

2015 Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme:

Frequent Asked Questions (FAQs)

Version 6 – 02.02.2015

The deadline for receipt of FAQs is **16.00 (GMT), 04/02/2015**. FAQs must be submitted no later than this date.

Similar questions have been grouped below in the following themes:

1. Eligibility
2. Duration of Funding
3. Applying to the Scheme
4. Application Forms

1. ELIGIBILITY

*****New***** I am already registered for a PhD (year one). This year I am being funded from a non-HEI source but I may have to self-fund/apply to SUSI for subsequent years. Am I eligible to apply for the scheme on this basis or do I have to wait and prove that I have been self-funded/received support from SUSI before making an application in a subsequent year?

From the information provided regarding the first year of funding being from a non-HEI source, you are not eligible to apply to the scheme, as this is not included in the criteria under Clause 4.4.1 - 4.4.4 for the scheme.

*****New***** A part-time PhD student registered in January 2013. The student's part-time fees have been funded by Failte Ireland in 2014 and 2015. The applicant is not an employee of Failte Ireland. Failte Ireland has not committed to paying the student's in order for them to complete their PhD and over the coming years there is no commitment to do so. The applicant wishes to apply for an IRC postgraduate scholarship, and if successful, would become a full-time student. The applicant wishes to confirm that they are eligible to apply (and understands that they cannot be double funded for their postgraduate study).

Funding from Failte Ireland does not fall within the criteria specified in Clauses 4.4.1-4.4.4 of the Terms and Conditions, and so in this case the student is not eligible to apply for the scheme.

*****New***** I am in receipt of a non-HEI scholarship but have also received a research demonstrating payment from my School. Does this make me eligible to apply under clause 4.4.3 *A scholar who has completed part of the degree on the basis of being in receipt of a HEI-funded bursary or scholarship.*

Non-HEI funded scholarships do not fall within the criteria specified in Clauses 4.4.1 - 4.4.4 of the Terms and Conditions, and so in this case you are not eligible to apply for the scheme.

The terms and conditions state that scholars must not be a permanent member of staff in a HEI. I am currently on a 3-year Career Break from a HEI and I am self-funding my PhD. Am I eligible to apply?

Permanent members of staff in an Irish or international HEI are not eligible to apply. This includes permanent members of staff currently on career breaks.

As a member of staff on a four year contract I assume I am not considered a permanent member of staff in an Irish HEI and would therefore not be disqualified on this condition. Can you confirm?

A potential applicant to the Government of Ireland's Postgraduate scheme is currently employed in a HEI on a fixed term contract basis. To be eligible to apply to the scheme it is noted that applicants cannot be 'permanent' employees. The applicant wishes to confirm their eligibility to apply to the scheme and understands that if they were successful they would have to resign from their fixed term contract position.

For the 2015 call, those on temporary or fixed term contracts can apply to the Scheme.

I am a postgraduate student funded for 18 months as part of an EU Marie Curie Initial Training Network. This funding expires at the end of February 2015. Am I eligible to apply for a PhD scholarship.

Marie Curie Initial Training Network does not fall within the criteria specified in Clauses 4.4.1-4.4.4 of the Terms and Conditions, and so in this case you are not eligible to apply for the scheme.

A potential applicant registered for his Research Masters degree programme in March 2014 funded through a 24 month HEI scholarship award and now intends to transfer to the PhD register. Is he eligible to apply for GOI funding for a traditional Doctoral degree under Clause 4.4.3 and what is the duration of funding he is eligible to apply for?

The duration of funding is determined by the degree type and the date of first registration. Please see the table on page 5 of the Terms and Conditions for full details. In this case, the applicant must be formally accepted to the PhD register by, at the latest, 1st October 2015. The applicant meets the criteria under Clause 4.4.3 for the scheme, and a date of first registration of March 2014 for a traditional PhD would indicate a funding duration of 12 months.

I intend to apply to the current Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scheme. Can I also apply to the Enterprise Partnership Scheme in March if we secure the support of an Enterprise Partner – currently under discussion?

Applicants may only be considered by the Council for one postgraduate scheme at a time and may not apply for calls which are concurrently open. The EPS will open in March 2015 and will run concurrently with the current GOI scheme.

