

**2022 Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme
Frequently Asked Questions**

FAQs will be published every Thursday until 14 October 2021.
New questions will be marked ****New****
Updated questions will be marked ****Updated****

Questions are grouped under the following headings:

1. Eligibility quiz
2. Eligibility
3. Applying to the programme
4. Conditions of award

1. Eligibility quiz

2. Eligibility

I am an Irish citizen but lived in Australia from January 2018 to August 2020. Whilst in Australia I was working full time, primarily as an occupational therapist. As per clause [7.7.8 of the Call Document](#), does this exclude me from being assessed as a category one applicant? If I apply will my application be reviewed under category 2?

As per the Call Document, footnote 8 (page 7), *'Ordinarily resident refers to the applicant's place of legal and permanent residence. This will not be deemed as having been interrupted if an absence from the country of ordinary residency has been caused by the training, education or employment of the applicant or the applicant's spouse or parents.'*

As the potential applicant in question was absent from Ireland for reason of employment, this is not deemed as an interruption of their ordinary residence in Ireland. Therefore, the applicant will be assessed as a category 1 applicant.

A potential applicant has earned a 2.2 bachelor's degree from a university in the past; however, they have since been awarded a first-class (1.1) Higher Diploma from an Irish institution. According to Irish NFQ standards, a Higher Diploma and an Honours bachelor's degree are both listed as level 8. As such, is this student eligible thanks to their 1.1 Higher Diploma?

As per the [Call Document](#), ‘All applicants must have a first class or upper second-class honours bachelor’s, or the equivalent, degree’, and ‘Host institutions are expected to be guided by QQI and the NMQ in terms of the recognition and equivalence of a degree.’

According to Irish NMQ standards, a higher diploma and an honours bachelor’s degree are both listed as level 8. As such, the applicant in question is eligible as a result of their first-class higher diploma.

According to the guide, applications will be deemed ineligible if “the research project as proposed in the application form has previously been funded either in full, or in part, by the Irish Research Council or any other funding agency”. A potential applicant is currently receiving external funding for a research Masters and is looking to transfer it to a PhD and apply to the scholarship to fund the PhD. Can you please confirm if this is permitted, or would they be deemed ineligible due to their Masters being externally funded?

This clause applies to projects that have already been completed, not ongoing projects. Therefore, it does not apply to any applicants currently registered for a master’s or PhD who wish to apply to the programme for funding to complete their degree, or to those who are transferring from a master’s to a PhD.

****New**** 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.

3. Applying to the programme

****New**** Should the applicant be registered in a postgraduate course at an eligible HEI before applying for the scholarship?

Applicants do not have to be a registered student at an eligible HEI before applying for a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship award.

****New**** Can applicants use in-text citations or footnotes with a bibliography as part of the application, and are these included in the word count?

As per the indicative application form, supplementary information such as a bibliography can be uploaded in PDF format. Any information included as part of the PDF upload will not be included in

the word count. Please note that supplementary material should only include essential information required for the interpretation and understanding of the proposed research.

4. Conditions of award