



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

HEA | HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY
AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS

GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS 2024

CALL DOCUMENT

1. Overview

The Government of Ireland International Education Scholarship (GOI-IES) programme supports high-calibre international students who wish to study at master's or doctoral level in Ireland. The programme was established under the Government's [International Education Strategy 2010–2015: Investing in Global Relationships](#) and expanded under the successor strategy [Irish Educated, Globally Connected \(2016–2020\)](#). It is also linked to [Ireland's National Skills Strategy 2025 – Ireland's Future](#) and [Global Ireland: Ireland's Global Footprint to 2025](#). The programme is funded by the Government of Ireland in partnership with Irish higher education institutions (HEIs) and managed by the Higher Education Authority (HEA). The aim of the GOI-IES programme is to promote the internationalisation of Irish higher education.

The GOI-IES is aimed at top-level international students – it is a highly competitive scheme for which a large number of applications are received each year. Applications are assessed by a panel of independent international reviewers and scholarships are awarded to the highest scoring candidates. GOI-IES scholars can explore avenues for personal and professional development, establish connections with Irish and international peers and enhance connections between their countries and Ireland.

2. Details of the scholarship

GOI-IES are awarded to **high-calibre international students to study full-time in Ireland for a period of one year**. 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 programme. It is expected that a total of **60** scholarships will be funded under the GOI-IES programme for the 2024/2025 academic year.

The scholarships will be for one year of a full-time master's (taught or research) or PhD programme. Scholarships may be approved for study across all disciplines, subject to the availability of places.

The scholarships amount to **€10,000 for one year of study** and are awarded by the HEA to the successful applicants through the HEIs that they are attending. This fund is directed at assisting with student costs and living expenses. In addition, the awardees' host HEIs will be required to give a **full fee waiver** to the awardees for the scholarship year (i.e. tuition fee and registration charge are waived). This is the minimum matched funding requirement that institutions will be required to make to the scholarship scheme.

Successful scholars will be expected to commence their studies in either September or October 2024. An official awarding event for GOI-IES scholars will be held in April 2025.

3. Eligibility criteria

Applicants must have a **domiciliary of origin** outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland/ United Kingdom.

In solidarity with the people of Ukraine in the context of the continued aggression of Russia, and in line with [the statement](#) issued by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in March 2022, Russian and Belarussian nationals are not eligible to apply.

Candidates will need to apply for admission to a relevant master's or PhD programme offered by an eligible HEI (see Appendix 1) as per that institution's admission procedures. Applicants must have a **conditional or final offer** of admission to that HEI at the time of application and will be required to submit a copy of same. The offer letter must confirm that the student has been offered a place on a full-time programme as an international, paying student.

Should an applicant be in receipt of more than one offer, separate applications may be submitted for each course offer. 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 on the online system.

4. Candidate profile

Applicants are expected to demonstrate:

- a record of outstanding academic achievement;
- excellent communication skills;
- evidence of participation in extracurricular activities, for example, humanitarian work, politics, arts or sport; and
- a strong rationale for pursuing their study in Ireland that indicates how a GOI-IES would align with their longer-term goals.

5. Evaluation criteria

Eligible students are invited to submit applications via the online application portal which is available at this [link](#). A marking system (total 100 marks) is part of the call, with the relevant scores shown in brackets after the key selection criteria below. Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves fully with the evaluation criteria prior to making an application. An application must cover the following:

- Academic qualifications, achievements and work experience **(40 marks)**.
- Personal statement (refer to the Candidate profile), where applicants will be required to demonstrate:
 - the benefit of becoming a GOI-IES scholar: to themselves (personally and professionally), to the HEI, to Ireland (economically and societally), as well as to 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 maximise their academic and cultural exchange experience and to raise awareness of the GOI-IES programme 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 alumni **(15 marks)**.
- Two references uploaded via the online application portal. Please note that the HEA will not accept references submitted outside of the online application portal **(15 marks)**.

6. Assessment and award process

Applications will first be shared with the relevant HEIs, who will check them for eligibility and shortlist them based on alignment with institutional international strategic objectives¹, for example:

- country of origin of applicants
- proposed study cycle of applicants (i.e., master's or PhD)
- field of study of applicants
- institutional capacity

The HEA may request HEIs to prioritise students who are not in receipt of alternative scholarships or other funding support.

The HEA will establish an independent panel of international assessors to evaluate the applications shortlisted by the HEIs. The assessment panel will consider the extent to which the applications meet the criteria of the call as outlined above and will allocate scores in accordance with these criteria. Applications will be assessed solely based on the material provided to the HEA at the time of submission.

¹ Please contact the relevant HEI for information relating to its international education strategy.

The assessment panel will submit their independent evaluations 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 process auditor will be present at the assessment panel meeting.

The top 12 ranked applications will be automatically funded on the basis of excellence, as they represent the top 20% of the 60 awards to be funded.

In addition to the ranked position of the applications, the remaining 48 awards will be allocated with consideration to:

- the institution (university, technological university, institute of technology etc.), field of study, level of study, geographical spread and alignment to regional and/or national needs;
- potential social and development benefit that might accrue to the country of origin in areas like education, social work, health promotion, and infrastructural development.

Only applications that meet a minimum threshold (60 marks) will be considered for a scholarship. There is a limit of five awards per HEI.

The HEA's decision on whether to award a scholarship is final. Due to the very large number of applications received, it is not possible to give feedback to unsuccessful candidates.

