



Puttnam Scholars Programme 2025/26 Criteria and Terms of Reference

1. General Criteria

University College Cork is pleased to announce that up to six Puttnam Scholarships will be awarded in 2025/26 to registered final year undergraduate/level 8 students or postgraduate level 9 students from any disciplines who can demonstrate an exceptional level of academic excellence and who have successfully been selected by the Scholarship Panel for the Puttnam Scholars Programme.

The selected students will become Puttnam Scholars for a period of one academic year, working together on a project and attending a series of video conference mentoring and coaching sessions with Lord Puttnam. The group of scholars will work together throughout the year to produce a short film which they will screen as part of a presentation to Lord Puttnam and invited guests at the Cork International Film Festival.

These prestigious scholarships will be highly competitive and will represent a model of industry/sector mentorship. Those candidates selected will be expected to be able to demonstrate innovation, problem-solving skills and a commitment to excellence. They will be expected to act as ambassadors for UCC in terms of their participation in academic activities and in their participation in activities designed to promote the Puttnam Scholars Programme.

2. Applying for a Puttnam Scholarship

To apply for a Puttnam Scholarship you must:

Complete the Puttnam Scholarship Application Form and send it to the address provided by the deadline outlined on the call for applications.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a short (fifteen-minute) interview online on
Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate:

- Innovation and creativity appropriate to their discipline
- Ability to work laterally
- Demonstrable problem-solving skills
- Capacity to work as part of a team
- Excellence within their discipline(s)
- Evidence of provincial, national or international achievement
- Evidence of participation and engagement with their programme of study.
- Excellent communication skills

- Aptitude at disseminating information and engaging with audiences

Successful applicants may additionally be able to demonstrate:

- Excellence in areas not exclusive to their specialist domain
- What contribution they may make as a Puttnam Scholar
- Evidence of leadership and initiative
- Evidence of an interest in/understanding of the value of intellectual property
- How this Scholarship will help with their planned career.

3. Benefits to students

Students awarded a Puttnam Scholarship will:

- Engage in coaching/mentoring with a multi-award winning film producer, highly experienced entrepreneur and creative manager
- Have an opportunity to develop and enhance their skills in team working, collaboration, negotiating and networking
- Have a competitive advantage through the inclusion of their 'Puttnam Scholar' experience on their curriculum vitae, and through the opportunities this has afforded them beyond their curriculum.

Scholars will be required to complete all elements of the programme including:

- Attending an initial introductory session outlining the programme;
- Attend a minimum of six, two-hour group mentoring sessions/seminars with Lord Puttnam;
- Collaborate with other 'Puttnam Scholars' within their cohort;
- Produce a short film and presentation to the brief provided on the commencement of the programme from Lord Puttnam;
- Engage with, and participate in, the activities of the Puttnam Scholars Programme as advised to them from time to time;
- Play an active role in UCC where appropriate;
- Be a positive ambassador for UCC at all times including the promotion of UCC in any external interviews or publications associated with the Puttnam Scholars Programme.

If at any point you are unfortunately unable to meet your academic and/or your scholarship commitments your scholarship payments/benefit will be handled as follows.

Withdrawal or Suspension of Studies

Withdrawal

Scholars who withdraw from their scholarship commitments or from UCC will have all future scholarship payments/benefits cancelled.

If you withdraw, at any point during the teaching term, scholarship payments/benefits which have already been made will be reclaimed on a *pro rata* basis. Under exceptional circumstances, this decision can be reviewed by the Chair of the Panel and approval given for the student to retain any overpayments.

Suspension of Studies

Scholars who suspend their scholarship commitments or academic studies will have all future scholarship payments/benefits cancelled.

If you suspend your studies at any point during the teaching term, scholarship payments/benefits which have already been made will be reclaimed on a *pro rata* basis. Under exceptional circumstances, this decision can be reviewed by the Chair of the Panel and approval given for the student to retain any overpayments. Mitigating circumstances for the re-instatement of the scholarship may be put forward for consideration by the Chair of the Panel. The remaining yearly balance will become payable on resumption of academic and scholarship commitments.

Exceptional Circumstances

Students withdrawing from, suspending or repeating their studies, due to illness, bereavement or other exceptional circumstances will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Puttnam Scholars Programme

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Puttnam Scholars can expect:

- To receive a monetary award of €1000 on completion of the scholarship.
- A letter confirming the award of the prestigious Scholarship.
- The opportunity to work with Lord Puttnam to help the development of their academic career.
- To watch some of Lord Puttnam's online lectures and TED talks.
- To participate in six live online video sessions with Lord Puttnam. During these sessions Lord Puttnam will set them an end-of-course project on which they will work together as a team.
- In the run up to the final presentation, there will be a short 'troubleshooting' session with the faculty to access any lessons that may have learned through the course of the interactions.
- Lord Puttnam will visit the University for the presentation of the final project. The reviewing panel will also include the Head of the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences.
- It is intended that there will be a public engagement with Lord Puttnam (either a public lecture or 'In-Conversation').

Prior to the commencement of the formal group mentorship meetings the students will spend some time researching and getting to know Lord Puttnam and in turn Lord Puttnam getting to know the students in more informal and relaxed discussion.

As a Puttnam Scholar of UCC you must agree to abide by the following terms and conditions. Failure to abide by the following terms and conditions may result in your Scholarship being revoked with immediate effect. As a Puttnam Scholar you will agree to:

- Inform your programme coordinator of your participation in the programme;
- Attend all sessions on the programme;
- Engage with seminar discussions in a constructive manner, respecting the opinions of others;
- Work in a collegial way on the team project;
- Engage with staff of the university or invited guests in a respectful manner.