Two Irish HEIs wish to jointly supervise a PhD student on the following basis: joint responsibility for the supervision of the student; division of student fee between the two HEIs; student's time divided between both HEIs; student to

receive a joint HEIs award. Under the current application process one Supervisor has to submit a Supervisor Form and this Supervisor's HEI take responsibility for the student. It is appreciated that co-supervision is allowed. Two questions are asked (i) using the existing IRC system but including the name of a second HEIs as a co-supervisor is it possible, if successful, for both HEIs to give a joint Award, share responsibility, divide fee etc (ii) is it possible under the existing IRC system to make a joint application with both HEIs taking equal responsibility for the scholarship, etc.

While the Council allow for co-supervision of scholars, applications for joint PhDs through two host institutions are not supported.

We have a prospective applicant who registered as a Research Master's student in October 2012. She transferred to the PhD register from the Masters Register in September 2013. Is this prospective applicant eligible to apply for funding to complete her doctorate, and if so, for how long?

The duration of funding is determined by the degree type and the date of first registration. Please see the table on page 5 of the Terms and Conditions for full details. In this case, if the applicant meets the criteria under Clause 4.4 for the scheme, they would be eligible to apply for one year funding for a Structured PhD only.

A candidate fulfills clauses 4.1 - 4.4.4 inclusive of the IRC GOV Ts and Cs. They are currently in the second year of their masters degree with the intention of transferring to the PhD track. Can they apply for 2 years funding to transfer to the PhD Track (i.e. 4 years total postgraduate research on a structured programme leading to the award of PhD) or must they complete the masters degree and embark on a new PhD programme under this scheme?

The duration of funding is determined by the degree type and the date of first registration. Please see the table on page 5 of the Terms and Conditions for full details on this. In this case, the applicant must be formally accepted to the PhD register by, at the latest, 1st October 2015. The date of first registration will determine the funding amount the applicant is eligible for.

A potential applicant is currently completing the final year of a four-year integrated BSc/Masters degree. Although she now has the equivalent of a BSc and has received a 1st for each year (degree transcript of her grades available), she will not graduate until July 2015 when she gets a qualification which covers all four years. Is she eligible to apply to this year's scheme?

As per the Terms and Conditions of the scheme, scholars must have a first class or upper second-class honours primary degree, or the equivalent. If examination results are not known at the time of application, the Council may make a provisional offer of a Scholarship on condition that the Scholar's undergraduate degree result is a first class- or upper second-class honours, or the equivalent. Transcripts of the academic record must be forwarded to the Council for inspection before the Scholarship can commence.

Can I apply to both the Employment Based Postgraduate Scheme and the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scheme or must I choose one?

Applicants may apply to either the Employment Based Postgraduate Scheme or the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scheme, but not both.

We have a couple of potential applicants interested in applying for a Gol PhD scholarship. They are currently doing a taught masters. The course work for the masters finishes in May 2015 and they have to hand in a thesis in September 2015 but they won't have their results before December 2015/January 2016. Are they eligible to apply to the current PhD scholarship call?

It is not necessary to hold a Masters degree in order to apply for the scheme, however as per the Eligibility Flowchart on page 3 of the Guide for Applicants, applicants must have a 1st or upper 2nd class honours primary degree OR have completed a Masters Degree to be eligible for the scheme.

In this instance, as the potential applicants will not have completed their Masters at the time of application they must have a 1st or upper 2nd class honours primary degree to be eligible for the scheme.

Are part-time students eligible to apply for the scheme under the conditions that they change their registration status back to full-time if their application is successful.

I am currently registered for my Phd part-time (self funded) but I intend to register Full time from Sept/October 2015 – am I eligible to apply?

Students who have already registered and part-completed their degree, on either a full or part time basis, are not eligible to apply for funding unless they fall within clauses 4.4.1 - 4.4.4 on page 4 of the Terms and Conditions. A part-time student who falls within these clauses and is thus eligible to apply must register as a full-time student if successful in their application to the scheme.

A student wishes to apply for IRC funding to transfer from a Masters to a Phd programme. They were funded by the Department of Agriculture for their Masters.

