



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL

An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

2015 Enterprise Partnership Scheme: Postgraduate Scholarship

Frequent Asked Questions (FAQs)

Version VII [05/06/15]

The deadline for receipt of FAQs is **16.00 (GMT), 10/06/2015**. FAQs must be submitted no later than this date.

Similar questions have been grouped below in the following themes:

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

1. ELIGIBILITY

If you applied for the GOI call earlier this year and wanted to apply for the EPS:

1. is this allowed?
2. does this count as your second (& final) IRC application?

Applicants are not permitted to apply for two Schemes which are running in parallel. Applicants may apply to two schemes once the outcome of the forerunning scheme is known before the applicant submission deadline of the latter. If the applicant is successful in the forerunning scheme, the applicant is not permitted to submit an application to the latter. An applicant may apply twice to the same scheme. Applications to the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship are not counted as an application to the Enterprise Partnership Scheme.

Can you give any information on the announcement of the results will be for the GOI and Employment based calls? I think there would be applicants wishing to prepare proposals now for the EPS is they know the announcement of the above mentioned schemes is before June 17th.

Applicants to the recent Government of Ireland/Employment Based Postgraduate call were advised that they would not be eligible to apply to the Enterprise Partnership Scholarship Scheme as they would 'currently have an application under review'. As the deadline for applications to the EPS has been extended to 17th June 2015 is this still the case? Will the outcome of the GOI & EMB schemes be known before deadline for EPS applications?

The outcome of the Employment Based Programme 2015 will be known in advance of the Enterprise Partnership Scheme applicant deadline. Therefore, an applicant who applied to the Employment Based Programme 2015 is permitted to apply to the Enterprise Partnership Scheme 2015.

It is anticipated that the outcome of the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scheme 2015 (GOIPG) will not be announced before the applicant deadline of the Enterprise Partnership Scheme 2015. However, the Council will permit applicants who have applied to the GOIPG 2015 to apply to the Enterprise Partnership Scheme 2015 on an exceptional basis for this Call only. Note: applicants who have been successful in the GOIPG must notify the Council immediately and withdraw their application from the Enterprise Partnership Scheme process.

Applicants who have submitted to either the Employment Based Programme or the GOIPG and were unsuccessful must include in their application a description of modifications to the proposal.

I am registered for a PhD and currently in my first Year 1. I am funded by a HEI bursary. Am I eligible to apply to the Enterprise Partnership Scheme?

You are eligible to apply to the scheme as HEI-funded bursaries are included in the criteria under Clause 4.4.1 - 4.4.4 of the Terms and Conditions for the scheme. Please see page 4 – 5 in the Terms and Conditions to ascertain the duration of funding for which you are eligible to apply, which is dependent upon your date of first registration.

Is it possible for the enterprise partner in this scheme to be made up of more than one body, for example collaboration of a museum and council, thus splitting the costs?

As per clause 7.28 of the Terms and Conditions, a Research Agreement (including reference to intellectual property rights and confidentiality) must be in place between the HEI and the Enterprise Partner before the Scholarship can commence. Should an applicant wish to have two Enterprise Partners associated with their application, this is at their discretion and this can be detailed in the application. However, the primary Enterprise Partner on an application will be responsible for all invoicing activities, and for meeting the financial commitments under the Award. As per clause 6.9 of the Terms and Conditions, the contribution from the Enterprise Partner will constitute one third of the total value of the Scholarship, up to a maximum contribution under this agreement of €8,000 per annum.

Can the Irish Defence Forces be an EPS partner?

NEWIs a public hospital eligible to be an enterprise partner? (Mater Dei Hospital)

7.3 Eligible Enterprise Partners may be based anywhere in the world and include, but are not limited to: 7.3.1 well-founded business and company research facilities (including SMEs and MNCs); 7.3.2 social, cultural, not-for-profit, governmental or non-governmental organisation (including but not limited to a library, an archive, a museum, or an institute with a scientific, cultural, social or economic interest in the proposed project). For the 2015 Call, hospitals are eligible to apply to the Enterprise Partnership Scheme.

I'm enquiring as to whether a candidate for research under the IRC Enterprise Scheme can be someone employed by the industrial partner?

As per the Terms and Conditions of this Scheme:

5.2 Scholars must be full-time students affiliated with an eligible HEI in Ireland.

5.3 Scholars must fulfil the following criteria:

5.3.1 Must not be a permanent member of staff in a HEI or in a non-Irish based

research body or HEI.

- 7.13 Scholars must engage full-time in research during the Funding Term and should not engage in any activity other than completing the Scholarship. The first year of the degree should be devoted exclusively to the Research Project and the Training and Career Development Plan.

Applicants should refer to the eligibility flowchart in the Guide to Applicants [HERE](#) and to the Terms and Conditions to ensure that all required criteria and conditions, including the above, are met.

A candidate has done 18 months of a PhD in the UK and wants to transfer to complete their PhD at UCD. Is she eligible to apply to do the last 24 months here?

As per Clause 4.4 of the Terms and Conditions, a Scholar who is already registered for a PhD is not eligible for funding apart from Scholars falling within Clauses 4.4.1 – 4.4.4 inclusive i.e. the Scholar has completed part of the degree on the basis of being self-funded or is in receipt of a Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) grant or is in receipt of a HEI-funded bursary or scholarship or is in receipt of a Central Remedial Clinic Ciaran Barry Graduate Scholarship. Please see associated table on page 4 of the Terms and Conditions to confirm eligibility as it relates to registration dates.

