. I received a 2.2 in my undergraduate degree but received a distinction- or merit-level master's degree, am I eligible to apply?

Yes, you can apply if you have obtained a distinction- or merit-level master's degree.

3. Can I complete my PhD part-time?

A part-time scholarship is only allowable for nursing and allied health applicants who will hold a concurrent clinical post in their professional field during the course of the scholarship. Applicants studying an academic discipline are not currently permitted to complete the PhD part-time.

4. I am a nurse or allied health professional, can I complete the PhD full-time?

Yes. Nurses and allied health professionals may complete the PhD part-time or full-time.

5. Are the scholarships available to students studying abroad?

No, the research must take place at a host institution in the Republic of Ireland. This must be one of the HRB's [approved host institutions](#).

6. Are non-Irish citizens living in Republic of Ireland eligible to apply?

Yes, if you are a non-Irish citizen but are eligible to study or work in the Republic of Ireland, and you meet the eligibility criteria, you can apply for the scholarship. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure they are eligible to study in Ireland.

7. Can I apply to study abroad, such as in the USA?

No, funding is only available for research being conducted in the Republic of Ireland. This is because the money raised for the Irish Cancer Society to fund cancer research is raised in the Republic of Ireland.

8. Can medical doctors apply?

No. Medical doctors are not eligible for this award. However, they may be eligible for the translational biomedical scholarship. For details on other funding schemes, please see www.cancer.ie/research/researcher-hub/apply-for-funding

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

No, there is no upper age limit.

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

No, you can only apply for a scholarship if you have not yet commenced your PhD. This includes students on the master's registry wishing to transfer to the PhD registry.

Research Project Eligibility

1. I am studying psychology but my project is translational science, can I apply?

Yes, you are eligible to apply for the SNAH Scholarship. Eligibility will depend on your background and not on the proposed project. Your background must be in social science, nursing or allied health. Proposed projects can be in any of the following areas: a) translational biomedical research, b) clinical trials, c) survivorship, or d) strategic priorities. If you are not sure about your eligibility, please contact grants@irishcancer.ie.

2. I want to develop a new intervention, can I conduct a randomised controlled trial (RCT)?

A randomised controlled trial will only be eligible if the appropriate previous development phases have been complete e.g. theory-driven intervention development, feasibility investigation. Additionally, any intervention study must be completed within the maximum time frame of the award i.e. the award will only fund a complete intervention development phase.

3. My research is in palliative care, is it eligible?

Yes, cancer projects in palliative care are eligible.

4. My project doesn't align with the Irish Cancer Society strategy, can I still apply?

No, projects must align with the Irish Cancer Society Strategy (2020-2025) and the research roadmap.

5. I am unsure if my project is eligible?

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

Institution eligibility

1. Can the scholarship be conducted in Northern Ireland?

Scholarships are only available for individuals who propose to carry out their research at host institutions in the Republic of Ireland. This is because the money raised for the Irish Cancer Society to fund cancer research is raised in the Republic of Ireland. However, applicants can conduct research in collaboration with institutes in Northern Ireland and abroad.

2. My proposed host institute is a university that is not listed on the HRB's list of approved institutions, can I still apply?

No. A host institution must be currently listed on the HRB's list of approved host institutions: <https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/before-you-apply/all-grant-policies/approval-of-host-institutions/>

3. My proposed host institution is a hospital, can I still apply?

Any host institution, including clinical sites such as hospitals, must be currently listed on the HRB's list of approved host institutions: <https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/before-you-apply/all-grant-policies/approval-of-host-institutions/>. You may, however, conduct research out of a site (e.g. hospital) other than the host institution.

Supervision

1. Can a supervisor sponsor more than one student for separate applicants who are both applying for a scholarship?

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

2. Can a supervisor sponsor the same project twice under two different applicants?

No, a project cannot be submitted more than once. Applications with the same project from different applicants will be automatically discounted. However, unsuccessful projects submitted in previous years may be resubmitted.

3. Is it necessary to have two supervisors?

Yes, at least two supervisors must be identified when completing your application through the Irish Cancer Society [Gateway Grant Tracker](#) online system.

4. Can there be more than two supervisors?

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

5. Do supervisors need to be permanent members of staff?

The most experienced supervisor must hold a post at the proposed host research institute that covers the duration of the scholarship.

Ideally, the second supervisor should also hold a contract for the duration of the PhD. However, given this person is only required to have 1-year postdoctoral experience, we will consider any co-supervisor who can demonstrate their commitment to the supervision of the student throughout the whole study period.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their supervisors also meet the host institution's requirements for a research supervisor.

6. Why do I need to submit CVs for my two proposed supervisors as part of the application process?

The research track record of the supervisors, relative to their career stage, will be assessed as part of the overall research scholarship application.

Funding and budget

1. How many scholarships are available?

This funding is available for one Scholarship in 2022.

2. Is there an overall target for the amount of funding granted?

The maximum funding granted for a Scholarship is €160,000 over 4 years full-time or up to 8 years part time (for clinical applicants). This funding includes a provision of €5,000 for a Mobility and Capacity Building Element.

3. Is the award transferable to another applicant?

No. If, for whatever reason, the applicant cannot complete the research, it cannot be transferred to another applicant.

4. Should I budget for a stipend or salary?

If you are studying an academic topic, such as psychology, social science, sport science, etc., then you are eligible for a stipend of €18,500 per annum.