I am now in my third year of my PhD. My first year was self-funded. During my second year I was in receipt of a stipend from an SFI funded project that was excess from another PhD student. This year I am self funded. Am I eligible to apply for my final year?

Scholars who have already registered and part-completed their degree are not eligible to apply for funding unless they fall within clauses 4.4.1 - 4.4.4 on page 4 of the Terms and Conditions. In these instances, applicants would not be eligible for funding as funding from the Department of Agriculture or from national funding agencies such as SFI are not included in these clauses.

We have a admin member of staff interested in pursuing a PhD but the T&C state that scholars must not be a permanent member of staff in an HEI or in a non-Irish based research body or HEI. Does this apply to all categories of staff?

Yes, this applies to all categories of staff.

We have researcher which graduated with a 2.2 fifteen years ago. Since then they have receive a distinction in a Postgraduate HDip in Montessori Education and 1st Class Hons in Field Ecology Dip and they also have 8 years' experience working/volunteering in the field they wish to carry out their research in. Are they eligible to apply for a Gol PG scholarship?

As per the Eligibility Flowchart on page 3 of the Guide for Applicants, applicants must have a 1st or upper 2nd class honours primary degree OR have completed a Masters Degree to be eligible for the scheme.

Is it necessary to hold a Masters degree in order to apply for a postgraduate scholarship to undertake a PhD.?

It is not necessary to hold a Masters degree in order to apply for the scheme.

I would like to pursue a joint PhD with an Irish HEI as lead institution and a non-European university as a partner institution. Regulation governing joint PhDs at the proposed Irish HEI requires that at least one academic year is spent at the partner institution - either a full academic year at a time or two semesters over the duration of the programme. I meet all eligibility requirements outlined in the Ts&Cs. Am I eligible for GOI PG to pursue a joint PhD?

Updated 15.01.2015: In relation to joint PhD question, the situation actually is that the student would be registered at the Irish HEI even during the time spent at the partner institution, and will continue to be supervised by the Irish supervisor. Such student would therefore be affiliated with the Irish HEI for the overall duration of the joint PhD programme.

As per the Terms & Conditions for the scheme, successful scholars must be full time affiliated with an eligible HEI in Ireland. In this case, the applicant would not be eligible to apply to the scheme.

Updated 15.01.2015: As per the Terms and Conditions of the scheme, scholars must maintain her/her principal residence in Ireland during the period of the Scholarship.

I am interested in studying in Ireland for a Masters under the Irish Research Council. I intend to study at UCD Dublin for the above program. This program is part taught and part research by dissertation. I am eligible to apply to study for this program, or does it have to be a full research degree?

Applicants may apply for funding for any disciplines but applications to pursue taught degrees or degrees where a thesis/accumulated papers are valued at 60% or less of the final mark of the degree are not eligible.

How do I find out if I'm eligible to apply for this Scheme?

Please see the Eligibility Flowchart on page 3 of the Guide for Applicants.

Some first - year post grad students, currently pursuing their PhD, are in receipt of a Research Demonstratorship. This is a College funded award. I would like to know if this award falls under the HEI award stated in sub clause 4.4.3 "*A Scholar who has completed part of the degree on the basis of being in receipt of a HEI-funded bursary or scholarship*" and therefore these students are eligible to apply for funding for their 2nd and subsequent years as part of a four year structured PhD programme.

Scholars who have part-completed their degree and are in receipt of a HEI-funded bursary or scholarship are eligible to apply. The award mentioned, as an institutionally funded award, fulfils this criteria. The applicant must also fulfil all other eligibility criteria as per the Eligibility Flowchart, page 3, Guide for Applicants.

- Currently I am a holder of EMBARK PG3 transfer award. I was registered on the 1st of September 2012 for Traditional Doctoral Degree program. That time Structured Doctoral Degree program was not available in the DIT.

My funding will finish on the 1st of September 2015, thus the duration of my funding is 36 months. Now Structured Doctoral Degree Program is available in DIT. I have been registered on Structured Doctoral Degree program and have already passed 4 modules...I would like to know if I am eligible to apply for 1 year extension of funding as now I am registered on Structured Doctoral Degree program with 48 month duration.

