



along with a coherently argued case why this course or topic should be undertaken in the other Irish jurisdiction. Applicants should explain clearly and cogently how they think their studies will contribute to all-island innovation and business development in their chosen subject.

TIMETABLE

The closing date for applications for this bursary scheme will be **Friday 2nd May (5 pm)**. The winning applicants will be selected by a high level panel comprising two university presidents (one from the North, one from the South) and two business leaders (one from the North, one from the South), chaired by Dr Don Thornhill, Chairman, National Competitiveness Council (RoI) and former chairman, Higher Education Authority. Shortlisting will take place in late May-early June. Depending on the number and quality of applications, applicants may be interviewed in Dublin in mid-late June.

The successful applicants will be informed of the panel's decision in early July. They will meet their sponsoring company between July and September to discuss a possible work placement or other collaboration to assist them in their studies. Students will be expected to engage seriously with their sponsoring firm by visiting their corporate offices in person on several occasions and ensuring that all possibilities of collaboration for mutual benefit are explored. This is a generous award from the sponsoring firm and Universities Ireland expects each firm's financial commitment to be acknowledged and reciprocated in some way by the student.

50% of the bursary will be paid at the beginning of the student's postgraduate year in autumn 2008; the remaining 50% will be paid in spring 2009. This second payment will be dependent on a satisfactory progress report countersigned by a course or research supervisor, and evidence of serious engagement with the sponsoring firm.

Recipients of the bursaries will be required to furnish proof that they have been offered a place on a recognised Master's course or Ph.D. degree in the other Irish jurisdiction or on a cross-border Master's course. The organisers reserve the right not to award the full number of bursaries if the standard of applications is insufficiently high.

**For further information, including an application form, contact
Patricia McAllister, Universities Ireland, The Centre for Cross Border Studies,
39 Abbey Street, Armagh BT61 7EB, Northern Ireland.**

Tel: 028-37-511550 [048 from the Republic of Ireland] Email: p.mcallister@qub.ac.uk

**Please address queries about eligibility to Andy Pollak, Secretary, Universities Ireland
Tel. 028-37-511550 [048 from Republic of Ireland]
Email: a.pollak@qub.ac.uk**



North-South Masters Bursaries

Guidance Notes for 2008 Applicants

INTRODUCTION

Universities Ireland, which promotes collaboration between universities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and the Joint Business Council of the Confederation of British Industry (NI) and the Irish Business and Employers Confederation, which promotes North-South business cooperation, are offering six bursaries to students undertaking a recognised Master's course (taught or research) in the other Irish jurisdiction. Dublin Institute of Technology is also a partner in this scheme.

These bursaries, worth €20,000 (approx. Stg£14,800) each, will be in areas of study of particular relevance to business and industry, and will be co-sponsored by Universities Ireland and six individual companies: **Arthur Cox, Belfast City Airport, CSA Group, Dublin Port, Healy Group and RPS Group**. They must be taken up for the academic year 2008-2009.





The aim of this scheme is to encourage outstanding students from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland to cross the border to undertake postgraduate study and experience life in the other Irish jurisdiction. Because it is 50% sponsored by business firms, the emphasis is on subjects of interest to business, and the scheme aims in particular to build all-island innovation in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) – along with business administration – which will be vital in moving the island towards the knowledge economy that is vital to its future prosperity. It is thus a scheme which has been conceived both to support the continuing peace process in Northern Ireland and to train highly skilled postgraduates to contribute to a new phase of economic development for the island as a whole.

THE SPONSORING FIRMS

The interests of the six sponsoring firms are listed below. Students should bear these in mind when applying, because the subjects of their proposed postgraduate study will be perused by these firms with their interests in mind.

Arthur Cox: law and finance

Belfast City Airport: business administration and development, including sales and marketing

CSA group: renewable energies and geotechnical engineering

Dublin Port: transport (particularly marine transport) and logistics, and business administration

Healy Group: business administration

RPS Group: planning engineering and environmental sciences, with a particular emphasis on climate change and sustainability

This list is not exhaustive. Other areas of particular relevance to business include ICT, biotechnology, chemistry and food science. Candidates should contact the Centre for Cross Border Studies (see details on back page) for advice on other relevant subjects.

ELIGIBILITY

These bursaries are open to all students current registered at an Irish or a Northern Irish university or Dublin Institute of Technology (or who have graduated within the past five years) proposing to take up a place on a Master's course which would require them to locate to the other Irish jurisdiction. They are also open to currently registered students at an Irish or a Northern Irish university or Dublin Institute of Technology (or who have graduated within the past five years) wishing to follow a cross-border Master's course involving some significant period of study in the other Irish jurisdiction.

These bursaries are open to **all students at an Irish or Northern Irish university or DIT (or who have graduated within the past five years) regardless of their nationality or birthplace.**

For the first time, these bursaries are also open to **Irish or Northern Irish-born students currently registered at (or who have graduated within the past five years**



from) a British university (i.e. a university in England, Scotland or Wales) who wish to relocate to the Irish jurisdiction they were **not born in** to undertake a Master's course (or to undertake a cross-border Master's course with a significant period of study in the Irish jurisdiction they were not born in).

For the first time, the bursaries are also open to all students at Irish and Northern Irish universities (or who have graduated within the past five years) and all Irish or Northern Irish-born students at British universities (or who have graduated within the past five years) who wish to relocate and cross the Irish border to do the first year of a Ph.D.

The fundamental requirement for eligibility for this scheme is a willingness to relocate to the other Irish jurisdiction for a whole year or a major part of a year in order to undertake a Master's course or the first year of a Ph.D.

Students who are **not eligible** to apply to this scheme include:

1. Students not currently registered at Irish or British universities;
2. Students who have not graduated from Irish or British universities in the past five years;
3. Republic of Ireland students wishing to do postgraduate study at a Republic of Ireland university;
4. Northern Ireland students wishing to do postgraduate study at a Northern Ireland university;
5. Students from either Irish jurisdiction wishing to do postgraduate study at an English, Scottish or Welsh university;
6. Students at English, Scottish or Welsh universities who have not been born in Ireland or Northern Ireland wishing to do postgraduate study at a university in Ireland or Northern Ireland;
7. Students at Institutes of Technology (other than Dublin Institute of Technology) in the Republic of Ireland;
8. Students who have already commenced a Masters or Ph.D (by coursework or research).

Past experience has shown that we receive queries from students who have particular university experiences and personal backgrounds which may not fit exactly into these categories. The Secretary of Universities Ireland (in consultation with the Universities Ireland Executive Committee) reserves the right to decide which of these applicants are eligible to apply to this scheme.

THE ESSAY

To be considered for this award, applicants will be required to write a short essay (1400-1500 words) explaining why they wish to study in the other Irish jurisdiction and how they believe their studies will enhance understanding of innovation and business development on the island of Ireland in their chosen subject.

Shortlisting for the bursaries will be based on this essay. The shortlisting panel will look for a clear outline of the course of study (or research topic) to be undertaken