



## Research Scholarship Programme 2012 Frequently Asked Questions

### Who can apply?

- Question: Can a student with a 2.2 honours degree apply for a Scholarship?  
Answer: No, you must have obtained (or be about to obtain) a first or upper second class honours degree or equivalent in order to apply for a Scholarship.
- Question: Are the scholarships available to students studying abroad?  
Answer: No, the research must take place at an Irish host institution.
- Question: Are non-Irish citizens living in Ireland eligible to apply?  
Answer: Yes, if you are a non-Irish citizen but are eligible to study or work in Ireland, and you meet the eligibility criteria, you can apply for a Scholarship or Fellowship.
- Question: Are scholarships tenable for individuals living in Northern Ireland?  
Answer: Scholarships are tenable only for researchers who are conducting their research in the Republic of Ireland. This is because the money raised for the Irish Cancer Society to fund cancer research is raised in the Republic of Ireland.
- Question: Can you apply for both the IRCSET and ICS Research Scholarship Programme?  
Answer: Yes
- Question: Can I apply for funding half way through the first year of my PhD?  
Answer: No, you can only apply for a Scholarship if you have not yet commenced your PhD.
- Question: Can I apply for an ICS Scholarship if it has been more than five years since I graduated from my primary degree?  
Answer: If your career path has led to a legitimate reason why you have not commenced a PhD in the five years since your graduation, you may apply for an ICS Research Scholarship. Your reason(s) should be stated in both your scientific abstract and in your personal statement.

Question: Is there an upper age limit to the application?

Answer: No, there is no upper age limit.

Question: I have applied to the incorrect funding opportunity; can I apply for the correct scheme using my current email address?

Answer: Please contact the Helpdesk ([research@irishcancer.ie](mailto:research@irishcancer.ie), 01 2310 583). Your details will be removed from our online system allowing you to apply to the correct funding opportunity.

### **Supervisor:**

Question: Can a supervisor sponsor more than one student for separate projects who are both applying for a scholarship?

Answer: Yes, a supervisor can sponsor more than one Scholarship applicant.

Question: Is it possible to have two supervisors?

Answer: Yes, however one supervisor must be identified as the principal supervisor who will be included in all relevant correspondence. If a co-supervisor is identified this must be stated in the Research Strategy section of the application. A template CV may be requested from the Irish Cancer Society and completed by the co-supervisor. This document should be uploaded as a Letter of Support in the online application.

Question: Do you have to be a permanent member of staff in order to be a Supervisor?

Answer: A Supervisor must hold a post either permanent or on contract basis that covers the duration of the scholarship.

Question: Why does my Supervisor need to update their online CV as part of the application process?

Answer: The research track record and the record of supervision of the Supervisor will be assessed as part of the overall Scholarship application.

Question: Is it permitted to use your proposed supervisor as one of your referees?

Answer: Yes.

### **Research Areas:**

Question: What are the key areas in which research proposals are sought?

Answer: We seek research proposals in line with the Irish Cancer Society strategic areas of activity which are: smoking in young people, early detection of colorectal cancer and fighting cancer through information and support (including psycho-oncology).

Questions: Will research proposals in other cancer research areas be considered?  
Yes, research proposals from other areas of cancer research will be considered.

### **Funding:**

Question: Is there an overall target for the amount of funding granted per project?  
Answer: The maximum funding granted for a Scholarship is €35,000 per year for a maximum of 4 years.  
Applicants should also apply for funding to a total value of €9,000 for two mobility elements.

### **Mobility Elements**

Question: Are the Mobility Elements mandatory for my application?  
Answer: Yes, you must include the details of one national research institution and one international research institution that you plan to visit during your Research Scholarship in your application.

**Please note** that applicants may change the details of the mobility elements during their Research Scholarship and for this reason applicants must reapply for this funding closer to the period of travel (at least three months in advance of travelling).

Question: Can I select two national research centres for my mobility elements?  
Answer: No, you must include one national and one international research centre. The purpose of the mobility elements to allow the Scholar to gain valuable experience at other research institutions, both nationally and internationally.

Question: Is there a maximum amount I can request for my national and international mobility elements?  
You may request up to €3,000 to cover travel, accommodation and running costs at your national research institution.  
You may request up to €6,000 to cover travel, accommodation and running costs at your national research institution.

Question: Will there be a call for project grants in 2012?  
Answer: There will be a targeted call for prostate cancer project grants in 2012. Information is available from [www.cri.cancer.ie/](http://www.cri.cancer.ie/) or by contacting the Helpdesk at [research@irishcancer.ie](mailto:research@irishcancer.ie) or by telephone at 01 2310 583.

Question: What is the expected start date for successful Research Scholarships?  
Answer: Successful Research Scholarships will commence in October 2012.

### **Clinical / Industrial placement**

Question: Can I receive payment in addition to my student stipend if I undertake a clinical or industrial payment during the first six months of my final year?

Answer: No, if you will be receipt of additional payments during your clinical or industrial placement, you may not request your stipend for that time period.

### **Number of Awards:**

Question: How many scholarships are available?

Answer: This is dependent on the amount of funding available.

In 2009, 2010 and 2011, the Irish Cancer Society funded 3, 5 and 8 Research Scholarships, respectively. We hope to fund 5 Research Scholarships in 2012 in our new four year Research Scholarship Programme.

### **Date of Awards**

Question: When will applicants find out if they are successful?

Answer: Applicants will find out if they have been shortlisted for interview or not in early April.

Applicants will be informed if they have been successful in early May.

### **Grant Deadline**

Question: When do applications need to be in by?

Answer: The online application form must be submitted by **3pm, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012.**

The printed declaration of support must be received by the Irish Cancer Society by Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

### **Commencement of Research Scholarship Programme**

Question: When do successful Research Scholarship Programme commence?

Answer: The Research Scholarship Programme will begin in October 2012.

### **The Application Form:**

Question: I can't edit my Supervisor's information in the application section?

Answer: You cannot directly edit information in 'My Application', in the tab for 'Proposed Host Institution and Research Supervisor'. This information comes directly from your CV and from your supervisor's CV. If you want to change information in this text box, that will have to be changed on your or your supervisor's CV, and not in the 'My Application.

Question: How often should I save my application?  
Answer: Please note that you should save your information regularly, **at least every 30 minutes**, as the online system automatically logs off after 45 minutes.

We recommend that you type and save your information in a word document before inserting it into the online application form to reduce the risk of losing any of your work.

Question: Can I enter additional words in excess of the word count limit for sections of my application?

Answer: Applicants must strictly adhere to the word count limits for each section of their application.

Question: Can I edit my application after submission?

Answer: Once you have pressed the submit button, you can no longer edit your application.

Question: I applied for the wrong type of funding, can this be changed?

Answer: If you want to change to apply for the other scheme, we can delete your account and you can re-register. Please email [research@irishcancer.ie](mailto:research@irishcancer.ie) with your request.

### **Other Questions:**

#### **Part-time Research**

Question: Can I apply for an ICS Scholarship if I plan to pursue my PhD on a part-time basis?

Answer: Applications for research proposals to be undertaken in a part-time capacity will be accepted.

However, Applicants must adhere to the following guidelines;

- The plan to complete a PhD part-time must be stated in both the scientific abstract and in the project outline (research strategy section), with applicants outlining details of the amount of time which will be committed to the research proposal and the duration of proposed research.
- In the personal statement a strong case should be made for completing the research part-time as opposed to full time.
- Applicants proposing to complete their PhD through part-time research must identify a mentor (in addition to the research supervisor), and this mentor should not be directly involved in the research proposal. This mentor should provide their CV and a letter of support to accompany the application.