- A researcher has received funding under the EMBARK scheme for three years which will cease on 1 September 2015. As the researcher is registered on a four year structured PhD programme, are they eligible to apply to the IRC's GOI Postgraduate Scholarship scheme for one year of funding, commencing October 2015, to enable them to complete the structured PhD?

A scholar who holds or previously held a Council Postgraduate Scholarship to do a Doctoral degree (including those funded through IRCSET or IRCHSS) is not eligible to apply for the scheme.

The scholar must also fulfil all other eligibility criteria as per the Eligibility Flowchart, page 3, Guide for Applicants.

It states in the Terms and Conditions (5.3.1) that scholars must not be a permanent member of staff in an HEI or in a non-Irish based research body or HEI. Can you clarify if this relates to employment status at the time of application or, if successful, employment status on 1st October 2015 when commencing the scholarship?

This refers to employment status both at the time of application and at date of scholarship commencement, 1st October 2015.

Scholars who are already registered for one of the degrees listed in the table on page 5 of the Terms and Conditions are not eligible for funding unless they fall within clauses 4.4.1-4.4.4.

Are scholars funded through the Institutes of Technology Ireland (IOTI) Postgraduate Scholarship Initiative (provides funding for two years to conduct a Masters) eligible to apply and if so, are they only eligible to apply for year 3 (PhD) funding or can they apply for funding of the 2nd and 3rd year of their postgraduate degree if currently in year 1 having commenced in Sept/Oct 2014?

For example, if a student commenced their postgraduate degree on 1st October 2014, funded by the IOTI for 24 months, can they apply now under the Government of Ireland Scheme to do a PhD and request 24 months' funding? If yes, would they be able to hold both the final 12 months of IOTI funding plus the IRC award, or would they have to forgo the second years' IOTI funding?

Scholars who are funded through the IOTI Postgraduate Scholarship Initiative to do a Masters are eligible to apply for doctoral funding as a new entrant to the degree to which they are seeking funding. The applicant must complete their Masters in order to apply for a PhD under this scheme, and must be formally accepted by the relevant department/school for the degree for which they are to receive council funding by, at the latest, 1st October 2015. The scholar must also fulfil all other eligibility criteria as per the Eligibility Flowchart, page 3, Guide for Applicants.

However, if the student is transferring to a PhD (i.e. they are not a new entrant for the degree to which they are seeking funding) they cannot apply for part-funding as they do not meet the criteria in Clauses 4.4 on page 5 of the Terms and Conditions.

I am currently on a funded 2 yr Masters research project with UCD and the EPA. The funding ends on the 1st June 2015. I would like to continue with the research and complete a PhD over another 2 yrs. Although I have read the terms and conditions, I am unsure if I am still eligible to apply for funding with the IRC. Could this matter be clarified please before I commit to assigning referees and completing the application process.

Scholars who have already registered and part-completed their degree are not eligible to apply for funding unless they fall within clauses 4.4.1 - 4.4.4 on page 4 of the Terms and Conditions. In this instance, you would not be eligible for funding as national funding agencies (such as the EPA) are not included in these clauses.

If a student is beginning a two-year Research Masters Degree programme in January 2015 is that student eligible to apply for the scheme?

The applicant would be eligible to apply for one year of funding (see table in Terms & Conditions, page 5, for full information on duration of funding). The applicant must also fulfil all other eligibility criteria as per the Eligibility Flowchart, page 3, Guide for Applicants.

- Is a current Master's student who plans to upgrade to PhD (but who hasn't as yet) eligible to apply for the PhD scholarship?
- If a student begins their postgraduate study on the Masters Register and is expected to undertake an upgrade from the Masters to PhD register within 18 months of commencement, is that student eligible to apply for one year of funding as a Masters student and also apply for funding for doctoral research under the scheme?

Applicants may only apply for either a Research Masters or Doctoral degree.

The applicant must complete their Masters in order to apply for a PhD under this scheme, and must be formally accepted by the relevant department/school for the degree for which they are to receive council funding by, at the latest, 1st October 2015. The scholar must also fulfil all other eligibility criteria as per the Eligibility Flowchart, page 3, Guide for Applicants.

