



Ollscoil na hÉireann
National University of Ireland

NUI Travelling Studentship Scheme 2019

Frequently Asked Questions*

**Please note: These FAQs are subject to change and further information in the form of updated FAQs will be made available during the competition period.*

The full regulations governing the NUI Travelling Studentship Scheme are available to download from the NUI website: www.nui.ie/awards.

Further queries can be directed to: awards@nui.ie

1. What is the NUI Travelling Studentship Scheme?

The NUI Travelling Studentship Scheme is one of the University's longest running competitions and has been in existence since 1910; it continues from an earlier scheme established by the Royal University of Ireland, which preceded NUI. It offers funding for doctoral research in the Humanities, Social Sciences and in the Sciences (broadly defined).

A defining feature of an NUI Travelling Studentships is its international nature. Recipients include a substantial period of time spent in a Higher Education Institutions outside of Ireland, with a named research supervisor.

2. How many Travelling Studentships will be offered in 2019?

At least five Travelling Studentships will be offered in 2019:

- 2.1 **Two** Travelling Studentships in all branches of the Humanities and Social Sciences - including Business, Law, and Psychology;
- 2.2 **One** NUI Dr Peter Sutherland Travelling Studentship in European Studies- including all disciplines across Humanities and Social Sciences;
- 2.3 **Two** Travelling Studentships in all branches of the Sciences, including Agricultural Science, Engineering, Architecture, Food Science and Technology, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech and Hearing Sciences.

3. Should I submit more than one application if I think my proposed research area is interdisciplinary in nature and could be considered in more than one category in Section 2 above?

No. If you are interested in applying for a Travelling Studentship but are unsure which category in Section 2 above you should apply for, please contact the Awards team at 01 4392424 or email awards@nui.ie for further advice.

4. I will be registered in an NUI constituent university for my doctoral degree. Can I still apply for a Travelling Studentship?

Yes. Students registered in NUI constituent universities are encouraged to apply if their research will require that they foster international partnerships by undertaking substantial research periods overseas as part of their doctoral studies.

5. I will be registered in an institution in Ireland that is not part of NUI for my doctoral degree. Can I still apply for a Travelling Studentship?

No. NUI Travelling Studentships are intended to support students in the NUI federal system to pursue research wholly or partly outside of Ireland. Eligible students can register in an institution abroad for their doctoral studies, or they can register in an NUI institution and undertake substantial research periods overseas as part of their doctoral studies. You can find a list of NUI institutions at: www.nui.ie/links

6. Can I apply for a Travelling Studentship to fund a masters degree?

No. The NUI Travelling Studentship Scheme is only open to students who are planning to pursue a doctoral degree. It is not intended to fund students on taught masters programmes. However, in circumstances where universities require doctoral students to register first for a masters degree by research, these students will be considered eligible to apply. A letter from the student's university should be provided with detail of such a degree programme.

7. Can I apply for a Travelling Studentship to fund a short trip?

No. The Travelling Studentship Scheme is not intended to provide funding for one-off or short trips.

8. How long must I spend overseas to be eligible to apply for a Travelling Studentship?

Travelling Studentships have no specific minimum duration. However, the regulations require the recipient to undertake substantial research periods overseas, and the Studentships are not intended to fund one-off or short trips.

If you have an idea of how long you would like to spend overseas, contact the Awards team at 01 4392424 or email awards@nui.ie for further advice.

9. I have already started my PhD. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, if you are in the early stages of your studies. 'Early stages' would usually be taken to mean the first year for a full-time PhD student or two years for a part-time PhD student. However, there may be exceptions where, for example, the direction of the research substantially changed or a change of institution impacted on the early stages of study. Where a candidate believes such an exception might apply, they should contact the Awards team at 01 4392424 or email awards@nui.ie for further advice.

10. How do I know if I am a graduate of NUI?

You may be an NUI graduate and eligible to apply if you completed a bachelors or masters degree in one of the following:

10.1 NUI constituent university, i.e. UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, Maynooth University;

10.2 NUI recognised college, i.e. RCSI, Uversity, Institute of Public Administration;

10.3 Other NUI member institutions linked with constituent universities i.e. Burren College of Art, NCAD, St. Angela's College, Sligo, Shannon College of Hotel Management, Institute of Banking;

10.4 A former constituent university / recognised college of NUI, details of which are available at <http://www.nui.ie/about/history.asp>.

