



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

**GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND POSTGRADUATE  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME 2021**

**ANDREW GRENE POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

**THEME INFORMATION**



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

## 1. BACKGROUND

In partnership with the Irish Research Council, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) 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.

Ireland's policy for international development, [A Better World](#), is a whole of government policy for Ireland's international development cooperation. It updates Ireland's traditional focus on 'the poorest of the poor' to realise the pledge of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to reach 'the furthest behind first'.

The vision outlined in *A Better World* is of a more equal, peaceful and sustainable global community. It incorporates Ireland's international development cooperation and humanitarian action, along with human rights, peacekeeping, disarmament and security policies and actions. It commits Ireland to developing regional approaches to dealing with instability and conflict, highlighting specific needs across the African continent, the Middle East, Latin America, Asia and Small Island Developing States.

## 2. ANDREW GRENE POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

### Eligibility

#### 1. Thematic

Applicants' proposed research must be coherent with one or more of the four policy priorities identified in *A Better World*, within the overarching objective to reach those furthest behind first:

- Gender equality;
- Reducing humanitarian need;
- Climate action;
- Strengthened governance.

#### 2. Regional

DFA's preference is that proposals should focus on at least one of Ireland's key partner countries and/or on specific countries supported by Ireland that are affected by conflict and fragility<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Cambodia, Colombia, Laos, Myanmar, Palestine, Vietnam; [Small Island Developing States](#).

DFA will award funding to successful proposals that focus on one of the two following areas:

**a. Women, peace and security**

Ireland's [Third National Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions](#) (known collectively as the Women, Peace and Security Agenda), was launched in June 2019. The National Action Plan (NAP), which aligns closely with *A Better World*, sets out how Ireland will continue and enhance its implementation of the WPS agenda across the four pillars of Prevention, Participation, Protection and Promotion and will run for a five-year period from 2019-2024. The NAP is a key instrument in driving Ireland's strong commitment to gender equality in fragile and conflict affected contexts, including:

- strengthening women's leadership and meaningful participation in peace processes, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention;
- addressing root causes of conflict;
- strengthening protection of women and girls from conflict related harm;
- promoting a gender perspective and expertise in peace and security.

Research is encouraged in particular in improving the evidence-base for women's participation in decision-making around peace and security, and in understanding the impact of harmful social norms - including masculinities and discriminatory gender norms - on gender equality and on positive engagement of men and boys as stakeholders and advocates for supporting the WPS agenda.

**b. 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, and by the crucial role played by women in reconciliation processes. 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 relation to Ireland's key partner countries and specific countries affected by conflict and fragility<sup>2</sup>.

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