However, if the student is transferring to a PhD (i.e. they have already registered and part-completed their degree to which they are seeking funding) they are not eligible to apply for funding unless they fall within clauses 4.4.1 - 4.4.4 on page 4 of the Terms and Conditions.

If a student has achieved a 2.2 award in their degree at undergraduate level and then undertaken a Research Masters and excelled at postgraduate level, would this override the student's result at undergraduate level?

As per the Terms and Conditions, Masters degree results will be considered to take precedence over the results of the primary degree.

A scholar is IRC funded for a masters for 2 years (commenced 1st October 2013) and is considering transferring to do a PhD but she first wants to check and see if

she'll be eligible to apply for a further 2 years funding or just the one year. In this student's case, is she eligible to apply for a further 2 year's funding to move to a PhD? In this case she would essentially be applying as a "new entrant" and will need to be registered ("formally accepted") for a PhD by 1st October 2015.

For applicants funded through the IRC to do a Research Masters, they must complete their Research Masters degree in order to apply for a PhD under this scheme, and must be formally accepted by the relevant department/school for the degree for which they are to receive council funding by, at the latest, 1st October 2015. Please see the table on page 5 of the Terms and Conditions for the duration of funding available for each degree type.

The scholar must also fulfil all other eligibility criteria as per the Eligibility Flowchart, page 3, Guide for Applicants.

2. DURATION OF FUNDING

*****New***** The student received funding from a GMIT for a PhD bursary and started in October 2013. The question is how many years funding can they receive, if funded from October 2015? It is a traditional doctoral degree.

In this case, the applicant meets the criteria under Clause 4.4.3 for the scheme and so is eligible to apply. The duration of funding is determined by the degree type and the date of first registration. Please see the table on page 5 of the Terms and Conditions for full details. In this case, a date of first registration of Oct 2013 for a traditional PhD would indicate a funding duration of 12 months.

I am applying for the GOI Postgraduate Scholarship to undertake a 4-year PhD starting 2015. I am eligible to receive a postgraduate scholarship from my HEI if I register with them by May 2015 (the HEI scholarship is allowable according to the GOI Scholarship T&Cs). If I register in May 2015, how will it affect funding of my first year of the PhD by the IRC GOI Scholarship?

The duration of funding is determined by the degree type and the date of first registration. Please see the table on page 5 of the Terms and Conditions for full details. In this case, if you meet all other criteria for the scheme, a date of first registration of May 2015 for a structured PhD would indicate a funding duration of 36 months.

For conditions concerning holding other awards with an IRC scholarship, please note Clauses 7.22 and 7.23 in the Terms and Conditions.

Is funding only given for one year of a Research Masters Degree programme even if that programme is of two years' duration?

The duration of funding is determined by the degree type and the date of first registration. For a Research Masters degree, a maximum of 12 months can be funded. For a Structured Research Masters degree, a maximum of 24 months can be funded, depending on the date of first registration. Please see the table on page 5 of the Terms & Conditions for full detail on this.

Does funding only begin in September/October of each calendar year, even though a student's study might begin at a different time of the calendar year?

All scholarships commence on 1st October 2015.

3. APPLYING TO THE SCHEME

*****New***** In regards to my current IRC application, I was wondering if the addition of a computer monitor (125€) which exceeds the €1000 euro laptop cost would be admissible by the Irish Research Council?

There is a limit of €1,000 for computers (inclusive of monitors, keyboards etc.) or laptops.

*****New***** For my proposed research I will require single-user licences for both Mathematica and Matlab software, each licence costs €1,250. I will also require a new high level laptop (I am budgeting for the maximum amount permitted, €1,000). I am aware that all hardware and software should be obtained in year 1. However the total for the hardware and software required for my research is €3,500 which exceeds the €2,250 per annum limit. Would it be possible to get a licence for one of the software packages (e.g. Matlab) in year 1 and the other licence (Mathematica) in year 2? This would mean that the proposed budget for hardware and software in year 1 would be €2,250 and €1,250 in year 2. I understand from consultation with the relevant office at my proposed host HEI that there is no possibility to spend more than €2,250 in the first year of the scholarship so purchasing one of the software packages in the second year seems to be the only option.

