



North-South Postgraduate Scholarships

Guidance Notes for 2009 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 three scholarships to students undertaking a recognised Master's or the first year of a PhD programme (taught or research) in the other Irish jurisdiction. Dublin Institute of Technology is also a partner in this scheme.

These scholarships are worth €15,000 (approx. Stg£14,000) each. Two of them will be in areas of study of particular relevance to business and industry, and will be co-sponsored by Universities Ireland and two individual companies, **Dublin Port and RPS Group**. One more will be in another area (particularly arts and social sciences) and will be funded by Universities Ireland alone. These scholarships must be taken up for the academic year 2009-2010.





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 part-sponsored by business firms, there is a particular emphasis on subjects of interest to business, and the scheme aims to help 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 two sponsoring firms are listed below. Students applying for the business-sponsored scholarships 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.

Dublin Port: transport (particularly marine transport) and logistics, and 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, finance, biotechnology, chemistry and food science. Candidates should contact the Centre for Cross Border Studies (see details below) for advice on other relevant subjects.

The non-business scholarship will be funded by Universities Ireland alone, and can be in any area of study.

ELIGIBILITY

These scholarships are open to all students currently 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 or PhD programme 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 or the first year of a PhD programme involving a significant period of study in the other Irish jurisdiction.

These scholarships 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.**

These scholarships 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 or the first year of a PhD programme (or to follow a postgraduate programme with a significant period of study in the Irish jurisdiction they were not born in).

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 or the first year of a PhD programme.

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 PhD (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 (for the business-sponsored scholarships); or understanding of all-island perspectives in their chosen subject (for the non-business scholarship).

Shortlisting for the scholarships 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 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 the North-South or all-island dimension of their chosen subject.



TIMETABLE

The closing date for applications for this scholarship scheme will be Friday 15th 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 early-mid June.

The successful applicants will be informed of the panel's decision in early July. Those being sponsored by a business 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 in a difficult economic period, and Universities Ireland expects each firm's financial commitment to be acknowledged and reciprocated in some way by the student.

50% of scholarships will be paid at the beginning of the student's postgraduate year in autumn 2009; the remaining 50% will be paid in spring 2010. This second payment will be dependent on a satisfactory progress report countersigned by a course or research supervisor, and (in the case of the business-sponsored scholarships) evidence of serious engagement with the sponsoring firm.

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

For further information, including an application form, contact Eimear Donnelly (eimear.donnelly@qub.ac.uk) or Patricia McAllister (p.mcallister@qub.ac.uk), Universities Ireland, The Centre for Cross Border Studies, 39 Abbey Street, Armagh BT61 7EB.

Tel: 028 3751 1550 [048 from Republic of Ireland]

Please address queries about eligibility to Andy Pollak, Secretary, Universities Ireland

Tel: 028 3751 1550 [048 from Republic of Ireland]

Email: a.pollak@qub.ac.uk