Daniel O’Hare PhD Scholarship Scheme 2013
Guidelines for Applicants
DCU DANIEL O’HARE PHD SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME 2013
GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

OVERVIEW:
In honour of the contribution of its founding president Dr Daniel O’Hare, a total of four PhD scholarships will be offered to fund research in DCU’s ‘Priority Themes’ of Grand Challenges and Sustainability, Enterprise and Internationalisation, to commence in the academic year 2013-14. One scholarship will be awarded per DCU Faculty: one in the Faculty of Science and Health, one in the Faculty of Engineering and Computing, one in DCU Business School, and one in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Successful candidates will be known as “O’Hare Scholars” and will be paid a stipend of €16,000 per annum for three years in addition to payment of their DCU fees.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:
- Successful applicants will be expected to have a first or upper second class honours primary degree or equivalent. Students in the final year of their undergraduate degree may also apply, and may be short-listed pending outcome of their final results.
- 2013 DCU Daniel O’Hare PhD Scholarships will be awarded only to those who register as full-time PhD students in DCU for the period of the award.
- The 2013 DCU Daniel O’Hare PhD Scholarship scheme will not accept applications from any person registered as a DCU PhD student prior to 31st March 2013.
- The four winners of the 2013 DCU Daniel O’Hare PhD Scholarship must apply to and register with DCU as full-time, first year, PhD students between 1st April 2013 and 31st December 2013.
- 2013 O’Hare Scholars cannot be in receipt of another financial award greater than €4,000 per annum during the period of their scholarship.
- The project outlined in the Research Proposal must have been discussed and agreed with a DCU supervisor and have secured their approval in advance of making the application.
- The project should focus on at least one of DCU’s three ‘Priority Themes’: Grand Challenges and Sustainability, Enterprise, Internationalisation.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDELINES:
All 2013 DCU Daniel O’Hare PhD Scholarship applicants are required to submit the following documentation in soft copy as a single PDF file.

1. A fully completed 2013 DCU Daniel O’Hare PhD Scholarship Application Form with answers typed directly onto the form. Signatures for you, your proposed DCU supervisor and proposed DCU Head of School are also required for your application to be accepted as complete.
2. Scanned copies of academic transcripts of results for all years of your undergraduate and, where applicable, postgraduate degrees. Short-listed applicants (two-stage evaluation process) and final stage applicants (one-stage process) will be required to provide at short notice original and notarized copies of academic transcripts for all years of undergraduate and, where applicable, postgraduate degrees. If you are in the final year of your undergraduate degree and your results are pending, please indicate this on the application form and indicate the expected date of release of results, and provide transcripts which are available.
3. Scanned copies of two signed academic reference letters, one from each of two independent referees who have recent knowledge of your achievements. Note that your proposed DCU supervisor can also act as a referee. [A referee/s may instead submit a HARD COPY of the academic reference letter to the Graduate Studies Office. This must be in a sealed envelope with the applicant’s name clearly printed on front and must arrive by the application deadline of 12 midday GMT on Thursday 18th April. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that this is submitted on time]. The academic transcripts and two reference letters are to be included at the end of the single PDF file.

For more detail on the specific requirements of the application please see the 2013 DCU Daniel O’Hare PhD Scholarship Application Form.

Applications must be received, in full, by 12 midday GMT on Thursday 18th April. Applications should be submitted as a single PDF file in soft copy by email to ohare.scholars@dcu.ie. The file should be named as surname_firstname_OHare 2013.pdf. Late applications will not be accepted, and incomplete applications cannot be forwarded to the evaluation phase. DCU Graduate Studies Office will acknowledge receipt of your application by email. Should you choose to withdraw your application after submission, please inform the Graduate Studies Office by email at your earliest convenience.

Where DCU has endorsed what proves to be a successful funding application from an applicant to another funding scheme, an OFFER of funding from the external agency will take precedence over the applicant’s O’Hare submission. In order to maximise the number of funded students in DCU, the Graduate Studies Office reserves the right in such cases to withdraw the application from consideration for the O’Hare scholarship.

