

University College Cork

IRC Postgraduate Call 2023

September 2022

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Research Support Services
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Postgraduate Scholarships

Eligibility:

- All Disciplines & types of research
- Scholars of any nationality may hold a scholarship
- 1st or upper 2nd class honours primary degree (or equivalent) or hold a master's degree;
- Applicants for a masters must not have - or previously held – an IRC postgrad award
- Applicants for a doctoral award must not hold, or have previously held an IRC postgrad, unless it was to enable the applicant to obtain a research masters degree.
- Must not have had 2 previous unsuccessful or 2 ineligible applications to the programme.

Value - €27,500 per annum (Max):

- Stipend €18,500 per annum
- Contribution to Fees €5,750 per annum (max)
- Eligible direct research expenses €3,250 per annum

Start Date:

- Award starts September 1st (**no later or earlier**)

UCC Frequently Asked Questions

Question

I will not be in a position to start my scholarship on the official start-date. Can I still apply for the scholarship, and defer the start date if my application is successful?

Answer

The IRC will only consider a deferral for the following reasons:

- Maternity/Paternity leave
- Adoptive leave
- Prolonged sick leave
- Carer's leave

Otherwise, all scholarships **must** commence on the official scholarship start-date, so please ensure that the start-date is not an issue for you before you apply.

UCC Frequently Asked Questions

Question

The IRC application form asks if I will be in receipt of any additional awards during the scholarship period? I currently hold a UCC CACSSS Excellence Scholarship – should I answer yes?

Answer

Anyone holding a UCC CACSSS Excellence Scholarship will be required to give it up if they receive an IRC scholarship. Thus, you should answer NO to this question on the IRC application form.

UCC Frequently Asked Questions

Question

I have previously applied for other IRC grants. Am I still eligible to apply for this call?

Answer

Applications to different IRC calls are normally treated separately. However, if you have already applied for this postgrad scholarship twice in previous years, you cannot apply again.

NB: Anyone who applied for an IRC Enterprise Partnership award can still apply for a GOI postgrad award. However, you cannot hold both awards at the same time.

UCC Frequently Asked Questions

Question

I do not have a Masters, and I am in my final year of my undergraduate degree, so I will not know my undergrad result before this call closes. Can I still apply this year?

Answer

Yes, you can still apply. You must declare that your degree is incomplete, and instead, include the grade from the last completed year of the degree in question. If your application is successful, the IRC will then request to see your transcripts, to verify that your final grade for this degree meets the eligibility requirement of the programme.

UCC Frequently Asked Questions

Question

I'm currently finishing my Master degree, but will not receive my dissertation results until after the IRC deadline – can I still apply?

Answer

Yes, you can still apply. If your application is successful, and you receive an offer, the IRC will then request proof that you have successfully obtained your Masters.

UCC Frequently Asked Questions

Question

What kind of additional materials can I upload to my application?

Answer

You CAN include:

Essential information required for the interpretation and understanding of the proposed research.

- Diagrams
- Bibliographies
- Gantt charts
- Preliminary results

You CANNOT include:

Additional information about the research proposal or applicant.

- C.Vs
- Letters of Support
- Photos of the applicant
- Hyperlinks
- Links to audio/videos

IMPORTANT:

Do not disclose your gender in uploaded PDFs.

Instead, use initials instead of first names if you have a publication listed in the bibliography.

UCC Frequently Asked Questions

Question

I want to apply for one of the funding partner scholarship themes offered this year – does this mean that I cannot apply for the general IRC scholarship?

Answer

While applicants may apply for one scholarship theme only, those who choose to apply for a funding partner theme will also be considered for a standard IRC Postgraduate Scholarship.

UCC Frequently Asked Questions

Question

I have already submitted my application, but realise that I made an error – is it possible to correct this error?

Answer

No. Once an application is submitted, the **IRC will not allow** changes or corrections under any circumstances.

So proof-read your application first, and ensure that all information is correct – especially **email addresses!**

UCC Frequently Asked Questions

Question

Is there a way to calculate the Irish equivalent of my foreign results?

Answer

The UCC website has a section to calculate this:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/study/comparison/>

However, you should only use this to ensure that your results are eligible.

The results you enter into your IRC application form should be the exact results documented on your academic transcripts, NOT their Irish equivalent.

