



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

COLLEGE OF ARTS, CELTIC STUDIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Excellence Scholarships (PhD)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The *College of Arts, Celtic Studies & Social Sciences Excellence Scholarships (PhD)* will take the form of payment of the EU PhD fee by the *CACSSS Graduate School* for one year initially.
2. Applicants must be registered in the College and/or have their Lead Supervisor based in the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences (CACSSS). This normally means that the student is predominantly based in a subject field in an academic unit in the CACSSS evidenced by the fact that his/her Annual Progress Reviews will take place in that School/Department.
3. Applicants cannot be in receipt of a Research Ireland award or have had an award confirmed before the closing date of the Scholarship. Candidates who are informed of a successful Research Ireland application after the closing date of the Scholarship will be deemed ineligible.
4. Subject to a satisfactory report annually from supervisors and confirmation of application for the Research Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship and at the discretion of the *Graduate School*, the scholarship may be extended up to a maximum of three years. The duration of the scholarship is dependent on the number of years the applicant has already completed at the time the scholarship is awarded. Scholarships will not be awarded beyond the third year of registration (PhD3). For example, new students can potentially receive a maximum of three years' funding, students in first year can receive up to two years' funding and students in second year PhDs will receive one year of funding.
5. The scholarship is not extendable for any reason beyond three years.
6. Recipients of the scholarship will be awarded the title '*College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences PhD Excellence Scholar*'.

Application Process

7. Applications for the scholarship are invited from:
 - Applicants who have already applied for a research doctoral or MPhil programme in CACSSS on [UCCApply](#). Please note that new applicants must fulfil all the entry requirements for their programme.
 - Registered research doctoral or MPhil students in their first or second year of registration in CACSSS at the time of application.
8. While it is not necessary to have been offered a place on the programme at the time of application, the award of a scholarship is subject to the applicant being accepted onto, and registering for, the relevant programme.
9. The scholarships are open to EU and Non-EU applicants. However, the funding will only cover the EU fee, so successful Non-EU applicants will be responsible for the balance.
10. Applicants must submit the online Excellence Scholarship (PhD) application form.
11. Applicants must ensure that one supervisor/potential supervisor submit the online 'letter of support' online form speaking to the quality of the proposal/project.

Selection Process

Selection of successful applicants, based on the materials supplied, will be made by the *CACSSS Graduate Studies Committee*. Scholarships will be awarded to applicants of sufficient merit who have feasible research topics of academic value. PLEASE NOTE: While it is not a graded criterion of the adjudication process, a letter of support must accompany the application. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that a supervisor (or potential supervisor) has submitted this online letter of support.

12. Applications will be assessed by a panel of reviewers according to the following criteria:

	Criterion	Max marks
1	Academic excellence, merit of the proposal/project	40
2	Social, cultural, or other impact of the project	20
3	Personal statement	20

13. Scholarships will only be awarded if the Committee is satisfied that the applications are of sufficient merit and the *CACSSS Graduate Studies Committee* reserves the right at all times to determine the beneficiaries of the scholarship.

14. Successful applicants must confirm their intention to take up the Scholarship within two weeks of the initial offer.
15. Renewal of the scholarship beyond year one is contingent on adhering to conditions below (see point 19) and is at the discretion of the *Graduate School*.
16. Should, during the period of the scholarship, a successful applicant also become the recipient of any other scholarship or grant or stipend of a like or greater magnitude, they will be required to forego the scholarship but will retain the title of 'College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences PhD Excellence Scholar'.
17. All scholarship and funding schemes are subject to availability of funds, and details given here are subject to change at any time.

Responsibilities of successful applicants

18. By accepting the scholarship, recipients are agreeing to these terms and conditions.
19. Renewal of the scholarship is at the discretion of the *Graduate Studies Committee* and is contingent on the scholarship holder having
 - submitted evidence of their successful completion of the annual progress review, signed by the local *Graduate Studies Committee*, within 12 months of the start of their PhD and on an annual basis thereafter
 - applied for a Research Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship each year until the maximum allowable attempts is reached
 - attended and presented in person at the annual CACSSS Postgraduate Research Conference to be held in February 2026. It is expected that Excellence Scholars present at the event in person, unless appropriate notice is given explaining why this may not be possible
20. Scholarship holders must submit a 200-word abstract, a 100-word bio and a photograph to be displayed on the *Graduate School* website.
21. Scholarship holders must acknowledge the scholarship received from the *Graduate School* in all presentations and publications emanating from their PhD work. This should take the form of the UCC logo and the caption "support received for this research from the Graduate School in the College of Arts, Celtic Studies & Social Sciences, UCC".

- 22.** Should a leave of absence be required during the tenure of the scholarship, the *CACSSS Graduate School* must be notified by email to graduateschool.cacsss@ucc.ie of the scholarship holder's intention to take leave before the application for leave is submitted.
- 23.** There is no service requirement attached to this scholarship. Any tutoring or teaching requested of scholarship holders must be paid for at the hourly rate for postgraduate students by the local Schools/Departments.

Continuation of the Scholarship following substantive project changes

For continuation of the scholarship following substantive project changes, application must be made to the Graduate School at graduateschool.cacsss@ucc.ie These changes include, but are not limited to:

- a. the project title that reflects a significant alteration in the focus of the research
- b. the composition, the subject matter or the aims and objectives of the project
- c. the lead supervisor, or the supervision team
- d. the researcher's school, department or discipline

The application for continuation of the scholarship will be reviewed by the *Head of Graduate Studies* and the *Graduate Studies Committee* at the next scheduled meeting of the committee.

Guidelines:

- a. The *Terms and Conditions of the time at which the award was originally made* will provide the framework for adjudication. Should the award be extended, the latest version of the Terms and Conditions will be applied.
- b. The applicant must not have been in receipt of any other scholarship in the period prior to submission of the change in registration request.
- c. Should the award be extended, the time the applicant already received the award will be deducted.
- d. Any subsequent substantial will result in the termination of the Scholarship.

Documentation for application:

The applicant must provide the following documentation to the Graduate School:

- a. Evidence of having applied for a Research Ireland award
- b. Confirmation of having presented in person at the CACSSS Postgraduate Research Conference (in the academic year prior to the request)
- c. Annual Progress Review documentation (in the academic year prior to the request)
- d. A description of the new project, including an explanation of the change of focus (approximately 400 word) from the applicant
- e. A brief description on the social, academic, cultural or other impact(s) of the new project (approximately 200 word) from the applicant
- f. An outline of the research objectives and targets for the next twelve months (approximately 150 word) from the applicant
- g. A description on the progress made on the previous incarnation of the research project (approximately 250 words), from the previous supervisor(s)
- h. A letter of support from one or more of the new supervisors explaining their endorsement of the project (approximately 400 word) from the new supervisor(s)