11. I am an international student. Can I apply for a Travelling Studentship?

International students (EU or non-EU) who are NUI graduates and meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the Regulations for the competition are welcome to apply for a Travelling Studentship.

12. My undergraduate / bachelor degree is not from an NUI member institution. Am I eligible to apply for a Travelling Studentship?

Yes, as long as you hold another degree (i.e. a master's degree) from an NUI constituent university, recognised college or other NUI member institution listed in Section 10 above.

13. My master's degree is not from an NUI constituent university. Am I eligible to apply for a Travelling Studentship?

Yes, as long as you hold another degree (i.e. a bachelors or a second masters degree) from an NUI member institution listed in Section 10 above.

14. Do I need to have achieved 1H in my bachelors or masters degree?

As a general rule, yes. To be eligible to apply, you must have achieved one of the following:

14.1 First class honours (1H) as a whole in a bachelors degree or a masters degree

or

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- 14.2** First class honours (1H) in a subject / specialisation of the bachelors degree
or
14.3 A masters degree by research.

The following exception applies: graduates of the MB BCh BAO and BDS must have obtained Second Class Honours in the honours bachelor degree or Second Class Honours in a taught master's degree or have been awarded a master's degree by research.

15. I am in the final year of my bachelor degree in an NUI member institution and I wish to apply for a Travelling Studentship. Will you accept an application?

Yes, if you expect to be awarded 1H in the bachelor's degree as per Section 14 above. This expectation should be supported by at least one of your nominated referees. A copy of your final results must be submitted to NUI following the summer exam boards for your application to be considered further for shortlisting.

16. If I was awarded 1H in one or more modules as part of my degree, will this be acceptable under the eligibility criteria?

No. You must have achieved first class honours in one of your subjects as a whole, e.g. BA in French (1H) and History (2H1).

17. I have not achieved 1H in my bachelor's degree but I have been awarded a master's degree by research. Am I eligible?

Yes. See Section 14 above.

18. Can my current PhD supervisor act as one of my referees?

Yes, your current PhD supervisor can act as one of your referees.

19. Are footnotes, captions, references, and bibliography included in the Research Proposal word count?

No. The maximum word count is exclusive of footnotes, captions, references, and bibliography.

20. Section 7.1.1. of the Regulations lists six points to be included in the Research Proposal. Do I need to include these six points in my Research Proposal in the order they are listed in the Regulations?

No. While these six points should be included in your Research Proposal, the layout of your Research Proposal is up to you. Candidates are advised to consult either (i) their supervisor or (ii) the Professor / Head of the relevant Department / School in advance of application concerning their Proposal.

21. Will a shortlisting process be applied?

Yes, a shortlisting process will apply. The Research Proposals included with applications are subject to independent review by two subject specialists. The results of this process help determine the shortlist of candidates for interview.

22. When are the results of the Travelling Studentship competition made available?

All candidates are contacted by email following the conclusion of the independent review of the applications, usually in June or July. At this point, candidates will be informed if they have been invited for interview.

23. When do the interviews take place?

The interviews are held in the NUI offices in Merrion Square, Dublin 2 and normally take place in July. Exceptionally, interviews may need to be held during the first half of August in a given year.

24. Do you provide feedback on applications?

Yes. Feedback on the assessment process and the comments of the subject specialists can be made available on request.

25. If I am unsuccessful, can I apply again?

Since 2018, candidates who are unsuccessful in the Travelling Studentship competition can re-apply on one further occasion only.

Please note that this regulation affects all candidates who applied prior to 2019 and wish to apply again.

26. Will NUI contact me formally regarding the outcome of my application in the Travelling Studentship competition?

Yes, all candidates are regularly updated regarding the status of their application throughout the assessment process and will be contacted formally regarding the overall outcome of their application when the competition is concluded.