UCC Frequently Asked Questions

Question

Do both my academic supervisor and my secondary supervisor have to be based at UCC?

Answer

Your academic supervisor must be based at UCC, but secondary supervisors can be based at any higher education institution.

NB: Secondary Supervisors should have a purely advisory role.

UCC Frequently Asked Questions

Question

I can't find my UCC supervisor on the IRC drop-down menu in the application form. What should I do?

Answer

1. Ensure that you have selected UCC as your host institution on the application.
2. Contact your supervisor and ask if they have been registered as a supervisor on the IRC system in previous years.
3. If not, ask the supervisor to contact Patricia Deasy (patricia.deasy@ucc.ie) in the Research Office. Patricia will be able to register the supervisor onto the system.

NB: Patricia cannot register your secondary supervisor. You must manually add this person to your application.

UCC Frequently Asked Questions

Question

I want to apply but I do not have a supervisor – can you assign me one?

Answer

It is up to each applicant to source and approach a supervisor.

Use the UCC website as a starting point. Look up the Department of your research discipline, and read about the academic staff based there. Once you find someone suitable, send them an email explaining your background, your qualifications, and why you would like them to be your supervisor. Also, include a link to the IRC scholarship call, in case the supervisor is unfamiliar with it.

NB: Don't be afraid of reaching out to the supervisors! They are well-experienced in being approached by students in need of a mentor. 😊

UCC Frequently Asked Questions

Question

IRC system was too slow on the day of the deadline and as a result, my application did not upload/submit in time. Will the IRC still accept my application?

Answer

No. The IRC warn that their system slows on the day of the deadline due to heavy traffic, and advise applicants to submit their applications early to avoid this issue. **Thus, they will not accept late applications due to technical issues.**

Do not take this risk! Submit your application at least one day in advance of the deadline, and avoid any last-minute panic.

UCC Frequently Asked Questions

Question

I have a question – who should I ask?

Answer

Always ask your supervisor first! If your supervisor cannot advise you:

Patricia Deasy – Eligibility; Application Process; UCC Review Process; Deadlines; non-research queries.

Your Research Officer – Research content, development, and presentation; other research-related questions.

Research Officers:

Arts & Social Science - Allen White

allen.white@ucc.ie

Business & Law - Sean Lucey

sean.lucey@ucc.ie

Medicine & Health - Ashleigh Byrne

ashleigh.byrne@ucc.ie

Tyndall - Aidan O'Toole

aidan.otoole@tyndall.ie

Science & Engineering – No Research Officer. SEFS applicants are asked to liaise with their supervisors instead if they have questions.

UCC Frequently Asked Questions

Question

I have decided to proceed with applying – who should I notify?

Answer

Applicants must email Patricia Deasy (patricia.deasy@ucc.ie) in the Research Office as early as possible.

Patricia will take your basic details, assess your eligibility, and send you important information in relation to the UCC review process – including UCC deadlines.

It is also advisable to notify your relevant Research Officer.

Research Officers:

Arts & Social Science - Allen White

allen.white@ucc.ie

Business & Law - Sean Lucey

sean.lucey@ucc.ie

Medicine & Health - Ashleigh Byrne

ashleigh.byrne@ucc.ie

Tyndall - Aidan O'Toole

aidan.otoole@tyndall.ie

Science & Engineering – No Research Officer. SEFS applicants are asked to liaise with their supervisors instead.

Important Deadlines

UCC Expression of Interest Deadline 14.00 5th October

UCC Eligibility Checklist Deadline 14.00 12th October

FAQ Deadline 16.00 13th October

Applicant Deadline 16.00 20th October

Supervisor Deadline 16.00 27th October

UCC Endorsement Deadline 16.00 3rd November

Applicants have the option of sending their application to be reviewed by a Research Officers for feedback, prior to submission to the IRC.

Please consult with the Research Officer of your UCC College for more info.

Patient-Focused Research

Please tick this box if your research involves actual engagement with patients as subjects or participants.

Students must not determine if their research is patient-focused or not without consulting their supervisor first. Only after your supervisor has confirmed this to you, should you then tick/untick this box.

Examples of Patient-focused Research:

- Interviewing patients
- Observing patients
- Giving questionnaires to patients
- Testing a product on patients
- Testing an intervention using patients