IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

2020 Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme
Frequently Asked Questions

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 Quiz

****New****

What are the necessary steps in order to Successfully complete and submit the Eligibility Quiz, and progress to the Application form

Applicants must, in one go,:

- '**Submit**' the Eligibility Quiz and meet the Eligibility Requirements as per Call Documentation
- Click on '**Continue to Application**'
- DO NOT CLOSE THE WINDOW
- Once the application form opens, complete the field Irish Research Body
- '**Save Draft'** Application.

Applicants should only leave the page once the draft application has been successfully saved.

****New****

Does the Eligibility Quiz require the inclusion of project information including project title, abstract and key words?
Does this mean that the project information on the GOI Postgraduate form itself can differ from the project information on the eligibility quiz?

Will the applicants be able to update/improve the project information when they are submitting the actual application form? Or, on the actual application, are they obliged to submit the exact same project information (word-for-word) that they entered on their eligibility quiz?

Yes, you must submit project information as part of the eligibility quiz, which you will not be able to edit afterwards. However, this will not affect your actual application as you will also be required to submit all the information related to your project as part of your application.

Although the project information (project title, abstract, keywords, etc.) fields must be completed as part of the Application as well as part of the Eligibility Quiz, the Council kindly asks applicants for this information **not** to differ. Slight changes will be accepted, but major differences between the project information in the Eligibility Quiz and the Application form may compromise the assessment process of your application.

****New****

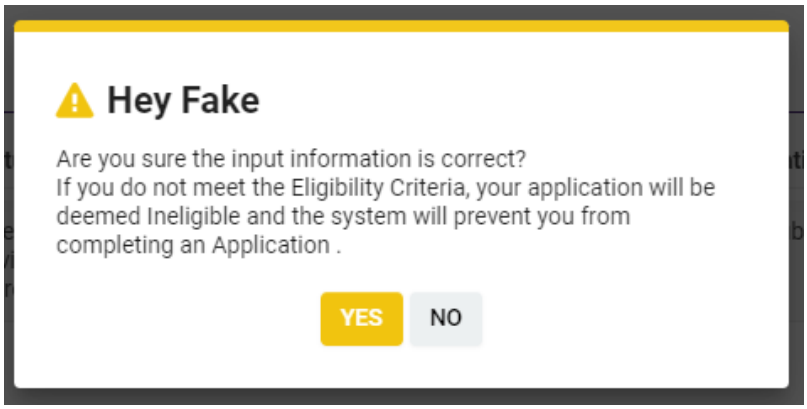
An applicant put the name of their supervisor into their eligibility quiz and saved. However, the supervisor's name is spelled differently in the supervisor drop-down menu of the actual application. Will the IRC reject this application due to the fact that the supervisor's names slightly differ on the eligibility quiz and the main application?

Primary Supervisor Name must be exactly as Supervisor's name registered in the online system. Please contact your Primary Supervisor to confirm this information **prior to completing the Eligibility Quiz**.

****New****

Can applicants who have pressed 'Save Draft' should have the ability on the system to re-edit or re-submit their eligibility quiz ?
Is there a way for applicants to view the information they submitted on the eligibility quiz in order that they can ensure the abstract and the supervisor name they submit on the quiz matches that information in the application form ?

The Eligibility Quiz does not have the option to 'Save Draft', so it must be completed in one sitting. Applicants can go in and have a look and return if necessary but once the click 'Submit' they must 'Continue to Application' and 'Save Draft' application.
Applicants do not have access to the information on the form once the Eligibility Quiz was submitted. Applicants are alerted with the below message before completing the submission of the Eligibility Quiz.



2. Eligibility

Would a publication-based thesis be eligible for funding under the IRC GOI call?

Where a scholar is on a structured degree programme, the office of the vice president/dean of research will be required to confirm that the programme includes the development of discipline-specific knowledge, research and transferable skills in line with the national definition of a structured research programme as outlined in Appendix II. If this type of PhD is endorsed by the HEI, it is eligible.

