



2019 Enterprise Partnership Scheme: Postgraduate Scholarship

Frequent Asked Questions (FAQs)

The deadline for receipt of FAQs is **16.00 (Irish Time), 22nd August 2018**

FAQs must be submitted no later than this date.

Similar questions have been grouped below in the following themes:

1. Eligibility
2. Applying to the Scheme
3. Application Forms

1. ELIGIBILITY

If you applied for the GOI call earlier this year and wanted to apply for the EPS:

- 1. is this allowed?**
- 2. does this count as your second (& final) IRC application?**

Yes this is permissible. Applicants to the GOIPG or the EBP may apply to the EPS once the latter scheme is open. However, if they are subsequently successful under the GOIPG or EBP schemes and accept same, they will be required to withdraw their application to the EPS.

An applicant may apply twice to the same scheme. Applications to the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship are not counted as an application to the Enterprise Partnership Scheme.

I am registered for a PhD and currently in my first Year 1. I am funded by a HEI bursary. Am I eligible to apply to the Enterprise Partnership Scheme.

You are eligible to apply to the scheme as HEI-funded bursaries are included in the criteria under Clause 4.4.1 - 4.4.4 of the Terms and Conditions for the scheme. Please see page 3 – 4 in the Terms and Conditions to ascertain the duration of funding for which you are eligible to apply, which is dependent upon your date of first registration.

- 1. How do you define what an employment partner is? I'm confused by the definition of a public body.**

2. We are in the process of preparing an application to the EPS 2017. We wish to seek clarification as to whether the Defence Forces is considered an acceptable “Enterprise Partner” under the IRC scheme.

3. Is an Overseas Research Institute that is a public (scientific) body eligible?

An eligible Enterprise Partner on this Programme is a business, a company, a registered charity, a social, cultural or not-for-profit civic organisation, a semi-state commercial organisation or eligible public body.

Eligible Public Body shall mean: a public service body with specific scientific or cultural infrastructure that is integral to the conduct and completion of the proposed research. If a public body or HEI is a research performing organisation eligible to apply independently for IRC schemes, it is not eligible to be funded as an employment partner under this scheme.

- Where a school or hospital is a public body, it is only eligible as an employment partner where it possesses specific scientific or cultural infrastructure that is integral to the conduct and completion of the proposed research. The same applies in relation to the Defence Forces.
- An overseas research institute would be eligible.

As stated in the Terms and Conditions the understanding of the Council in processing an application under the scheme is that the HEI is satisfied that the chosen Enterprise Partner is appropriate to and suitable for the proposed research project.

Is it possible to have two Enterprise partners sharing the cost on one application? Providing they have similar research interest for the project.

It is not permissible to have two separate enterprise partners.

*****NEW*****

I wish to enquire whether the National Parks & Wildlife Service and Coillte are eligible enterprise partners for the IRC Enterprise Partnership Scheme

Both the National Parks & Wildlife Service and Coillte are eligible to act as Enterprise Partners for the Enterprise Partnership Scheme (EPS), as they would both be considered eligible public bodies.

*****NEW*****

Is there a limit to how many awards can be supported by an Enterprise Partner?

There is no limit to how many applicants an Enterprise Partner can support, as long as they have the financial capabilities to support the applicant for the entire duration of their Award.

Please ensure that your organisation can adequately support an applicant both financially and as a Mentor in research before agreeing to support their application.

All applications must be distinct and must be written by the applicant only. Any application found in breach of the Council's plagiarism regulations will be automatically deemed ineligible and the applicant will be permanently banned from future Irish Research Council Awards.

*****NEW*****

What are terms for the new Enterprise Partner contribution waiver for NGOs?

Under the 2019 Enterprise Partnership Scheme, eligible NGOs may avail of a waiver for the first-year enterprise partner contribution for all new applications to the Enterprise Partnership 2019 scheme.

Please see the Terms and Conditions for more details. 12-month masters by research are fully funded by the Council (for applicants who have eligible NGOs as partners). For all other awards, the 1/3 contribution applies from the second year onwards

*****NEW*****

What type of organisation qualifies as an NGO for the Enterprise Partner contribution waiver (12-months)?

Under the Terms and Conditions of the Award, organisation must be listed as a registered charity with the Public Charities Regulator and have or seek to have a research performance focus.

You can search the Public Charities Regular [here](#).

