



Irish Cancer Society Research

PhD Scholarship Programme 2025

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Who can apply? | 2 |
| Research Project Eligibility..... | 4 |
| Supervision | 5 |
| Funding..... | 7 |
| Application Deadline..... | 9 |
| Progression to Interview | 10 |
| Start of Research Scholarship Programme | 10 |



Who can apply?

1. I have a degree in e.g. microbiology. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, this award is open to all graduates with a relevant background in either the translational, clinical research or survivorship space, e.g. biomedical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, nursing, mid-wifery, psycho-social, occupational therapy, psychology, dietetics, radiology, genetic counselling, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, life sciences, dentistry or medicine graduates. If you have any further queries about your eligibility, email grants@irishcancer.ie for guidance.

2. Can a student with only a 2.2 honours degree or lower apply for a Scholarship?

No, you must have obtained (or expect to obtain) a first or upper second class honours bachelor degree to apply for a scholarship.

3. I received a 2.2 in my undergraduate degree but received a distinction- or merit-level master's degree, am I eligible to apply?

Yes, you can apply if you have a distinction- or merit-level master's degree.

4. Are the scholarships available for students to study abroad?

No, the research must take place at a host institution in the Republic of Ireland. This must be one of the HRB's approved host institutions as outlined in our guidelines. A national or international mobility element is included in this Scholarship, for up to 3 months, which permits a short placement abroad and should be conducted within the first 3 years of starting the programme.

5. Are non-Irish citizens living in Ireland eligible to apply?

Yes, if you are a non-Irish citizen but are eligible to study in Ireland, and you meet the eligibility criteria, you can apply for a Scholarship. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure they are eligible to study in Ireland.



6. I completed my Bachelor's and/ or my Master's internationally. How do I translate my grades?

Please contact the international office of those universities as they are best placed to advise.

7. Are Scholarships open to individuals looking to study in Northern Ireland?

No.

8. Can I apply for funding if I have already begun my PhD?

No, you can only apply for a scholarship if you have not yet commenced your PhD.

9. Is there an upper age limit to the application?

No, there is no upper age limit.

10. I completed my undergraduate degree a number of years ago, am I still eligible?

You will be eligible if you have been working in a field relevant to your proposed PhD study *i.e.* displaying maintenance of the skills and knowledge gained during your undergraduate studies. To discuss eligibility in such cases, please contact grants@irishcancer.ie.

11. Can medical doctors apply for the PhD Scholarship?

Yes, medical doctors may apply for the scholarship. However, the proposed project must be in the area of one of the Irish Cancer Society's strategic research themes.

12. I wish to complete my PhD in 3 years, can I apply?

Yes, the Scholarship may be completed over 3 or 4 years in a full-time capacity. Please check with your proposed Host Institution to confirm it permits PhDs of 3 years.



Research Project Eligibility

1. What type of projects are eligible?

All proposals must be aligned with the [Society's Strategy \(2020-2025\)](#) and its [Research Roadmap](#) (please ensure you refer to these documents prior to submitting an application). Proposed projects must address our strategic priorities AND be in either: a) translational biomedical research, b) clinical trials/clinical research or c) survivorship. Projects may also address strategic priorities. Please refer to the Application Guidelines document for further information on this call.

If you are unsure of your project eligibility, please contact grants@irishcancer.ie

2. I am unsure if my project is eligible, how do I ask for advice?

If you have any concerns please contact grants@irishcancer.ie.



Supervision

1. Can a supervisor sponsor more than one student for separate projects who are both applying for a Scholarship?

Yes, a supervisor can sponsor more than one scholarship applicant.

2. Can a supervisor sponsor a project more than once but with different applicants who are both applying for a Scholarship?

No, a project cannot be submitted more than once. Applications with the same project from different applicants will be automatically discounted.

3. Is it necessary to have two supervisors?

Yes, two supervisors must be identified when completing your application through the Irish Cancer Society [Gateway Grant Tracker](#) online system. The primary supervisor may be able to suggest a secondary supervisor.

4. What is the purpose of having two supervisors?

It is often good practice for there to be two supervisors for every student, as it provides back up for those situations where one supervisor is ill, leaves, or issues arise with the supervisor-student relationship. In addition, it can provide breadth and support to the project. It is important that all supervisors are aware that they have a responsibility for the student and there is no scope for nominal supervision.

