

Ireland Fellows Programme – Vietnam Pilot PhD Exchange Call for Applications

Background

The Ireland Fellows Programme Pilot PhD Exchange is a new initiative under the Ireland Fellows Programme to provide a prestigious award for excellent research. It offers selected suitably qualified PhD students in partner higher education institutions in Vietnam the opportunity to study for one year at a higher education institution in Ireland as part of their PhD programme. The award is fully funded and covers programme fees, flights, accommodation and living costs for the year in Ireland, as well as eligible direct research expenses of up to €3,250 to enable the awardee to carry out the research project in Ireland. Up to three awards will be made in 2022. The Ireland Fellows Programme promotes gender equality, equal opportunity, and welcomes diversity.

The aims of the Programme are:

- To nurture world-class future leaders;
- To develop in-country capacity to achieve national SDG goals;
- To build positive relationships with Ireland.

The Programme is intended to enable researchers on their return home and on completion of their PhD to leverage their high-level skills, knowledge, and talent to contribute to capacity building in their home country. Successful awardees under the programme are recognised as demonstrating world-class potential as future leaders in their respective fields. It is also envisaged that they will contribute to building enduring positive personal and professional relationships with Ireland, promoting institutional linkages.

The Ireland Fellows Programme is fully funded by the Irish Government and is offered under the auspices of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). The Programme aligns with the Irish Government's commitments under [Global Ireland](#) and the national implementation plan for the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), [The Global Island: Ireland's Foreign Policy for a Changing World](#), [A Better World: Ireland's Policy for International Development](#), and [Ireland's International Education Strategy](#).

The *Ireland Fellows Programme PhD Exchange* initiative is managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs in partnership with the Irish Research Council (IRC). Programme implementation in Ireland is supported by the Irish Council for International Students (ICOS).

The support provided is for research purposes and will not result in a separate qualification.

Eligibility

Potential applicants should carefully ascertain whether or not they are eligible in advance of applying to the programme.

To be eligible for an *Ireland Fellows Programme – PhD Exchange* award commencing at the beginning of the academic year 2022, applicants must:

- Be a resident national of Vietnam.
- Be currently enrolled full time in year 1 or year 2 of a PhD programme at an eligible Higher Education Institution or research performing organisation in Vietnam. In the case of PhD programmes that run for 5 years or more, students in year 3 are also eligible to apply (in addition to those in year 1 or 2). (Please see list of eligible Higher Education Institutions below).
- Be engaged in a PhD research topic in an eligible subject area aligned with Ireland's Development Programme. (Please see list of eligible subject areas below).
- Be in receipt of an agreement from both the applicant's own Higher Education Institution and a partner Higher Education Institution in Ireland to complete one year of their PhD programme in the Higher Education Institution in Ireland, and to return to their own Higher Education Institution to complete their PhD. (Please see list of eligible Higher Education Institutions below).
- Not already hold a qualification at PhD level.
- Be applying to commence a one-year placement at an HEI in Ireland no sooner than August 2022, and be in a position to take up the Fellowship in the academic year 2022/2023 if successful.
- Be able to demonstrate the following: leadership abilities and aspirations; a commitment to the achievement of the SDGs within your own country; and a commitment to contribute to building positive relationships with Ireland.
- Has the English language certification required by the Higher Education Institution in Ireland.

Application Process

Expression of Interest form

Applicants who are interested in making an application for the Programme should complete and submit an Expression of Interest form, provided in Annex 3 below. Expressions of Interest should be submitted by email to the Embassy of Ireland, Hanoi, at vietnamscholarship@dfanet.ie.

Applicants who do not yet have the English language certification required by the Higher Education Institution in Ireland can request a coupon in order to take the [Duolingo English Language Test](#). This is an online test that can be taken at home. This test should be taken in good time for your results to be confirmed before submitting your application. The coupon can be requested in the Expression of Interest form.

Application form

When you meet all of the eligibility requirements, you should complete and submit an application form together with the required documents. The application form and required documents will be provided to applicants who send in an Expression of Interest form.

Indicative copies of these documents are provided as annexes to this document solely for information purposes; please note some differences between these and the final version of the forms may occur.

Applications and supporting documents are submitted by email to vietnamscholarship@dfanet.ie. The deadline for receipt of applications is 29 May 2022.

Shortlisted eligible applicants will be invited to interview by the Embassy of Ireland, Hanoi.

You will be contacted by the Embassy of Ireland, Hanoi, once final decisions have been made and informed whether you have been successful. Please do not otherwise contact the Irish Embassy during this period.

Required documents

- A form completed by the applicant's home institution, i.e. the Vice President/Dean of Research or their authorised nominee, confirming that the applicant is currently enrolled fulltime in year 1 or year 2 of a PhD programme at their institution (or in year 1, year 2 or year 3 in the case of PhD programmes that run for 5 years or more). This form also includes an endorsement of the application to study for one year in Ireland as part of their PhD programme, and to return to their own institution to complete their PhD.
- A Letter of Commitment completed by an academic supervisor within an Irish Higher Education Institution endorsing the application and confirming that they are willing to actively support the applicant during their placement in the Irish organisation, and work with the applicant's supervisory team in Vietnam to guide the research.
- Forms completed by two academic referees – the referees should know the applicant sufficiently well to provide a reference. The signatory of either of the endorsement forms may not act as one of the applicant's referees.
- A copy of the identity page of the applicant's passport, or another form of certified official identification if you do not have a passport.
Successful applicants will be required to submit a certified copy of the identify page of their passport. If their existing passport expires before December 2023, they will be asked to provide a new passport.
- Evidence of meeting the English language requirements of the HEI to which they are applying.