As all software and hardware must to be obtained in the first year of the award (or the first three months of a one year award), it is not possible to split the cost of hardware/software across two years.

*****New***** In the financial justification, the note header mentions that "Software and Hardware must be obtained in the first year of the award". As a Computer Science applicant working with wireless systems would this limit me to purchasing low-cost (€20 per item) hardware components for experiments (e.g. Raspberry Pi's, USB Data Loggers) to just the first year?

All software and hardware must to be obtained in the first year of the award (or the first three months of a one year award), however small consumables, eg. general lab or stationary supplies, may be purchased in each year of the scholarship.

*****New***** If we disclose the idea in the IRC application, is this a public disclosure of the idea (which would destroy any possibility of getting a patent)? Or is the application considered confidential (e.g. under NDA)?

Applications to the Scheme are not made publically available, and all assessors who participate in the process must sign a confidentiality agreement regarding all content of the applications they assess.

Additional information for applicants considering applying to the Strategic Funding Partner Scholarship: 'Postgraduate Scholarship in Science Policy & Innovation'. Under the theme of 'Modelling Economic Impact', two reference links have been provided by our Strategic Funding Partner, Science Foundation Ireland:

http://www.forfas.ie/media/productivity_chapter20.pdf

http://www.forfas.ie/media/18122013_State_Investment_in_RD_2012-13-Publication.pdf

In relation to IRC research categories and in particular to questions '5.8 Primary Area' and '5.9 Discipline' in the form. As a supervisor of a number of PhD students in Ethnochoreology and Dance Studies, I am wondering why Dance or Dance

Studies is not listed in the different research categories? Dance applicants are forced to select a research area in a related area such as Music or Theatre, when they really need to select Dance.

Applicants should choose the discipline that most closely matches his/her proposed research, considering the methodology and techniques used in the research project. The list of 'other research areas' provided is not an exhaustive list, and applicants may enter other areas specific to their research in the free text box in the online system.

I previously submitted an application to this scheme in 2011 for my Masters degree which I completed in a different institution for an entirely different project, but my application to the IRC (IRCHSS at the time) was unsuccessful. I am aware that the IRC states that unsuccessful applicants can only apply on one subsequent occasion – (does this apply) in my case even though I submitted for an entirely different degree, doing an entirely different project, which I completed in 2012 in a different institution?

Unsuccessful applicants may only re-apply to each Council scheme on one subsequent occasion (with effect from 21st October 2009). This condition applies regardless of whether an applicant has changed institution, project, etc and so does apply in this case.

I previously applied to the Council for scholarship funding in 2009 for a different project (which was unsuccessful). Do I need to mention this in my application as I am now applying with a different project? Also, will my current application count as my first of second attempt?

Unsuccessful applicants may only re-apply to each Council scheme on one subsequent occasion (with effect from 21st October 2009). This condition applies regardless of whether an applicant has changed institution, project, etc.

In this instance you should indicate that you have applied once before.

On the [IRC webpage](#) for the postgraduate scholarships, it says that:

"Applicants may only apply for one scholarship, and should carefully consider which scholarship to apply for"

which to me indicates that one cannot apply for both a Government of Ireland (GOI) scholarship, and also a Strategic Funding Partner (SFP) scholarship.

However, in the official information [video released](#) (shortly after 4:30), it is said that if not successful, an application for a Strategic Funding Partner scholarship will then be considered for a Government of Ireland scholarship.

I cannot find this fact anywhere in writing, so I'm unsure if this is correct or not.

On the application form, applicants must select one type of scholarship only. However, if you are unsuccessful under a Strategic Funding Partner scholarship, you may then be considered under the Government of Ireland Postgraduate scholarship. Applicants applying for a Strategic Funding Partner scholarship should ensure they carefully read the appropriate Appendix in the Terms & Conditions and should ensure their proposal is in line with the relevant requirements of the scholarship.