Is there any age limit for applicants to be eligible for fully funded Irish Research Council scholarship?

No, the Council supports excellent researchers across all career stages.

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

The English language requirements for your degree/course are determined by the Irish higher education institution in which you will be enrolled for the research masters or PhD.

Is the programme open to students from anywhere in the world?

Yes. See Clause 4.2 of the Terms and Conditions. There are two categories of applicant, defined by nationality/residency.

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. The number of awards that can be made to this category of applicant is small in comparison to the typical number of eligible applications in this category.

In 2019, the success rates for the programme were as follows:

	Overall success rate[1]	Success rate for Category Two applicants[2]
STEM	15%	5%
AHSS	18%	6%

[1]All awards as a percentage of all eligible applications
[2]Category Two awards as a percentage of Category Two eligible applications

A candidate (recent graduate) with a 2.2 but extensive experience as well as a postgraduate diploma has expressed a willingness to apply. The candidate had extenuating circumstances with regards to the undergraduate degree result. Are there any grounds whereby the IRC will accept applications from recent graduates who have not met the 2.2 cut-off?

All applicants must have a first class or upper second-class honours bachelor's, or the equivalent, degree. If undergraduate examination results are not known at the time of application, the Council may make a provisional offer of a scholarship on condition that the scholar's bachelor's, or the equivalent, degree result is a first class or upper second-class honours. 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. The Council's determination of an applicant's eligibility on these criteria is final.

Are there any restrictions in terms of eligibility for applicants already in receipt of funding for their PhD? If so, what types of awards will render an applicant ineligible? Are researchers whose PhD is being funded through a larger grant (not in their own name, national or international) eligible to apply?

Is a student who has been awarded 1 year's funding under the HEA GOI IES scholarship eligible to apply to the GOI postgraduate scholarship?

Can a person who has already begun a PhD under another funding mechanism, or who has previously held funding, apply to the GOI postgraduate scheme?

Applicants may apply to the scheme if they are in receipt of other funding. However, if successful, a scholar will not be eligible to hold a Council scholarship if **during the funding term** they are in receipt of another bursary or scholarship or a combination of other bursaries or scholarships with a total value greater than €16,000 per annum. This €16,000 limit per annum is inclusive of stipend, fees and research expenses. Scholars must inform the Council about the amount and source of any awards or bursaries obtained before or during the funding term. This information must also be recorded in the appropriate progress reports.

Is an applicant who already holds a PhD eligible to apply to carry out a second PhD or a Research Masters?

An applicant who already holds a PhD is eligible to apply to GOIPG, so long as they meet all other eligibility criteria.

Is someone who does not have a first or upper second-class honours bachelor's degree eligible to apply if they received a first in a Higher Diploma?

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 on or before commencing the scholarship. The Council's determination of an applicant's eligibility on these criteria is final.

The Terms and Conditions indicate the earliest start dates allowed in the case of a research degree that is already in progress. Are PhD researchers who are doing their degree part- time eligible to apply, if they are planning to start conducting their research full time? If they are, is it permissible to have an earlier start date than what is indicated in the call document, given the part-time nature of their research to date?

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 four 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.

3. Applying to the programme

An applicant does not have a grade summarizing their three years of study, what should they enter in the application?

Applicants must enter the overall degree results exactly as they appear on the transcript. If official transcripts do not confirm the applicant's overall result and date of award **exactly** as detailed in the application, any conditional offer of a scholarship will be withdrawn. If the overall result is not clearly written on the transcript, they can enter "No overall result written on transcript, see comments for an outline of results". In the descriptive section, they can enter a summary of their results (which must match exactly): e.g. 36 modules taken, A+ (30 modules) B+ (two modules), B (two modules) PASS/FAIL (two modules). Some grading systems have other versions, such as: Very Good (30 modules), Good (four modules), Quite Good (two modules).