**ASSESSMENT PROCESS:**

Applications will be assessed by a panel of evaluators in the relevant Faculty according to the specific weightings given to each of three sections of the application as follows (for more information on these please see below):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPLICATION FORM SECTION</th>
<th>WEIGHTING¹</th>
<th>THRESHOLD²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Biographical &amp; Application Information</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Academic Record (eg. grades, prior experience &amp; academic references)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Research Proposal</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Thematic Statement (alignment of research proposal with at least one of the Priority Themes)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Signatures</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Although no weighting is given to Sections 1 or 5, these sections must be completed for the application to be considered. ²In order to maintain the focus of the scholarship scheme, only candidates who score >5/10 on the ‘Thematic Statement’ will be considered.

Some Faculties will undertake a two-stage evaluation process in which a shortlist of candidates is compiled in the first stage, and a final decision is made on the basis of pending exam results and possibly an interview. Other Faculties will make decisions in a single-stage process. Candidates
whose applications have not been shortlisted will be notified by Thursday 13\textsuperscript{th} June. Final results of the 2013 DCU Daniel O’Hare PhD Scholarship scheme will be announced by early August 2013 at the latest.

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\textbf{DATES:}
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Call opens: & Thursday 7th March 2013 \\
Closing date for receipt of applications: & Thursday 18\textsuperscript{th} April 2013 (12 midday GMT) \\
Candidates whose applications have not been shortlisted notified: & Thursday 13\textsuperscript{th} June \\
Final confirmation of results: & early August 2013 at latest \\
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\begin{center}
\textbf{ENQUIRIES:}
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All enquiries on the 2013 DCU Daniel O’Hare PhD Scholarship Scheme can be directed as follows:
- Email: ohare.scholars@dcu.ie
- Telephone: +3531 700 5136
NOTES ON SECTION 2: ACADEMIC RECORD
This section of your application is worth 50% of the overall marks, reflecting the emphasis on awarding the scholarships to exceptional candidates. Evaluators will obviously consider such factors as academic grades, class position and previous academic awards. However, the following are also important: input from academic referees, evidence of particular suitability to research work, relevant work or professional experience and any specific personal motivation to pursue a higher degree by research, and your longer term career plans. Include any information that you feel the evaluators should know about you which would strengthen your case and which you feel would make your application stand out. Please type your information directly onto the application form and expand as required, while respecting the word limitations.

You must include a results transcript for each year of your undergraduate and, where applicable, postgraduate degrees. Copies of these transcripts should be scanned, appended to, and submitted in soft copy as part of your application file (to be submitted at the end of the soft copy PDF file along with references). If you are in the final year of your undergraduate degree and your results are pending, please make sure to indicate this very clearly on the application form and also indicate the expected date of your results.

Your application must include two signed academic reference letters by two independent referees who have recent knowledge of your achievements. Your proposed DCU supervisor can act as a referee. The letters should comment on your academic ability, your aptitude to undertake a research degree in your chosen area of research, and your suitability to be considered for the 2013 DCU Daniel O’Hare PhD Scholarship.

NOTES ON SECTION 3: RESEARCH PROPOSAL
This section of your application is worth 40% of the overall marks, as only projects which are well thought through, innovative and substantial will be supported. The Research Proposal should be approximately 1,500 words in length (+/- 10%) and should address the following issues:

- The basis for the proposed research
- The specific research question being addressed / the objectives of the proposed research
- The research methodology to be employed
- The impact the work will have

It may also be relevant to comment on why you have chosen this particular research supervisor and why you have chosen DCU to pursue this project.

Please type your Research Proposal directly onto the application form – it can be as many pages long as necessary but should not exceed the specified word limit. Please ensure to include a list of relevant publications / references on which your proposed research is based – note that these are not included in your 1,500 word count.

NOTES ON SECTION 4: THEMATIC STATEMENT
This section of your application is worth 10% of the overall marks, but has a minimum threshold of 5/10 to ensure that only projects aligned with DCU priorities are supported. The Thematic Statement should be approximately 500 words in length (+/- 10%) and should explain how your proposed research is aligned with at least one of DCU’s ‘Priority Themes’: Grand Challenges and Sustainability, Enterprise and Internationalisation. Bibliographic information can be included in this
section and will not be included in the word count. Further details on the themes are given in the following pages.