*****NEW*****

Is the NGO Enterprise Partner contribution waver only applicable for 12-month research masters?

No, the NGO Enterprise Partner contribution for registered NGOs

*****NEW*****

Does the Enterprise Partner contribution waiver only cover new applicants to a degree?

No, the Enterprise Partner contribution waiver also applies to applicants who have previously registered for a degree, as long as they are a new Awardee under the Enterprise Partnership Scheme 2019.

For example, if an applicant applies for 36-months funding in while in the first year of a 48-month PhD, the first 12 months of their funding period would be covered by the Enterprise Partner contribution waiver. The Enterprise Partner would then be required to finance the remaining 24-months of the degree.

*****NEW*****

Is the Enterprise Partner contribution waiver only for new Enterprise Partners? And is there a limit to how many applicants with waivers an Enterprise Partner can support

No, the Enterprise Partner contribution waiver applies to both new and previous eligible NGOs. the NGO Enterprise Partner contribution for registered NGOs

No, there is no limit, providing the Enterprise Partner could adequately support the applicant following the first 12 months of their award, if required.

*****NEW*****

Would it be possible to obtain/request a complete or partial list of previous enterprise partners?

Yes, please follow this [link](#) to use our searchable database of previous Awards. Included are all previous Enterprise Partners to successful Enterprise Partnership Scheme Awards. You can also export the search as an Excel file.

*****NEW*****

Is there any stipulation with regard to number of years post-degree i.e. a person that graduated from their primary degree 10-15 years ago?

For applicants to the Postgraduate award, there is no limit. As long as the applicant has completed their degree in good standing by 28 February 2019, there are deemed eligible to apply.

For applicants to the Postdoctoral award, there is a limit. Postdoctoral applicants must have been awarded their doctoral degree within the five-year period before 30 September 2018.

Extension to this five-year period can be considered on provision of documented evidence of an eligible career break; career breaks of up to five years are taken into account.

Eligible career breaks include: maternity leave, paternity leave, adoptive leave, parental leave, prolonged sick leave, carer's leave. For the purposes of this condition, the date of graduation will be taken into account

*****NEW*****

Is there any stipulation with regard to WHERE the Enterprise Partner can be based?

No, Enterprise Partners do not have to be based in the Republic of Ireland to be eligible for the Enterprise Partnership Scheme. However, international Enterprise Partner must be internationally credible, and all Enterprise Partners are subject to a background credit check. Furthermore, international Enterprise Partners may be asked to fulfil their Enterprise Partner contribution (one-third of the overall funding budget per annum) as one payment at the start of the award term. In the event that an Awardee terminates or otherwise completes their Award early, all outstanding funding will be returned to the Enterprise Partner on a pro-rata basis.

*****NEW*****

Would a registered political party be eligible Enterprise Partner?

A registered political party would be considered an eligible public body and a valid Enterprise Partner, however the content of the research detailed in the applicant's research proposal will be taken into account – if there is deemed to be a conflict of interest or similar potential issue in the application, it would be deemed ineligible for funding

2. APPLYING TO THE SCHEME

If my application is successful, is it possible to start my Scholarship earlier than 1st January 2018?

All Scholarships have to start on 1st January 2018, no earlier or later.

*****NEW*****

I am currently undertaking a Master's degree and will graduate at the end of August, however my final results (full academic transcripts) might not be released before the application deadline. What documentation can I use to indicate my academic qualifications?

In the event you are applying before the completion of your degree, you are asked to provide an indicative grade based on your progress to date, previous grades from coursework, etc, and academic transcripts from previous degrees (where applicable). Please ensure that this indicative grade is as accurate as possible – significant differences in results stated during the application versus actual final grade will result in your application being deemed ineligible. If possible, please consult with your academic supervisor(s) to ensure the accuracy of your indicative grade.

3. APPLICATION FORMS

The Financial Justification section on the form refers to research costs for my degree. Should I enter the funding I need for each year of my degree or should I enter the amount needed for the entire degree?

Applicants should indicate the total amount of direct research costs required for the full duration of the degree, up to a maximum of €2,250 per year. All costs should be fully justified as essential to the research proposed.

I have just started my application but the application process looks a little different to previous years.

Applicants are requested to refer closely to the online guides when making their applications. The Guide for Applicants has been designed specifically to aid each applicant and provides a step by step instruction for each part of the online application form.