



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

**GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND POSTGRADUATE
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME 2021**

COUNTESS MARKIEVICZ POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN FEMALE LEADERSHIP

THEME INFORMATION



**An Roinn Gnó,
Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta**
Department of Business,
Enterprise and Innovation

1. BACKGROUND

The scholarship was first announced by Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys TD, at the [Countess Markievicz Conference: Celebrating Women Leaders in Ireland in November 2019](#). In advance of the Conference, the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI) commissioned a Behaviour and Attitudes survey among 5th year female students, focusing on their ambitions, aspirations and interest in leadership roles, with a focus on politics and public service. The [findings of this survey](#) will form the basis of the research by the successful applicant and will inform future policy in the area of women in politics and business under the mentorship and guidance of an Expert Advisory Group which will be established to guide the project.

Further to this Conference, and in celebration of the life and legacy of Countess Markievicz, applications to the **Countess Markievicz Postgraduate Scholarship in Female Leadership** are now invited.

2. AIM OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship has the aim of **assisting the development of national policies to increase the participation of women in senior leadership roles**. Specifically, this new scholarship will focus on the themes of **“Women in Business”** and/or **“Women in Politics and Public Life”**. Policy context is as follows:

Increasing the proportion of women in senior management and at board level of Irish companies and increasing the proportion of women in leadership roles in Irish politics are key policy priorities in Ireland.

This scholarship will fund a postgraduate researcher for up to 36 months to undertake cutting-edge doctoral research in line with either of these policy priorities

The successful applicant will be based at their HEI/RPO and will work together with an Expert Advisory Group which will be established by DBEI, for a maximum of 12 hours throughout the scholarship period. With the guidance of the **Expert Advisory Group**, the award holder will formulate an evidence base that supports the development of policy to achieve either or both of the **national policy priorities** outlined above. This is a unique opportunity for a researcher to benefit from guidance and mentorship from key policymakers, gender-equality experts and business leaders.

Applications to conduct research within the context of the [Decade of Centenaries programme](#) and that consider the impacts and legacies of that decade (1912-1923) on the policy priorities of DBEI, from a gender-equality perspective, are particularly welcome.

3. COUNTESS MARKIEVICZ POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN FEMALE LEADERSHIP

Proposal Requirements

- Applications must seek to aid the development of innovative national policies and practises to support the next generation of women leaders.
- Applicants must show how their proposed research furthers the DBEI policy priorities outlined above.
- The successful applicant and the relevant Primary Supervisor will work with the Expert Advisory Group, nominated by DBEI.
- The funded proposal must consist of a new PhD proposal and must be completed within 36 months.
- Progress reports will be shared with DBEI and with the Expert Advisory Group.

4. Expert Advisory Group

DBEI will establish an Expert Advisory Group to guide and support the research project. The Group will be chaired by the Secretary General of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and will be composed of experienced policy makers who are working in relevant policy areas across the public sector.