The role of each supervisor will vary according to the research project. In many cases one supervisor will play a major role in directing the research and the role of the second supervisor will be more supportive. However, both supervisors have a responsibility for the student's progress and will be expected to take an active role in the supervision process.



One supervisor may have a minimum of 1 year's post-doctoral experience. In this case, we are encouraging more junior members of research teams to be actively involved in the research project and to be recognised as a supervisor.

5. Can there be more than two supervisors?

You can include additional supervisors but they must have a documented and active role in the research as collaborators. Such proposed relationships should be described in the application.

6. Do supervisors need to be permanent members of staff?

The most experienced supervisor must hold a post at the proposed host research institute that covers the duration of the scholarship.

Ideally the second supervisor should also hold a contract for the duration of the PhD. However, given this person is only required to have 1 year postdoctoral experience, we will consider any co-supervisor who can demonstrate their commitment to the supervision of the student throughout the whole study period.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their supervisors also meet the host institution's requirements for a research supervisor.

7. Why do I need to submit CVs for my two proposed supervisors as part of the application process?

The research track record of the supervisors, relative to their career stage, will be assessed as part of the overall research scholarship application.



Funding

1. Is there an overall limit for the amount of funding granted?

The total value of the Irish Cancer Society PhD Scholarship 2025 covers stipend, fees, running costs, equipment, materials, training, travel & dissemination, mobility element (see next paragraph) and Patient Partnership will be **€180,000 total**. A mandatory provision of €1,500 is also included within this budget to support Patient Partnership in the proposed research project.

The mobility element funding is worth up to a maximum of €5,000 and will be available to successful applicants (this is included in the total €180,000 budget). This important element is intended to provide awardees experience that goes beyond the traditional research environment in developing the awardee's career. In order to encourage well-rounded researchers with varied experiences, applicants are required to develop a mobility or capacity building element as part of their award application.

Please note that full details of budget guidelines are provided in the full application guidelines and appendices of this funding award.

2. How many Irish Cancer Society Scholarships are available?

There is one Irish Cancer Society Scholarship available in 2025. The application of the highest quality will be awarded funding, regardless of cancer type or research theme.

3. Does the grant cover host institute overheads?

As a charity, the Irish Cancer Society is not in a position to pay for host institution overheads for its research funding.

4. Are there any budget stipulations specific to this call?



Yes, there are multiple budget stipulations to this call:

- The PhD stipend must be a minimum rate of €22,000 per year for full-time applicants.
- A minimum provision of €1,500 must be allocated to Patient Partnership costs.
- Translational projects have a maximum budget of €40,000 for wet-lab consumables and materials.
- Costs for conference attendance must be included for each year of this Scholarship in the Travel and Dissemination budget. Costs for presentation of research from this scholarship must be included for at least 1 year (e.g., poster printing).

If you have any questions about the budget for this call, please contact grants@irishcancer.ie.



Application Deadline

1. When do complete applications need to be in by?

Intention to submit forms must be emailed to grants@irishcancer.ie by 3pm Wednesday 5th March 2025. This template can be found on the call website.

Full applications must be submitted online through [Gateway Grant Tracker](#) by **3pm Tuesday 1st April 2025**. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered. If you have any concerns, please contact grants@irishcancer.ie.

2. Do the signatories have to approve the application by this deadline?

Yes. All signatories (your two proposed supervisors) must approve the application by this deadline. They can do this through their online portal. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their application is approved by all signatories before the deadline. Please ensure that the application is submitted with sufficient time allowed for the signatory to approve.



Progression to Interview

1. Will the application review process be exactly as outlined in the guidance document?

This document is used for guidance only. The Irish Cancer Society reserves the right to modify the review process. Applicants however will be notified of any relevant modification to the review procedure.

2. When will applicants find out if they have been invited to interview?

Applicants will find out if they have been shortlisted to interview in early May 2025. Interviews will be conducted mid to late May 2025. Comments from the review of the application will be passed on to applicants, to be addressed during the interview. These interviews will be held virtually.

Start of Research Scholarship Programme

1. When does the successful Research Scholar commence their programme?

The successful Research Scholar will begin their PhD from September 2025. If you have any queries about start dates, please contact grants@irishcancer.ie.