



NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentship Scheme 2020

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 Doctoral 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 Doctoral Studentship Scheme (formerly known as the NUI Travelling Studentship Scheme)?**

NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships offer funding for doctoral research in the Humanities and Social Sciences and in the Sciences (broadly defined). This Studentship scheme is one of NUI's longest running competitions and has been in existence since 1910, following a tradition established by the Royal University of Ireland.

Formerly known as the NUI Travelling Studentships, from 2020 these awards will be renamed the **NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships**.

A defining feature of the NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships is their international focus. Recipients must spend a substantial period of time during their doctoral degree conducting research outside of Ireland.

A full Travelling Doctoral Studentship is valued at €96,000 (i.e. €24,000 per annum for up to four years, to include a stipend of €16,000 and a contribution towards tuition fees of up to a maximum of €8,000), and it is possible for the Studentship funding to be divided between a number of successful candidates.

2. **How many Travelling Doctoral Studentships will be offered in 2020?**

At least five Travelling Doctoral Studentships will be offered in 2020:

- 2.1 Three** full Travelling Doctoral Studentships in all branches of the Humanities and Social Sciences - including (amongst other disciplines) Business, Law, and Psychology;
- 2.2 Two** full Travelling Doctoral Studentships in all branches of the Sciences - including (amongst other disciplines) Agricultural Science, Engineering, Architecture, Food Science and Technology, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech and Hearing Sciences.

3. **My proposed research is interdisciplinary in nature. Should I submit more than one application?**

No. You should only submit one application per year. If you are interested in applying for a Travelling Doctoral Studentship but are unsure if you should apply for a Studentship in the Humanities and Social Sciences or in the Sciences, please contact the NUI Awards team at 01 439 2424 or email awards@nui.ie for further advice.

4. **I will be registered in an NUI constituent university or recognised college in Ireland for my doctoral degree. Can I still apply for a Travelling Doctoral Studentship?**

Yes. Students registered in an NUI institution in Ireland are encouraged to apply if they intend to 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 Doctoral Studentship?

No. NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships are intended to support students in the NUI federal system to pursue research wholly or partly outside of Ireland. You can find a list of NUI institutions at: www.nui.ie/links

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

No. The NUI Travelling Doctoral 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 the relevant institution requires 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 intended institution should be submitted with details of the degree programme.

7. Can I apply for a Travelling Doctoral Studentship to fund a short trip or conference attendance?

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

8. How much overseas travel do I need to undertake to apply for a Travelling Doctoral Studentship?

While the Travelling Doctoral Studentships have no specific minimum requirement for travel, the Regulations require the recipient to undertake substantial travel overseas for research purposes.

There are many different combinations and options for travel that can be explored. Some examples from previous recipients of these awards include: the full doctoral degree undertaken overseas; a full year or two undertaken overseas; one, two or three semesters undertaken overseas over the course of the degree; or a variety of research trips to multiple locations spread throughout the degree, for around a month at a time.

We understand that the candidates for these Studentships are at an early stage of their research, and that their travel plans may be amended during or after the application process.

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

You can apply for these Studentships if you plan to begin a doctoral degree, or if you have already started your doctoral degree and are still at an early stage. 'Early stage' would usually be taken to mean the first or second year for a full-time PhD student or possibly longer for a part-time PhD student. There may be exceptions where, for example, the direction of the research substantially changed or a change of institution impacted the early stages of study. Where a candidate believes such an exception might apply, they should contact the Awards team at 01 439 2424 or email awards@nui.ie for further advice.

10. Candidates must be graduates of NUI to be eligible to apply. 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, Institute of Public Administration;

10.3 Other NUI member institutions, 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 or recognised college of NUI.

A list of current and former NUI institutions is available here: www.nui.ie/elections/docs/institutions.pdf

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

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

Yes, as long as you hold another degree (e.g. 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 Doctoral Studentship?

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

14. Do I need to have achieved First Class Honours / 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
- 14.2 First class honours (1H) in a subject / specialisation of the bachelors degree
- or
- 14.3 A master's 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 will not have received the academic results (e.g. the award of the NUI degree or First Class Honours) that will make me eligible to apply by the closing date of the competition. Will you still accept my application?

Candidates awaiting the final results of a degree in order to meet the eligibility criteria may apply for a Studentship on the basis that confirmation of these results is submitted to NUI no later than Friday, 26 June 2020.

16. If I was awarded a 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, specialisations or disciplines as a whole. For example, you would be eligible if you had a BA (Hons) 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 PhD supervisor act as one of my referees?

Yes, your current or intended PhD supervisor(s) can act as your referee(s).

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

No, the maximum word count is exclusive of footnotes, captions, Gantt charts, references, and bibliography.

20. The Regulations provide a list of what to include in the Research Proposal. Do I need to include these points in my Research Proposal in the order they are listed in the Regulations?

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

21. I already have funding from another source. Can I still apply for the Travelling Doctoral Studentships?

Yes. NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships can be held by candidates who are in receipt of other funding and scholarships.

If you are shortlisted for interview, it is possible that you could be asked by the Selection Panel appointed by NUI about your current funding status, and it may impact the level of funding awarded to you should you be recommended for a Travelling Doctoral Studentship.

22. Will a shortlisting process be applied?

Yes, there will be a shortlisting process. Submitted Research Proposals will be subject to independent review by two subject specialists. The results of this process help to determine the shortlist of candidates for interview. All candidates

will be contacted by email following the conclusion of the assessment of the applications and will be informed if they have been shortlisted for interview.

23. When will the interviews take place?

The interviews will be held in the NUI offices in Merrion Square, Dublin 2 and are expected to take place in late June 2020.

24. Do you provide feedback on applications?

Yes, feedback from the subject specialists can be provided on request once the competition is finished.

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

Candidates who are unsuccessful in the Travelling Doctoral Studentship competition can re-apply on one further occasion only.

26. Will NUI contact me formally regarding the outcome of my application in the Travelling Doctoral 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.