If you are currently working in a clinical role (e.g. nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy) and intend to take time away from this role for the PhD, then the IUA salary scales may be used: <https://www.iua.ie/for-researchers/researcher-salary-scales-career-framework/>. This is not a requirement and nurses/AHPs may, if necessary, apply for the €18,500 stipend.

5. I am studying an academic subject but wish to pursue a PhD in an allied health topic, am I eligible for the IUA salary rate?

No. IUA scales should only be used for applicants with a professional qualification in nursing or allied health who are specifically taking time out of clinical practice to undertake their PhD.

6. Does the grant cover host institute overheads?

As a charity, the Irish Cancer Society is not in a position to pay for host institution overheads for its research funding.

Submission of Application

1. What is the deadline for the expression of interest applications?

Expression of interest applications must be submitted online through [Gateway Grant Tracker](#) by **3pm Tuesday 22 February 2022**.

2. Do the signatories have to approve the application by the deadline?

Yes. All signatories (supervisors) have to approve the application by the deadline i.e. **3pm Wednesday 23 February 2022**. They can do this through their online portal.

Please ensure that the application is submitted with sufficient time allowed for the signatory to approve. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their application is approved by all signatories before the deadline.

3. Who needs to sign off and approve an application?

The lead applicant and all supervisors must approve the application on the system before it is submitted for review. At the Expression of Interest (EOI) stage, you will be required to upload a letter of support from each of your two proposed supervisors. The Declaration of Support Template is downloadable from the website or the online application system.

4. Does the research office at the host institution need to approve the expression of interest application?

Approval from the host institution is required in the form of a Declaration of Support, downloadable from the online application. The head of Department at the proposed host institution should complete this form. However, the host institution does not need to approve the online form.

Full Application

1. When will applicants find out if they are shortlisted to submit a full application?

End of March/ early April 2022.

2. How long will I have to complete the full application?

Applicants will have approximately 7 weeks to complete the full application.

3. What will the full application entail?

The full application will look for more specific and in-depth details such as research project background, hypothesis, objectives, methodology; plus details on mobility and capacity building element, research environment, and budget. Additionally, shortlisted applicants will be required to detail public and patient Involvement plans, plans for sharing their research findings and provide lay summaries for the PPI reviewers to evaluate. Shortlisted applicants will be given all information required by end of March/ early April 2022.

4. Is it mandatory to travel abroad for the mobility and capacity building element mandatory?

No. The applicant may choose to either travel to a national or international research group or lab or complete a substantial and distinct non-mobility initiative which facilitates academic and clinical networking; encourages national and/or international cooperation and collaboration; and promotes the development of new skills and/or perspectives. As such, travel is not mandatory.

5. Can I use the mobility element funding to visit research institutions within the Republic of Ireland?

The mobility element funding may be used to visit research institutions based nationally or internationally.

6. Will I need to attend an interview?

If your full application is shortlisted, you will be expected to attend an interview in June 2022 (date to be confirmed). Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, this is expected to be held virtually.

Start of Research Scholarship Programme

1. When should the PhD programme commence?

The PhD must commence in Q4 of 2022 and the Research scholar must continue their research for 48 months. Please note, the commencement of the PhD must be in line with any public health guidelines in place in Ireland at that time due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Is it mandatory to enrol on a Structured PhD training programme?

Yes, for the 2022 SNAH scholarship the successful applicant will be expected to enrol on a structured PhD training scheme. The Society recommends the SPHeRE (Structured Population and Health-services Research Education) programme. However, a robustly justified alternative structured PhD scheme may also be accepted once it provides a similar level of training, capacity building, and career development to the SPHeRE programme.

Additional FAQs

1. When is the EOI deadline?

The Expression of Interest round closes on the 22 February at 3pm

2. How many scholarships are available or will be funded?

There are two scholarship awards: one for researchers with a translational biomedical background, and another for individuals with a background in social science, nursing and allied health.

3. Must the PhD Scholar be identified at the time of application?

The application must be developed and submitted by the proposed PhD scholar. The proposed supervisor cannot submit an application and select a PhD student at a later date.

4. Where can we find the appendix referring to PPI?

The public and patient involvement appendix can be found at the end of the guidelines document and it has also been uploaded separately on the website [here](#).

5. Can the research be carried out in another country other than Ireland if the host institution is based in Ireland?

The scholarship includes provision for a Mobility and Capacity Building Element. This element allows scholars to travel and conduct research at a national or international institution.

6. Can you mix and match for the capacity building element?

If robustly justified there may be scope for a hybrid capacity building element. Please email grants@irishcancer.ie with more information.

7. Can you give an example of a non-mobility initiative element?

The non-mobility initiative is a project-based programme of work, which results in networking, national/international cooperation, and professional development. The broad scope allows applicants to come up with their own initiative; however, examples might include:

- *establishing an early career research network or group to promote collaboration*
- *running a small conference or summer school*

8. Can you explain how to budget for pro-rata PhD students?

Clinical applicants who will take time away from their clinical duties may budget an appropriate stipend using the IUA scale that is commensurate with their skills and experience. This must be within the total grant budget and allow adequate resources for running costs, fees, training/education, dissemination, and PPI. Please note that the host institution may have their own rules regarding stipend rates and should be consulted if budgeting above €18,500 per annum.

Contact us

1. I am unsure if me or my project is eligible

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