



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

## 2017 Enterprise Partnership Scheme: Postgraduate Scholarship

### Frequent Asked Questions (FAQs)

The deadline for receipt of FAQs is **16.00 (Irish Time), 9<sup>th</sup> May** 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.

## **2. APPLYING TO THE SCHEME**

**If my application is successful, is it possible to start my Scholarship earlier than 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018?**

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

### 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.