

North/South Postgraduate Scholarships guidance notes for 2025 applicants



Introduction

Universities Ireland, the body which promotes collaboration between universities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, is offering at least four scholarships to students **who meet the eligibility requirements**

detailed below and who have been accepted to undertake a recognised Master's degree or are entering the first year of a PhD programme at a university on the island of Ireland.

PLEASE NOTE: 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. If you have already successfully completed an Undergraduate degree at a university in one Irish jurisdiction and have either successfully completed a Master's degree (or will have completed a Master's in 2025) at a university in the other Irish jurisdiction, you are **NOT ELIGIBLE** to apply for these scholarships.

These scholarships are worth €25,000 each. Scholarship winners from the Republic of Ireland will be paid in Euro whilst winners from Northern Ireland will be paid in the Sterling equivalent as converted on the day the cheques are issued. These scholarships must be taken up for the academic year 2025-2026.

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ELIGIBILITY

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. ***If you have already successfully completed an Undergraduate degree in a university in one Irish jurisdiction and have either successfully completed a Master's degree (or will have completed a Master's degree in 2025) at a university in the other Irish jurisdiction (or you have previously been a recipient of a Universities Ireland scholarship or bursary) you are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.***

These scholarships are open to all students – **regardless of their nationality or birth place** – who satisfy one of these three sets of criteria:

1	2	3
<p>Applicant is currently registered at a university on the island of Ireland* on an Undergraduate degree programme</p> <p>OR</p> <p>has graduated within the past ten years from a university on the island of Ireland*</p> <p>AND</p> <p>has achieved an Undergraduate degree grade of 2.1 or higher</p> <p>AND</p> <p>has applied to commence a Master's degree <i>in the other Irish jurisdiction</i> from which they achieved their Undergraduate degree</p>	<p>Applicant has successfully completed their Master's degree, or will have completed a Master's degree in 2025 at a university <i>in the same Irish jurisdiction as their Undergraduate degree</i></p> <p>AND</p> <p>has applied to commence the first year of a PhD <i>in the other Irish jurisdiction</i> from which they achieved their Undergraduate degree</p>	<p>Applicant has graduated within the past ten years from a university on the island of Ireland*</p> <p>AND</p> <p>has successfully completed a Master's degree, or will have completed a Master's degree in 2025 at a university elsewhere</p> <p>AND</p> <p>has applied to commence the first year of a PhD <i>in the other Irish jurisdiction</i> from which they achieved their Undergraduate degree</p>

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These scholarships are also open to **students born on the island of Ireland** who satisfy one of these two sets of criteria:

1	2
<p>Applicant is currently registered at a university in England, Scotland or Wales (including the Open University) on an Undergraduate programme</p> <p>OR</p> <p>has graduated within the past ten years from a university in England, Scotland or Wales (including the Open University)</p> <p>AND</p> <p>has achieved an Undergraduate degree grade of 2.1 or higher</p> <p>AND</p> <p>has applied to commence take up a place on a Master's degree <i>in the Irish jurisdiction in which they were not born</i></p>	<p>Applicant has successfully completed a Master's degree, or will have completed a Master's degree in 2025 at a university in England, Scotland or Wales (including the Open University)</p> <p>AND</p> <p>has applied to commence the first year of a PhD <i>in the Irish jurisdiction in which they were not born</i></p>

* Eligible institutions are: Atlantic Technological University; Trinity College Dublin; University College Dublin; Dublin City University; TU Dublin; Queen's University Belfast; Ulster University; University College Cork; Galway University; Maynooth University; University of Limerick; The Open University.

* Applicant must take up full time study and relocate to live in the other jurisdiction from which he/she was born.

THE ESSAY

Applicants must submit an essay (2000-2500 words) explaining their motivation for wishing to study in the other jurisdiction; providing a coherently-argued case about how they expect their proposed post-graduate studies will:

- contribute to their personal understanding of an all-Ireland perspective in their field or subject; **and**
- contribute to enhanced all-Ireland knowledge or practice in their field or subject; **and/or**
- contribute to the economic, environmental, social and/or cultural development of the island as a whole.

The essay should include a brief but clear outline of the proposed course of study or research topic.

Shortlisting will be based on this essay. Decisions will be taken solely on the basis of the written application and essay. There will be no interviews.

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TIMETABLE AND CONDITIONS

The deadline for applications for this scholarship scheme will be **4pm on 15th May 2025**. Shortlisting will take place in May, and the successful applicants will be informed of the panel's decision in June.

50% of the scholarship will be paid at the beginning of the student's postgraduate year in autumn 2025 upon receipt of **confirmation of registration** in the course of study from the university.

The remaining 50% will be paid in September 2026 following submission of a satisfactory progress report countersigned by a course or research supervisor, confirming that the applicant's first year of postgraduate study has been successfully completed to an appropriate academic standard and that their progress towards academic milestones is satisfactory.

A second report in September 2027 will inform Universities Ireland of the scholarship recipient's expected date of completion of their postgraduate course of study and any anticipated publications or other significant outputs. A copy of these publications must be submitted to Universities Ireland and Universities Ireland reserve the right to publish this material on their website **www.universitiesireland.ie**.

Recipients of the scholarships will be required to furnish proof of their Undergraduate degree, and 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.

Application forms are available on the Universities Ireland website (www.universitiesireland.ie).

Please submit applications to: tricia.kelly@qub.ac.uk

Application and accompanying essay must be received no later than 4pm on Thursday 15th May 2025

All queries to Tricia Kelly
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