

# Employment-based BRIGHT-MD Scholarship Programme for Health Science Professionals in the Bon Secours Hospital

## Guidelines

The School of Medicine at University College Cork (UCC) and the Bon Secours Hospital (BSH) in Cork are pleased to announce a new partnership to provide an opportunity for registered post basic speciality training Medical Doctors either on a SpR training programme or with Registrar level experience to conduct MD research whilst in employment. In line with [UCC's Strategic Plan 2023-2028](#) the remit of the Employment-based BRIGHT-MD Scholarship Programme is to enhance and sustain excellence in graduate education in healthcare and health sciences, to deepen collaboration between researchers and clinicians and to develop pathways to widen access to programmes. Projects will be anchored in or across the [UCC Futures](#) research themes in the College of Medicine and Health: Food Microbiome and Health, Children, Ageing and Brain Science, Medicines, Future of Health (Population Health, Health Services Research, Implementation Science), Cancer Research@UCC.

The Scholarship Programme is open to those who are registered to practice Medicine in Ireland either in specialist training schemes or practicing at Registrar level in the Irish healthcare system. Integral to the role is a requirement to be employed as a medical officer by Bon Secours Hospital in Cork (details as outlined by BSH).

### **Two scholarships will be offered to commence in September 2026 for a 24-month period.**

- Scholarships will fund MD salary, annual MD registration fees and may contribute to associated research costs following application.
- Candidates must register for a minimum of 2 years full-time.
- The MD candidate will remain a salaried employee at the Bon Secours Hospital in Cork and will concurrently register as an MD student at UCC for the duration of the MD project<sup>1</sup>.

## Eligibility

### Applicant

- An employee (full time/part time) employed as SpR / registrar in the Bon Secours Hospital in Cork.
- Registered on the general or trainee register of the Irish Medical Council.
- Have obtained a standard of at least Second Class Honours, Grade I, in an approved primary degree of Medicine, or possess relevant professional and clinical experience to allow them to be considered under the University's policy for [Recognition of Prior Learning for Admission to Research Degrees](#).
- Meet the [English language requirements for admission onto postgraduate programmes](#) in UCC.

<sup>1</sup> MD students and supervisors will abide by the [UCC Policy on the Supervision of Research Students](#)

### Supervisory team<sup>1</sup>

- Each supervisory team will have a minimum of two supervisors as follows and as per UCC policy on the [Supervision of Research Students](#):
  - The lead supervisor should be a member of the academic staff of the School of Medicine, UCC for the duration of the project.
  - A clinical co-supervisor should be a medical consultant of the Bon Secours Hospital, Cork, who must confirm agreement with the supervision principles of UCC<sup>1</sup>.
- Should host a research programme relevant to the area in the proposed MD project.
- Additional co-supervisors from UCC academic or research staff or from research active Bon Secours Hospital staff are permitted and must abide by the supervision principles of UCC.

### **If necessary, there may be a contribution to the eligible research costs following application:**

- Contribution to the cost of consumables & materials required to complete the project
- Access costs for specialised equipment usage
- Costs of access to technical support

The following costs will not be covered:

- Salary costs of any additional personnel associated with the project other than the candidate
- Travel costs associated with the project or dissemination of the results
- Overheads or indirect costs

### **How to Apply**

Prior to applying for an MD Scholarship for Health Science Professionals, the applicant must arrange the following:

- Identify a clinical supervisor in the Bon Secours Hospital.
- Identify an academic (lead) supervisor from a Department/Research Centre in the School of Medicine at UCC who has similar or complementary research expertise.
  - The academic/clinical supervisor may identify additional supervisors in consultation with the candidate to ensure that the relevant expertise is in place for the proposed MD project.
- Consult with the supervisory team to identify a research project of priority and aligned with one of the UCC Futures research themes in UCC.

Once the supervisory team has been established, and a project agreed, a candidate may apply for the MD Scholarship.

- The application form can be downloaded [here](#).
- Part A should be completed by the applicant in consultation with the supervisory team.
- Part B should be completed by the supervisory team.
- Evidence of qualifications and final examination grades must be submitted with the application.
- The completed application form together with evidence of qualifications should be compiled as **one document in pdf format** and emailed to [gradschoolmh@ucc.ie](mailto:gradschoolmh@ucc.ie)
- Applications that do not adhere to these requirements will not be considered.

The deadline for submission of the application is **5pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026.**

<sup>1</sup> MD students and supervisors will abide by the [UCC Policy on the Supervision of Research Students](#).

## Selection

Applications will be assessed by the College of Medicine and Health Graduate Studies Committee or a designated sub-committee based on the following criteria:

- Scientific excellence and impact of the MD project (0-50 marks).
  - justification for the study in line with the relevant UCC Futures research themes, hypothesis, aims, research design and methods, impact.
- Workplace and research experience of the applicant relevant to the proposed MD (0-10 marks).
- Applicant personal statement (0-10 marks).
- Supervisory team (0-10 marks).
- MD training and support structures (0-10 marks).
- Partnership between UCC and the Bon Secours Hospital e.g. added value / benefits of the scholarship to initiating collaborations or strengthening existing collaborations between the UCC supervisory team and the BSH (0-10 marks).

## Enquiries

General enquiries about the scholarships may be directed in the first instance to Dr. Aislinn Joy, Vice Dean/Chair of Graduate Studies School of Medicine School of Committee, UCC, at [a.joy@ucc.ie](mailto:a.joy@ucc.ie) or Professor Elaine Lehane, Vice Head of Graduate Studies, College of Medicine and Health at [gradschoolmh@ucc.ie](mailto:gradschoolmh@ucc.ie) **and** Enquiries in the Bon Secours Hospital to Joao Chourico, Medical Resources Manager [jchourico@bonsecours.ie](mailto:jchourico@bonsecours.ie)

## Key dates

Deadline for applications to <a href="mailto:gradschoolmh@ucc.ie">gradschoolmh@ucc.ie</a>	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Call outcome	June 2026

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