An applicant may be in a position to apply to the Enterprise Partnership Scheme in March. If he applies to the current scheme, and assuming that he finds an enterprise partner, will he be allowed to apply to the EPS as well when it opens?

Applicants who apply to the current scheme may only apply to a subsequent scheme once the results of the original application are announced.

In terms of the referees, and in cases where applicants may have a supervisory panel or joint supervisors. While, I know that the nominated Primary Supervisor cannot act as a referee, However, can either or both of the joint supervisors whether they internal or external to the institution act as a referee?

Co-supervisors, whether internal or external to the institution, cannot act as a referee for an application to the scheme.

If an applicant to an IRC Postgraduate scholarship scheme submits an application early, how soon thereafter, can the supervisor submit the reference?

The supervisor will receive an automatic email once the applicant has submitted their application and once the application has been submitted, the supervisor may then create and submit their supervisor form.

A number of people are telling me that one of the two referees should be external to the University. I have looked through the documentation but I can't see it written anywhere. Would you know is this recommended or could I use 2 referees from the my Department?

The Terms and Conditions do not stipulate that your referees have to be external to your University. However, please note that your supervisor may not act as a Referee.

I am a research PhD student at the Irish World Academy, currently preparing an application for a Government of Ireland research scholarship. My primary supervisor is based at UL. However I will also have an external co-supervisor from the Spain. This is because of the interdisciplinary nature of my research, which of course is something I will highlight in my application also. I understand that your supervisor cannot count as one of your referees for this application, however I would like to add my external co-supervisor as one of my referees given his familiarity with my work. Accordingly, Can you confirm via the FAQ whether or not this is allowed?

A supervisor may not act as a referee. This stipulation also applies to co-supervisors.

I want to clarify in finding a supervisor, Whether it should be exclusively from Ireland or can it be UK

The supervisor is responsible for supporting and guiding the Scholar and ensuring the quality of the research produced under the Scholarship, and as such must be based in the same HEI as where the applicant is proposing to carry out their research project.

Is an Erasmus Mundus award considered a HEU Scholarship for the purposes of eligibility?

I am currently in the third year of my Ph.D study and the three-year study is funded by an Erasmus Mundus program UCD participated in (i.e., the Erasmus Mundus Europe Asia scholarship). Then could I be able to pass the following eligibility check? Is that scholarship taken as a HEI scholarship?

"Have you completed part of the postgraduate degree for which you are to receive Council funding on the basis of any of the following: 1. being self-funded; 2. being in receipt of a Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) grant; 3. being in receipt of a HEI bursary or HEI scholarship; 4. being in receipt of a Central Remedial Clinic Ciaran Barry Graduate Scholarship

The Erasmus Mundus Europe Asia Scholarship does not fall within the criteria specified in Clauses 4.4.1-4.4.4 of the Terms and Conditions.

Can [international students] without passport apply to IRC scholarships and get temporary travel docs or assistance in visas to Ireland?

As per the Clauses 5.4-5.5 of the Terms and Conditions of the scheme, Scholars from any country may hold a Council Postgraduate Scholarship. However, Scholars must:

- maintain her/his principal residence in Ireland (as defined) during the period of the Scholarship;
- satisfy the State's regulations on immigration and have the support of their HEI with respect to these regulations and requirements if not a national of a member state of the European Union (EU).

For all Scholarships, arrangements with respect to immigration will be a matter for settlement between the Scholar and his/her HEI, and the relevant immigration authorities of the State.

I wish to apply for this scheme. Please find resume attached with this email.

Applications to the Government of Ireland Scholarship scheme must be made ONLY through the online application system. An application will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered for funding if it has not been submitted via the online application system. No hardcopies or emailed forms will be accepted.

The GOV Ts and Cs don't specify who can act as a supervisor under the Scheme. Does a proposed supervisor who has a temporary contract qualify? Can individuals who have the title Emeritus Professor but are not employed or contractually bound to the university act as supervisors? What are the minimum requirements to act as a supervisor?

The Academic Supervisor has responsibility for supporting and guiding the Scholar and ensuring the academic quality of the research fully meets the academic requirements of the award of a postgraduate degree. The Supervisor would normally be a Principal Investigator, or other suitably qualified person, and should either be permanent or on temporary contracts of sufficient duration to cover the period of the proposed research project.

