



**IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL**  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

**GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND POSTGRADUATE  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME 2019**

**ANDREW GRENE POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

**THEME INFORMATION**



**Irish Aid**

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## 1. BACKGROUND

In partnership with the Irish Research Council, the [Conflict Resolution Unit \(CRU\)](#) of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade invites applications for an Andrew Grene Postgraduate Scholarship in Conflict Resolution.

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.

The CRU was established in 2008 to advance Ireland's contribution to international conflict resolution by drawing on Ireland's:

- tradition of UN peacekeeping;
- commitment to overseas development aid;
- experience of the peace process in Northern Ireland;
- commitment to human rights and the international rule of law.

## 2. ANDREW GRENE POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Applicants' proposed research must examine areas relevant to the work of the CRU, as outlined below. This year, the CRU will award funding to projects involving research with an emphasis on the following:

### a. Women, peace and security

The implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions is a priority for the CRU. Ireland's second [National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security \(2015–2018\)](#) was launched in January 2015. This plan centres around four pillars:

- prevention of conflict, including gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse;
- participation of and representation of women in decision-making;
- protection from gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse and other violations of women's human rights and international humanitarian law, and relief, recovery and rehabilitation;
- promotion of the women, peace and security agenda in international, regional and national arenas.

Research is encouraged in particular in improving the evidence-base for women's participation in decision-making around peace and security.

### b. Mediation

Mediation in intra-state conflicts is one of the most important tools for conflict resolution, ranging from initial engagement with conflicting parties to the implementation of peace agreements. Mediation engages many actors, from regional organisations and governments to NGOs and private individuals, and these actors all have various advantages and

disadvantages when it comes to mediation processes. Research is encouraged in the areas of mediation support, dialogue facilitation, good offices, and special political missions.

**c. 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. 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 relating to Ukraine; Colombia; the Middle East and North Africa region; and the Korean Peninsula.

**d. Conflict prevention**

There are many ways for state and civil society actors to prevent conflict, to avoid escalation of conflict and to mitigate its effects on civilians, including in situations of fragility. These include early warning mechanisms, reporting and communication networks, and post-conflict rehabilitation. Strategies in conflict prevention must address the structural and proximate causes of conflict and its triggers. Goal 16 of the United Nations *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* relates to the building of peaceful and inclusive societies and accountable institutions. The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is active in a range of conflict prevention activities. With its network of institutions and field operations, the OSCE closely monitors tensions that could develop into a conflict within the OSCE area. Research is encouraged into the areas of Early Warnings and Conflict Analysis, and Confidence and Security Building Measures.