



Ollscoil na hÉireann
National University of Ireland

NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships 2023

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: February 2023

The regulations governing the NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships offered in 2023 are available to download from the NUI website: www.nui.ie/awards.

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

1. What are the NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships?

NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships offer funding for doctoral research in the Humanities and Social Sciences and in the Sciences and Engineering (broadly defined). These Studentships have been awarded since 1910, following a tradition established by the Royal University of Ireland.

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

A full NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentship is valued at €106,000 (i.e. €26,500 per annum for up to four years, to include a stipend of €18,500 and a contribution towards tuition fees of up to a maximum of €8,000).

2. How many NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships will be offered in 2023?

Four full NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships will be offered in 2023:

- Up to three full NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships in all branches of the Humanities and Social Sciences (including Business, Law and Psychology)
- Up to two full NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships in the Sciences and Engineering (including all branches of Engineering, Architecture and Health Sciences)

It is possible for full Studentship funding to be divided between a number of successful candidates.

3. My proposed research is interdisciplinary. Should I apply for both the NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentship in the Humanities and Social Sciences AND the NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentship in the Sciences and Engineering?

No. Applications will only be accepted for one of the Studentships. If you are interested in applying for a Studentship but are unsure if you should apply in the Humanities and Social Sciences or in the Sciences and Engineering, please email awards@nui.ie for further advice.

4. Candidates must be graduates of the National University of Ireland to be eligible to apply. How do I know if I am an NUI graduate?

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

- NUI constituent university, i.e. University College Dublin, University College Cork, University of Galway, Maynooth University.
- NUI recognised college, i.e. RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Institute of Public Administration.
- Other NUI member institutions, i.e. Burren College of Art; NCAD; St. Angela's College, Sligo; Shannon College of Hotel Management; Institute of Banking; Irish Management Institute.
- Former NUI member institutions, details of which are available at www.nui.ie/elections/docs/institutions.pdf

5. I am an international student. Can I apply for an NUI 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 an NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentship.

6. My undergraduate/bachelors degree is not from an NUI institution. Can I apply for an NUI 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 Q.4 above.

7. My masters degree is not from an NUI institution. Can I apply for an NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentship?

Yes, as long as you hold another degree (e.g. a bachelors degree) from an NUI constituent university, recognised college or other NUI member institution listed in Q.4 above.

8. Do I need to have been awarded First Class Honours / 1H in my bachelors or masters degrees to be eligible to apply for an NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentship?

To be eligible to apply, you must hold one of the following:

- First class honours (1H) as a whole in a bachelors degree or a masters degree
Or
- First class honours (1H) in a subject/specialisation of the bachelors degree
Or
- A master's degree by research.

9. I was awarded First Class Honours / 1H in one or more modules as part of my degree. Am I eligible to apply for an NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentship?

No, you must have achieved First Class Honours in one of your subjects, specialisations or disciplines as a whole, e.g. a BA (Hons) in French (1H) and History (2H1).

10. 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, 23 June 2023**, or immediately following the scheduled summer exam board meetings in their institution (which are generally held in June).

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

Yes. Students registered in an NUI institution in Ireland are encouraged to apply if they intend to undertake substantial research periods overseas as part of their doctoral studies. A list of NUI institutions [is available here](#).

12. I will be registered in an institution in Ireland that is not part of NUI for my doctoral degree. Can I apply for an NUI 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. A list of NUI institutions [is available here](#).

13. I have already started my PhD programme. Can I apply for an NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentship?

Yes. You can apply for a Studentship if you plan to begin a doctoral degree, or if you have already started your doctoral degree and are still in your first year at the time of application.

14. Can I apply for an NUI 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.

15. Can I apply for an NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentship to fund conference attendance?

No. NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships are not intended to fund one-off or short trips.

16. How much overseas travel do I need to plan on undertaking to apply for an NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentship?

While the NUI 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 based 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 about 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.

17. I would like to travel overseas to conduct research during my doctoral degree, but public health measures and travel restrictions in response to COVID-19 may mean that I cannot carry out my planned activities. Will this impact my chances of being awarded an NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentship?

NUI is aware of the impact that the COVID-19 emergency is having on academic life both in Ireland and internationally. NUI is committed to providing ongoing funding and support to its award recipients at this challenging time and understands that travel plans may be amended during or after the application process.

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 their supervisor or the 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 NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships?

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

22. I was previously awarded an NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentship. Can I apply for the NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships again this year?

No. Previous recipients of an NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships are not eligible to apply again for these awards.

23. I was previously awarded an E J Phelan Fellowship. Can I apply for the NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships this year?

No. Previous recipients of the NUI E J Phelan Fellowship in International Law are not eligible to apply for the NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentships.

24. Will a shortlisting process be applied?

Yes, there will be a shortlisting process. Submitted Research Proposals will be subject to independent review by a subject specialist. 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.

25. Do you provide feedback on applications?

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

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

Candidates who are unsuccessful in the NUI Travelling Doctoral Studentship competition can re-apply on one further occasion only. If you are applying for a second time, you must include a Summary of Changes with your repeat application.

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

Yes, all candidates are 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.