

**2018 Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
Version 1 – 20 September 2017**

New questions are marked **\*\*New\*\***

Similar questions have been grouped under the following headings:

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

**1. Eligibility**

**\*\*New\*\*** A potential applicant started their PhD (part-time, self-funded) in September 2016 and, if successful, would change to full-time. Can you confirm that a move from part-time to full-time is acceptable for this scheme?

For applicants who have already completed part of the degree for which they are seeking Council funding, the duration of funding to be awarded will be dependent on the type of degree being pursued and the date of first registration as detailed in the table on page 4 of the [Terms and Conditions](#). The duration of funding to be awarded will be calculated based on when the applicant first registered for their postgraduate degree, regardless of whether they registered as a part-time or full-time student. If successful in the competition, the applicant will be expected to register as a full-time student as of 1 October 2018.

**\*\*New\*\*** I'm currently finishing my dissertation for my Master degree and wish to apply for an IRC postgrad scholarship. I was hoping to use my master degree to apply for it, however the dissertation result will only come up on November 27th, 2017. This is after the deadline of IRC application (November 1st, 2017). Can I use my current Master results to apply? Will the IRC will be willing to receive my Master degree full result after the deadline?

Applicants must have a first class or upper second class honours bachelor's, or the equivalent, degree in order to apply to the programme. If a scholar does not have a first class or upper second-class honours bachelor's, or the equivalent, degree, they must possess a master's degree. If the applicant's master's degree results are not known at the time of application, the Council may make a provisional offer based on completion of the degree. Supporting materials and non-returnable transcripts of the academic record must be forwarded to the Council for inspection before the scholarship can commence.

**2. Applying to the programme**

**\*\*New\*\*** Can an IRC postgrad candidate register in an Irish HEI with a primary academic supervisor in that institution and a co-supervisor/ secondary supervisor in an institution in the UK or abroad?

**\*\*New\*\*** An applicant to the GOI Scholarship scheme with a Primary Supervisor at Maynooth University would like to include on their application a Secondary Supervisor in another EU country. Is a Second Supervisor who is based abroad acceptable from the IRC's point of view?

Applicants can make use of the free-text fields to associate a secondary supervisor from any higher education institution with their application. Please note that secondary supervisors will not receive an email notifying them they have been added as a participant to an application. Please note that primary academic supervisors may not act as referees, however secondary academic supervisors are permitted to do so.

**\*\*New\*\*** I am not able to source two referees. Can I be my own referee for the application?

All applications require a primary academic supervisor who is willing to supervise the proposed research project and two referees who know the applicant sufficiently well to provide them with a reference. Under no circumstance is an applicant permitted to act as their own referee.

**\*\*New\*\*** We have a new member of staff starting at the university in January 2018. A prospective applicant to the 2018 IRC GOI Scholarship call would like to apply for funding to undertake a PhD with this new member of staff as his supervisor. Can I register this new staff member as a University supervisor before she has started work here, so that the applicant can include her in his application as supervisor?

Yes, provided the institution is satisfied that the individual in question will adhere to institutional norms in terms of their ability to commit to supervision of the scholarship for the full duration of the award.

### **3. Conditions of award**

**\*\*New\*\*** Can you confirm that there is no longer a budget section to be filled out by GOIPG applicants in the online form? Will awardees be assigned with €2,250 per annum by default, with the understanding this amount will be spent on eligible costs, or returned to the IRC?

**\*\*New\*\*** Successful awardees will receive €2,250 *per annum* towards eligible direct research costs to enable them to carry out their research. Please see Appendix 5 of the [Terms and Conditions](#) for guidance on what is considered an eligible direct research cost. Applicants are no longer required to submit a detailed financial justification as part of their application. The higher education institution must ensure proper financial management of the award and accountability for the use of public funds. It should also ensure that all unspent funds are returned to the Council at the end of the funding term.

**\*\*New\*\*** In light of the fact that the Council invoked a limit of €1,000 per annum for conference / travel costs during award stage of the 2017 round, can you please advise if there is a cap on conference / travel costs for this 2018 round?

**\*\*New\*\*** As detailed above, awardees will receive €2,250 *per annum* towards eligible direct research costs to enable them to carry out their research. Awardees are free to allocate these funds as they see fit provided they are an eligible direct research cost as detailed in Appendix 5 of the [Terms and Conditions](#).