Should the applicant be registered in a postgraduate course at an eligible HEI before applying for the scholarship? If there is no need to be registered, how can my Primary Supervisor provide a form telling how much he/she knows about me?

Although applicants do not have to be a registered/enrolled student at an eligible HEI before applying for the scholarship, the Council strongly advises applicants to contact both the Research Office and the Primary Supervisor in the eligible HEI well in advance of starting the completion of a GOIPG application.

Can a current PhD student who applied twice previously (and unsuccessfully) for GOIPG with another HEI, apply again with a different HEI?
Applicants may only unsuccessfully apply twice to GOIPG, regardless of the institutions they are applying from. In this instance, the applicant is not eligible to apply. However, they may apply twice to any of the postgraduate enterprise schemes (EPS PG or EBP) in addition to GOIPG.
From 2020, applicants are deemed ineligible if they have previously submitted 2 unsuccessful applications, or, if they have previously submitted 2 ineligible applications. **If a person has previously submitted one unsuccessful application, and one ineligible application another year, are they eligible to apply this year?**
Yes, an applicant with one unsuccessful application, and one ineligible application another year are still eligible to apply to GOIPG.
What stipulations are in place with regard to the use of figures, images, and tables when applying for the GOIPG 2020? I see that there is space for an attachment; can attachments include these (and references), and if so, what is the page/size limit?
If applicants have supplementary information, e.g. diagrams or a bibliography, which accompany your research proposal, they may upload it in PDF format. Supplementary material should **ONLY** include **essential information required for the interpretation and understanding of the proposed research.** Applications will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered for funding if they include additional information about the research proposal or applicant.
An applicant is a British citizen who has lived in Ireland for the past 19 years. The application asks if I am a national of a European Union member state. What should I put down in light of Brexit potentially occurring in 2019?
Applicants should enter all information as correct at the time of application. At this point in time, the UK is a member of the EU. As the applicant is both a resident and EU citizen at this point in time, they will currently be a category one applicant.
Can a supervisor support more than one application, either as primary, secondary or both?
Yes, a supervisor may support more than one application. Please note, all applications must be written by the applicant and be distinctively different to other applications supported by the same research group.
Are there any restrictions as to where a secondary supervisor can be based? For instance, can they be based in the UK?
There is no restriction on where the secondary supervisor is based. Applicants should outline information about the research group in their application.
Can a supervisor write the application for an applicant, or provide chunks of text to insert into the application?
All applications must be written by the applicant, with guidance from the supervisor. The applicant must declare it is their own unique work and consent to plagiarism checks. For information on

Research Integrity, please refer to **Article 18 – RESEARCH INTEGRITY** of the Terms and Conditions.

4. Conditions of award

Section 12.2.2 of the T&Cs state that a scholar's additional duties cannot exceed a total of 50 hours per academic term. Can you please confirm 'academic term' refers to an academic semester, as opposed to an academic year?

Clause 12.2.2 of the Terms and Conditions refers to an academic term or semester.

If a scholar is receiving their first year of IRC funding, but is in the second year of their PhD, are they eligible to undertake additional duties?

Scholars are eligible to undertake additional duties — including supervision, education provision and support activities — in the second and subsequent years of their degree. Where scholars undertake such duties, they should be appropriately remunerated by their higher education institution.

Is it possible for an awardee to defer a GOI scholarship award for a year?

All scholarships must commence on 1 September 2020. It is not possible to defer this start date unless for reasons of maternity leave, paternity leave, adoptive leave, parental leave, prolonged sick leave or carer's leave. Provision of documented evidence will be required if an exception is to be granted.

Is it possible to delay the start date of the award to March 2021 in order for them to benefit from a full year of IRC funding?

All scholarships must commence on 1 September 2020. It is not possible to defer this start date unless for reasons of maternity leave, paternity leave, adoptive leave, parental leave, prolonged sick leave or carer's leave. Provision of documented evidence will be required if an exception is to be granted.