Applicants are requesting the "description of what is covered in Primary Areas, Disciplines and Other Research Areas" Can you tell me where this is on your website as I have searched for ages. Is it in the Guide for Applicants – which is not yet published?

Appendix I of the Guidelines for Applicants details Research Categorisation, covering the breakdown of Primary Area and Discipline. This is available now on our website here:

<http://research.ie/scheme/government-ireland-postgraduate-scholarship-scheme-2015-call-now-open>

4. APPLICATION FORMS

*****New***** I've attached a draft of my application. As you will see, it is in Irish, but I have included a translation either on the application form or in the other attached doc. I don't know if I should've just stuck to the one language on the application form, and I'd be grateful for any advice on this and any other aspect of it.

Applicants are welcome to apply in Irish. In so doing, they may wish to upload an English-language translation of the application (in PDF format). Please note that there is no obligation on applicants who apply in Irish to supply an English-language translation. When an English-language translation is not supplied by the applicant, the Irish Research Council acquires a professional translation of the entire application.

*****New***** Is it acceptable for supplementary material to contain personal information. For example, I've included a data collection sheet being used for my project. It includes an introductory remark saying you can contact me on *** if there are any queries.

Supplementary material should only include essential information required for the interpretation and understanding of the proposed research, rather than additional information about the research proposal or applicant. Therefore contact details should not be included.

With regards the online application form under the tab Proposed Research the heading states; If you have already started your course please indicate which degree you are already ready registered for and fill in the form for the full research proposal for the full duration of this degree. If however I have not started my course, where do I indicate the duration of my required funding for the proposed research?

For applicants who are new entrants and who have not started the degree to which they are applying for, they should select the degree type from the drop down list. As new entrants they will be eligible for funding for the full duration of that degree.

My date of first registration was 2013. I am on leave of absence for the current academic year (2014-2015) and will return in Sept/Oct 2015. When I enter my registration dates on the online form 2013-2018 it appears to be five years even though the duration of my PhD is 4 years. Is there somewhere in the form that I can provide details on my leave of absence?

Under Section 4, *Proposed Research*, you will be asked the question "Have you commenced the course of research for which you are applying?" If you select "yes" in response to this question you will then be asked "Please outline the source and duration of your funding (start/finish dates), and outline the progress made to date and include completed tasks, chapters etc". You can use this section to outline the details of your career break.

I have two letters of support relevant to my application. Can I upload these letters in Section 4 Proposed research (supplementary information)?

No. Supplementary material should include essential information required for the interpretation and understanding of the proposed research, rather than additional information about the research proposal or applicant.

Can a referee submit their reference as soon as they are added to the system or must they wait for the applicant to submit the application?

A referee can submit their reference form once they are added to an application. Referees do not need to wait until the applicant has submitted their application to submit their reference form. Please see the Guide for Referees on our website for further details.

Re. question 'Have you previously submitted...and been unsuccessful', an applicant previously submitted an application to this scheme but it did not reach the institutional endorsement stage. Should he answer 'no' in this case?

An application must be endorsed by the proposed institution in order to be considered eligible for the scheme. In this case, as the previous application was not endorsed it would have been deemed ineligible at the time of application, and would not have been assessed. Thus the applicant should answer 'no' for this question.

The online system indicates that the number of keywords is "<5 words, <10 if interdisciplinary". Please clarify if the actual maximum number of keywords that will be considered is 5 (10 if interdisciplinary), or 4 (9 if interdisciplinary).

The number of words should not exceed 4 or 9 if interdisciplinary.

The Financial Justification section on the form refers to research costs for my degree. Does this mean funding for each year or should I enter the amount needed for the entire degree?

Applicants should indicate the total amount of direct research costs required for the full duration of the degree, up to a maximum of €2,250 per year. All costs should be fully justified as essential to the research proposed.

My word count is saying it is exceeded limits but I know I am within the limit.

Any bullet points pasted from Microsoft Word into the application will count as one word each. For example, a 300 word paragraph that has five bullet points in it will result in 305 words when pasted into the online system.