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 matched funding. Confirmation of this by the HEI constitutes its agreement to, and acceptance of, the terms of the call for applications.

An official GOI-IES award letter will be issued to successful applicants by the HEA.

7. Submission of Applications

Potential applicants should read the call documentation carefully to ascertain whether they are eligible to apply. All participants must create and submit their applications via the online system which is available [here](#).

The deadline for GOI-IES 2024 applications is 5pm (Irish time) on 13 March 2024. Applications will not be accepted after this deadline.

Any questions regarding the call for applications should be submitted to GOI-IES@hea.ie no later than 12 March 2024. Telephone queries cannot be accommodated.

The HEA expects to release the results of GOI-IES 2024 in late May or early June 2024.

8. Use of personal data

The HEA will process personal data received as part of this process in line with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Please see further details in Appendix 3. For more information about how the HEA manages personal data, please see our [Data Privacy Notice](#).

APPENDIX 1

Eligible Institutions for Call for Applications 2024

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 9 or 10, which is made by one of the following awarding bodies:

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)
- Technological Universities and Institutes of Technology with delegated authority to make awards
- RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Irish Universities

The following is a list of all institutions eligible under the GOI-IES 2024 programme.

- American College Dublin
- Atlantic Technological University
- CCT College
- Dublin Business School
- Dublin City University
- Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology
- Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Galway Business School
- Griffith College
- ICD Business School
- Independent College
- Mary Immaculate College
- Maynooth University
- Munster Technological University
- National College of Art and Design, Dublin
- National College of Ireland, Dublin
- University of Galway
- RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences
- South East Technological University
- Technological University Dublin
- Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Cork
- University College Dublin
- University of Limerick

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 2024 call for applications. The document must not be used for any other purpose.

The HEA has taken all reasonable care to ensure the material set out in this call is true and accurate in all material 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 published on the online application portal.

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.

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 candidate and will not be reimbursed.

Payment of the scholarship fund is wholly subject to the continued receipt of funding by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS). In the event of such funding being reduced or discontinued neither the DFHERIS, nor the HEA will be under any liability to provide funding or to compensate a scholar for any reduction or cessation of funding.

APPENDIX 3

HEA Data Collection Notice – Government of Ireland International Scholarship (GOI-IES)

What is personal data and what is a personal data processing operation?

Personal data shall mean any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

Personal data processing operations can be any operation or set of operations which is performed on personal data or on sets of personal data, whether or not by automated means, such as collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction.

Short description of the processing activity

The management of the scheme - a competitive process based on an annual call for proposals from individual applicants.

Who is the Data Controller?

The Higher Education Authority (HEA).

What personal data is collected?

Personal data including name, address, nationality, contact details, gender, academic details (including those in the applicants' HEI offer letters), employment history and other information pertaining to candidates' academic suitability for the scholarship.

Personal data including name, address, contact details, name of employer and position of the candidates' referees.

Who has access to the personal data of data subjects and to whom can they be disclosed?

HEA, the applicant's HEI, external assessors appointed on behalf of HEA and Wizehive (platform that the HEA uses to manage applications).

Where did we get your personal data?

Supplied as part of application to GOI-IES.

What is the purpose and legal basis for processing your personal data?

The purpose is the administration of the scheme. The legal basis is Article 6(1)(e) GDPR, arising from the Higher Education Authority Act, 2022.

How long will we retain your data?

Your personal data will be retained for 7 years from date of application.

What are your rights regarding your data?

You have the right to access your personal data and to request your personal data to be rectified, if the data is inaccurate or incomplete; where applicable, you have the right to request restriction or to object to processing, to request a copy or erasure of your personal data held by the data controller. If processing is based on your consent, you have the right to withdraw your consent at any time, without affecting the lawfulness of the processing based on your consent before its withdrawal. Your request to exercise one of the above rights will be dealt with without undue delay and in any case within one month.

We will never use automated decision making on your personal data.

Further information regarding the processing of personal data

Further information is available at: https://hea.ie/about-us/data_protection/.

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the Data Protection Commission (dataprotection.ie).

APPENDIX 4

Recommendations for Successful Candidates

Once you have confirmed your acceptance of the GOI-IES award, you will need to make the necessary preparations for your time in Ireland.

Visa applications

Information about visas can be found on the website of the Irish Immigration Service, at <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/>.

In particular, see <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/> and <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/what-are-my-study-visa-options/how-to-apply-for-long-term-study-visa/>.

If you require a visa to enter the country, it is strongly recommended that you familiarise yourself with visa requirements even before applying for the scholarship, and that you prepare the necessary documents well in advance. It is advisable to apply for the visa as soon as you receive your award letter. Visa applications are a lengthy process and delays can occur that might prevent you from arriving at your host HEI in time. Many HEIs do not accept late arrivals and you might lose your scholarship. Furthermore, it is possible that visas will not be approved for your family members, who will not be able to accompany you.

Accommodation and living costs

The cost of living in Ireland can be considerably higher than that in other countries. The €10,000 stipend will assist with living costs, but it is unlikely to cover them completely. It is advisable to secure other sources of funding, if possible, to avoid additional concerns and to be able to focus on your studies.

Accommodation is likely to be expensive and difficult to find, especially in Dublin. The sooner you start searching for suitable accommodation, the better. Staying in hotels while looking for more permanent accommodation might exhaust your finances; it is better to search before arriving in Ireland.