Please type your statement directly onto the application form – you can use as many pages as necessary but you should not exceed the specified word limit.
DCU’s mission and new university strategic plan identify engagement with grand challenges of global significance as a key element. Both creating and translating knowledge to address these challenges are emphasised as being important. The range and exact definition of these challenges varies but the European Union, in framing its Horizon 2020 programme, does give an overview of the areas, including areas of significant overlap with research in DCU such as:

- climate change
- energy security
- food security
- health
- aging population

These topics relate a wide range of research activity within the university, around societal resilience, sustainability (in its various guises), energy, security, health, sensing, diagnostics etc. Strengthening of DCU research around such areas aligned with the EU Horizon 2020 priorities will help to position DCU as a key player for involvement in the various national and international funding instruments.

Applicants should make a case within these areas when preparing their thematic statement to demonstrate how their proposed research is aligned with the Grand challenges and Sustainability (Horizon 2020) ‘priority themes’ and should endeavour to support this case by reference to relevant documentation.

DCU is actively seeking to recruit high calibre PhD students with interests in these fields. We are interested in developing research proposals which will strengthen our research agenda and our profile in these areas. Successful applicants will be part of a vibrant research community, will receive quality supervision and have access to a rigorous and supportive PhD training programme. We aim to both produce high quality research and also equip our PhD graduates for transition to careers in universities and the private and voluntary sectors.

Useful documents include:


Horizon 2020 information

Priority theme 2

Enterprise

Unlocking the ‘Ideas Potential’

It is a core principle of the DCU Strategic Plan that we deeply engage with enterprise (social, cultural and commercial) both in Ireland and abroad. Central to DCU’s mission as the University of Enterprise therefore is undertaking of research of direct and significant relevance to practice within enterprises, and to enterprise development. DCU is committed to research undertaken in collaboration with enterprises, and in research programmes which underpin the processes of innovation and enterprise development.

Enterprises depend on the successful production, assimilation and exploitation of novelty in the economic and social spheres, bringing in changes that create a new dimension of performance, or finding solutions to unmet needs, or process improvements which are non-incremental. As such, projects to support enterprises can be across a range of social, economic, legal and technical contexts. This research is often closely linked to innovation in products, processes and business models, core to organisational survival and growth.

The ‘enterprise’ research theme includes, but is not limited to,

- Research undertaken in partnership with external social, cultural, commercial or industrial organisations

and research on issues such as:

- How organisations manage innovation
- The processes of development and translation of scientific knowledge into commercial applications
- Entrepreneurship (including drivers such as diversity or multidisciplinarity)

Applicants may wish make a case within these, or other areas when preparing their thematic statement to demonstrate how their proposed research is aligned with the Enterprise priority theme.

DCU is actively seeking to recruit high calibre PhD students with interests in this area. We are interested in developing research proposals which will strengthen our research agenda and our profile on enterprise and enterprise engagement. Successful applicants will be part of a vibrant research community, will receive quality supervision and have access to a rigorous and supportive PhD training programme. We aim to both produce high quality research and also equip our PhD graduates for transition to careers in universities and the private and voluntary sectors.

Useful document:

Priority theme 3

Internationalisation

Understanding the Global Arena

DCU is committed to an active research programme which analyses the impact of increasing internationalisation on society. We define this agenda broadly to include research into the nature of major global events such as the financial crisis, international migration flows, development and security challenges and also the impacts of international norms and pressures on national policy arenas in areas as diverse as media, education, language development, law, business, economics and politics.

This research agenda is of crucial importance in Ireland, as a small country with a very open economy and an increasingly diverse society. Irish universities need to feed into world class international research programmes which provide an up to date knowledge base and analysis. As a member of the European Union, a significant donor on global development, an active member of the United Nations and as a country that has been both a source of migrants to other countries and a recipient of migrants from many other states, Irish government, business and society needs to engage with the major global societal challenges of our time in areas such as intercultural issues, international relations, the internationalisation of organisations and business and technologies, media and communications and environmental pressures. We need to analyse these challenges through the lens of a range of disciplines including languages and culture, politics, political economy, business, law, communications and education.

Applicants may wish make a case within these, or other, areas when preparing their thematic statement to demonstrate how their proposed research is aligned with the Internationalisation ‘priority theme’.

DCU is actively seeking to recruit high calibre PhD students with interests in this area. We are interested in developing research proposals which will strengthen our research agenda and our profile on internationalisation. Successful applicants will be part of a vibrant research community, will receive quality supervision and have access to a rigorous and supportive PhD training programme. We aim to both produce high quality research and also equip our PhD graduates for transition to careers in universities and the private and voluntary sectors.

Useful document: