



Call for Applications 2018

Government of Ireland - International Education Scholarships

1. Background & Objectives

The internationalisation of Irish higher education is a key element in the delivery of a quality teaching, learning and research experience for students and staff and for building international engagement for the sector. The Government of Ireland - International Education Scholarship (GOI-IES) scheme was established under the provisions of the Government's International Education Strategy, 2010–2015 and expanded under the new iteration of the strategy "[Irish Educated, Globally Connected \(2016-2020\)](#)".

The aim of the 2018 GOI-IES scheme is to reflect Ireland's engagement in target markets. The scheme is operated in the higher education sector and funded in partnership between the Government and the higher education institutions (HEIs). Scholarships will be branded as **prestigious awards** reflecting the core messages about Ireland as a centre of international education. It is expected that for every scholarship winner, awareness of Ireland will be raised among many more potential students.

Benefits for students: Scholarships must be regarded as highly desirable and value-adding to individuals' subsequent lives and careers. In view of this, the GOI-IES will be awarded:

- to high calibre higher education students from non-EU/EEA countries;
- to study in Ireland for a period of one year

Benefits for Higher Education sector: GOI-IES will reflect Ireland's commitment to excellence in the provision of Higher Education for both domestic and international students:

- for scholarships that will highlight Ireland's strengths as a centre of international education;
- to promote links with target markets globally;
- to strengthen the internationalisation strategies of HEIs especially in the context of the system performance framework.

2. Details of Scholarship Scheme

The scheme is managed by the Higher Education Authority (HEA), on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills. Following a competitive process based on an annual call for proposals from individual applicants, the HEA will approve a defined number of scholarships under the scheme to successful applicants.

Government of Ireland International Education Scholarships will be awarded to **high calibre students from non-EU/EEA countries to study full-time in Ireland for a period of one year**. The following are the terms and conditions that will apply:

- The HEA will award a scholarship fund to the student (through the HEI that the student is attending) amounting to **€10,000 for one study year**. This fund is directed at covering student costs and living expenses. The scholarship may be for:
 - the final year of an undergraduate programme;
 - one year of a taught master degree programme or;
 - one year of a research programme (i.e. one year of a 2 year research masters or a 3-4 year PhD programme).
- The HEI will be required to give a **FULL fee waiver** to the student for the scholarship year (i.e. tuition fee and registration charge are waived). This is the minimum matching funding requirement that institutions will be required to make to the scholarship scheme.
- It is expected that a total of **60** scholarships will be funded by the Government of Ireland International Education Scholarships for the academic year 2018/2019.
- Applicants must have a **domiciliary of origin¹** not equal to the [EU/EEA or Switzerland](#)
- Scholarships may be approved for study across all disciplines.
- The HEA will seek to ensure that, overall, there is gender-balance in the cohort of students to whom scholarships are awarded.

¹ Domiciliary of Origin is the applicant's country of legal and permanent residency prior to the deadline of this call. It is not necessarily the correspondence/term address. It is not the same as their nationality and does not alter as they progress through their academic career. For example, an Indian person that comes to Ireland 2 weeks prior to the deadline of the call will be coded as 'Indian' for the duration of their studies. Whilst their nationality is Indian, and their correspondence address is in Ireland, their country of legal and permanent residence is still India. Domiciliary of Origin only changes after an applicant has been residing in a country for 3 continuous years.

- Applications are welcome from traditionally under-represented cohorts.
- Unsuccessful applicants will receive feedback on their application.
- Successful Scholars are to commence studies in September / October 2018. Later enrolments will only be considered in relation to PhD awardees.
- Students and their host HEIs will be required to attend a welcoming event for GOI-IES awardees. An official awarding event for GOI-IES Scholars will be held in April 2019.

3. The scheme prioritises the selection of students who are in the process of applying to come to Ireland for the academic year 2018-2019.

4. Candidate profile

- Possess excellence (academically, personally, professionally, creatively);
- Excellent communication skills;
- Extra curriculum activities (for example: humanitarian work; politics-local, national, international; arts; sports);
- Possess strong rationale for pursuing their study in Ireland that indicates how a GOI-IES fits into their longer-term goals.

5. Eligible Irish Higher Education Institutions

Applicants will need to apply for admission to a relevant Bachelor, Master or PhD programme offered by one of the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs, listed in Appendix 1) as per that HEI's admissions procedures. Applicants are expected to have a conditional or final offer of admission to the HEI at time of application and will be required to submit a copy of same. Should an applicant be in receipt of more than one offer, they should list their offers in order of preference in the application form. Final offers will be subject to admission to the relevant HEI. Applicants should make enquiries directly to the relevant institution prior to submission of an application to the HEA.

6. Evaluation Criteria

Eligible applicants are invited to submit applications to the HEA via the official application process. A marking system (total 100 marks) is part of the call with the relevant scores shown in brackets after the key selection criteria. The applications must cover the following, as requested in the application form:

- Academic qualifications, achievements and/or work experience **(40 marks)**
- Personal Statement (refer to the Candidate profile above). Applicants will be required to demonstrate:
 - the benefit of becoming a GOI-IES Scholar; to themselves (personally and professionally), to Ireland, as well as their country of origin. **(15 marks)**;
 - how they will extend themselves beyond their project / studies to become actively involved in Irish society in order to maximize their academic / cultural exchange experience and to raise awareness of the GOI-IES scheme in Ireland and beyond **(15 marks)**;
 - the extent to which they have a long-term interest in Ireland and how they will promote links with Ireland during their time as Scholars, and also after as Alumni **(15 marks)**.
- Two references **(15 marks)**

7. Assessment Process

- The HEA will establish an independent International Assessment Panel to evaluate the applications received. The Assessment Panel will consider the extent to which the applications meet the criteria of the 2018 Call as outlined above.
- All applications will be assessed solely on the basis of the material provided to the HEA at the time of submission.
- Applications will be first reviewed by the HEA for eligibility.
- Applications will then be sent for remote evaluation to the Assessment Panel members. Each application will be assessed by at least two remote independent members of the Assessment Panel.
- The Assessment Panel members will allocate scores as per the evaluation criteria detailed above. Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves fully with the evaluation criteria prior to making an application to the scheme.

- Each Assessment Panel member will submit their independent evaluation prior to coming together to discuss the ranked list of applications. The Assessment Panel will then arrive at an overall judgement of standard and make final recommendations to the HEA. An independent audit processor will be present at the Assessment Panel meeting.
- The top six ranked applications will be automatically funded on the basis of excellence, as they represent the top 10% of the 60 awards to be funded.
- In addition to the ranked position of the applications, the remaining 54 awards will be allocated with consideration to:
 - institutional, disciplinary, and geographical spread;
 - potential social/development benefit that might accrue to the country of origin in areas like education, social work, health promotion, and infrastructural development;
 - the under-representation of women and men in certain disciplines in which they are traditionally under-represented.
- Only applications that meet a minimum threshold of quality will be deemed fundable (60 of 100 marks).
- The HEA's decision on whether to award a scholarship under this scheme is final.
- Each HEI that has been named in a successful application will be contacted to confirm that they are in a position to provide the required matching funding. Confirmation of this by the HEI constitutes its agreement to, and acceptance of, the Call for Application's terms. HEIs are encouraged to examine the possibility of philanthropic contributions to support the scholarships; or the possibility to re-brand existing institutional scholarships in order to augment the total number of awards available.

8. Reporting Requirements Post Assessment

Successful Scholars (and HEIs) will be required to meet HEA reporting requirements and will be required to participate in a small number of scholarship events (e.g. HEA formal awarding of scholarships / welcome event, national promotion activities). The HEA also reserves the right to conduct audits/evaluations to ensure that the highest levels of student care are provided to incoming students. The HEA will advise on all reporting requirements in due course.

9. Submission of Applications

- (1) The Call for Applications will issue in January 2018 and the centralised application system will accept applications from 31 January 2018.
- (2) The closing date for receipt of applications is **5pm on Friday 23 March 2018 (Irish Time)**. Late applications will not be accepted.
- (3) The application should be submitted to GOI-IES2018@hea.ie
- (4) The applications should be laid out in accordance with the template application form available [here](#)
- (5) Any questions regarding the call for applications should be submitted to GOI-IES2018@hea.ie no later than 16 March 2018. The answers to all questions received will be posted on the [HEA website](#). Telephone queries cannot be accommodated.
- (6) The HEA will advise the applicants and the HEIs of the outcome of the evaluation process by June 2018.

Appendix 1

Eligible Institutions for Call for Applications 2018

Scholarships may be awarded to public, private or not-for-profit higher education providers, which have access to the Education in Ireland brand. Scholarships will only be approved for programmes that lead to a higher education award that is included in the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) at Levels 8 to 10, which is made by one of the following awarding bodies:

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)
- Institutes of Technology with delegated authority to make awards
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- The seven Irish Universities

Appendix 2

Important Information

The HEA is making this document available to applicants submitting an application under the Government of Ireland International Education Scholarship Programme 2018 Call for Applications. The document must not be used for any other purpose.

The HEA has taken all reasonable care to ensure that the material set out in this Call for Applications is true and accurate in all respects as at the time of publication. However, no warranty or representation is given as to the accuracy or completeness of this material. The HEA does not accept any liability or responsibility for the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of the information set out herein.

The HEA will not be liable or responsible for any opinion, statement, or conclusion contained in, or any omission from this document or for any other written or oral communication made available during the course of the Call process. No representation or warranty is made in respect of such statements, opinions or conclusions.

The HEA reserves the right to amend these documents and any information contained herein at any time by notice in writing posted up on the [HEA website](#).

None of the information set out herein will constitute an agreement, or part of an agreement, or an offer to enter an agreement, between the HEA and any HEI. Nothing in these documents is, nor shall be relied upon as, a promise or representation as to the HEA's ultimate decision in relation to the approval of scholarships.

The HEA reserves the right to take such steps as it considers appropriate, including but not limited to: changing the basis of, or the procedures (including the timetable) relating to the Call process; rejecting any, or all, of the proposals; abandoning the competition (or any part of it) at any time prior to the formal approval of scholarships.

No legal relationship or other obligation shall arise between any HEI and the HEA until a scholarship approval has been made by the HEA and accepted by the HEI.

Arrangements with respect to immigration will be a matter for settlement between the scholar, their HEI and the relevant immigration authorities of the State.

Under no circumstances will the HEA be liable for any costs, charges or expenses incurred by applicants as a result of participating in this Call process, however caused. Any costs associated with the submission of a proposal are the sole responsibility of the applicant and will not be reimbursed.

Payment of the scholarship fund is wholly subject to the continued receipt of funding by the Department of Education and Skills. In the event of such funding being reduced or discontinued neither the Department of Education and Skills nor the Higher Education Authority will be under any liability to provide funding or to compensate a scholar for any reduction or cessation of funding.