2. APPLYING TO THE SCHEME

If my application is successful, is it possible to start my Scholarship earlier than February 1st 2016?

All Scholarships have to start on 1st February 2016, no earlier or later.

Are there tax credits for an Enterprise partner?

As per clause 5.8 Compliance with Irish laws and national regulations on taxation will be a matter for resolution between the Fellow, the HEI/RPO and the Irish Revenue Commissioners (see <http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/ct/research-development.html> for further information).

In 7.4 it states that the Host Organisation must provide access to experimental facilities. Could you just clarify that the Host Organisation is not the SME/ Industry Partner.

The host organisations in Clause 7.4 refer to the Higher Education Institute and Enterprise Partner.

In 11.5 the Enterprise Mentor - are we correct to say, this should be somebody within our own organisation?

As per Clause 11.5 The Enterprise Partner must nominate an Enterprise Mentor to work with the Scholar and her/his Academic Supervisor, to offer advice and to create a link with the Enterprise Partner's activities. Contact should be maintained between the Enterprise Mentor and the Scholar throughout the duration of the Scholarship. The Enterprise Mentor should be someone within the organisation.

3. APPLICATION FORMS

The Financial Justification section on the form refers to research costs for my degree. Should I enter the funding I need for each year of my degree 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.

In 7.1.1 it states that Training Courses are not covered. Is this statement directed at the student/researcher or at the Host Organisation or the SME?

As per Clause 7.7 The Council recognises that Scholars may benefit from spending part of the duration of the Scholarship away from their HEIs. Such periods may involve: 7.7.1 attending courses which are relevant to the Scholar's training. The Council will not normally sanction such courses longer than one academic term in duration and will not be liable for paying any additional fees or expenses associated with such courses.

As per Clause 6.1 The total value of the Enterprise Partnership Scheme Postgraduate Scholarship will be up to a maximum of €24,000 in any approved year.

In 7.25 it states that IP is retained by HEI. Can an IP agreement be reached in advance that would give us (the industry partner) some rights to the IP? What if we wanted to retain all IP rights? Is there any 'wiggle room' here?

As per Clause 7.25 In line with the National Policy document *Putting public research to work for Ireland: Policies and procedures to help industry make good use of Ireland's public research institutions* (DJEI, 2012), foreground Intellectual Property (IP) generated will be owned by the Higher Education Institution. In exceptional circumstances preferential terms for the Enterprise Partner may be negotiated if the HEI is of the view that the interest of Ireland is best advanced through the utilisation of this option.

As per Clause 7.28 A Research Agreement (including reference to intellectual property rights and confidentiality) must be in place between the HEI and the Enterprise Partner before the Scholarship can commence.

4. FUNDING

What is the maximum duration of funding that can be awarded to an applicant currently registered in first year of structured PhD programme? Their date of first registration is 30th September 2014.

An applicant who is registered in their first year of a structured programme as at the date of 30th September 2014 is permitted to a maximum of 2 years of funding. An applicant who is already registered must meet the criteria outlined in Clause 4.4.1 - 4.4.4 of the Terms and Conditions in order to be eligible to apply.

Please can you clarify the last paragraph of the "Eligibility for Enterprise Partners to participate in the Irish Research Council's Enterprise Partnership Scheme (EPS)" document available at <http://research.ie/enterprise/interested-companies>: "Where the co-funding Enterprise Partner is a public body / agency or other publicly funded organisation, the co-funding Enterprise Partner cannot fund the full cost of the scholarship (with administration of the award through the Irish Research Council)." Are there some criteria and how should the text in brackets be interpreted in the context of this eligibility criterion?

As per Clause 6.9 in the Terms and Conditions, the contribution from the Enterprise Partner will constitute one third of the total value of the Scholarship, up to a

maximum contribution under this agreement of €8,000 per annum. This forms part of the Scholarship and is not in addition to the Scholarship. The text in the brackets may be interpreted to mean that the Award will be administered by the Council and not the Enterprise Partner.

In 7.19 What constitutes other duties that might require remuneration?

As per clause 7.14.3 in the Terms and Conditions, additional duties must be relevant to the research funded by the Scholarship and consistent with the Training and Career Development Plan agreed by the Scholar, Academic Supervisor and Enterprise Mentor. These may include, but are not restricted to, preparation of conferences or seminars for example.

The funding available to the Enterprise Partner is €8,000. Do we (the industry partner) need to show vouched expenses or invoices for spend? Do we need to show project time sheets, etc.? What is envisaged by the IRC that this 8K would cover?

As per Clause 6.9 of the Terms and Conditions, the contribution from the Enterprise Partner will constitute one third of the total value of the Scholarship, up to a maximum contribution under this agreement of €8,000 per annum. This forms part of the Scholarship and is not in addition to the Scholarship.

6.10 The Council will issue the first invoice to the Enterprise Partner for payment of this contribution within 3 months of the Scholarship start date and subsequent invoices will be issued annually over the lifetime of the Scholarship. The Enterprise Partner's Scholarship contribution will be paid to the Council by electronic funds transfer within 30 days of receipt of invoice. The transfer of Scholarship funds from the Council to the HEI is contingent upon the Council's receipt of the Enterprise Partners contribution within the period in which it is due.

As per Clause 6.1.3 The exact amount of eligible direct research expenses is subject to sufficient justification being made in the Scholarship Application Form up to a maximum of €2,250 per annum. Only vouched expenses incurred in actually carrying out the Research Project will be reimbursed. This involves transfer of payment to the HEI.