Timeline

8 April 2022 – applications open

29 May 2022 - applications close

30 June 2022 – successful and unsuccessful applicants notified

Late August/ early September 2022 - successful applicants travel to Ireland

Annex 1

Eligible HEIs in Vietnam

Vietnamese university partners as follows:

Vietnam National University, Hanoi
Hanoi University
Thai Nguyen University
Vietnam National University of Agriculture
University of Science and Technology of Hanoi
National Economics University
Hue University
The University of Danang
Viet Nam National University Ho Chi Minh City
Nong Lam University

Eligible HEIs in Ireland

Atlantic Technological University, www.gmit.ie
Dublin Business School, Dublin, www.dbs.ie
Dublin City University, Dublin, www.dcu.ie
Dundalk Institute of Technology, Dundalk, www.dkit.ie
Griffith College Cork, Cork, www.griffith.ie
Griffith College Dublin, Dublin, www.griffith.ie
Griffith College Limerick, Limerick, www.griffith.ie
Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, www.mic.ie
Munster Technological University, Cork / Kerry, www.mtu.ie
Maynooth University, near Dublin, www.maynoothuniversity.ie
National College of Art and Design, Dublin, www.ncad.ie
National College of Ireland, Dublin, www.ncirl.ie
National University of Ireland Galway, Galway www.nuigalway.ie
St. Angela's College, Sligo, www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie
Shannon College of Hotel Management, Clare, www.nuigalway.ie/shannoncollege
Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, www.tcd.ie
Technological University Dublin, Dublin, www.tudublin.ie
Technological University of the Shannon, Midlands, www.ait.ie
Technological University of the Shannon, Midland Midwest, www.tus.ie
South East Technological University, www.tuse.ie
University College Cork, Cork, www.ucc.ie
University College Dublin, Dublin, www.ucd.ie
UCD Michael Smurfit Business School, Dublin www.smurfitschool.ie
University of Limerick, Limerick, www.ul.ie

Annex 2

Eligible subject areas

PhD research topics should be broadly aligned with the following thematic areas which reflect Ireland's Development Programme priorities:

A: Climate Change & Resilience, Environment, Marine, Sustainable Development, GIS

B: Engineering and Sustainable Technology

C: Development Studies, Human Rights, Peace Studies, International Relations, Politics, Public Policy

D: International Law, Human Rights Law, Business Law

E: Health, Medicine, Pharmacy, Biotechnology

F: Education

G: Sociology, Social Policy, Social Research

H: Women's Studies, Gender Studies and Equality Studies

I: Information Systems, Communications Technology, Digital Media

J: Business, Economics, Project Management, Strategic Management, Leadership

K: Food Science, Food Engineering and Food Industry

L: Tourism and Hospitality

Pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research or those introducing creative, innovative approaches are welcomed. Proposals of an interdisciplinary nature are also encouraged as it is recognised that advancing fundamental understanding is achieved by integrating information, techniques, tools and perspectives from two or more disciplines.

The Programme is not in a position to award funding for research activity under any of the following prohibited areas:

- human cloning for reproductive purposes;
 - genetic modification of human beings that could make such changes heritable (with the exception of research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be funded); or
 - creation of human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.
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Annex 3

Ireland Fellows Programme – Vietnam Pilot PhD Exchange

Form to be completed by the applicant's home Higher Education Institution

Minimum requirements:

- With heading or stamp from the HEI.
- Up-to-date document, i.e., not dated prior to the call publication.
- Overview of their position and role in their organisation
- Confirming that the applicant is currently enrolled fulltime in year 1 or year 2 of a PhD programme at their institution (or in year 1, year 2 or year 3 in the case of PhD programmes that run for 5 years or more).
- Approving the applicant's application to study for one year in Ireland as part of their PhD programme.
- Confirming that the applicant will return to their own institution to complete their PhD.
- Demonstrating the will to work with the applicant's supervisory team in Ireland to guide the research during their placement in the Irish organisation.

| Signatory's details: | |
|---|---|
| Full name | |
| Name of Higher Education Institution (HEI) | |
| Position and role in the HEI | |
| Work address | |
| Email address | |
| Phone number | |
| Applicant's details: | |
| Full name | |
| Date of birth (day/month/year) | / / |
| Applicant is currently enrolled fulltime in a PhD programme at this institution | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Applicant is currently enrolled in which year of their PhD programme? | <input type="checkbox"/> Year 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 3 |
| Length of applicant's PhD programme [years] | |

Higher Education Institution in Ireland:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Name of partner HEI in Ireland | |
| Name of Supervisor in Ireland | |

*On behalf of **[name of the organisation]**, I confirm that the application of **[name of applicant]** to study for one year in Ireland as part of their PhD programme, and to then return to this institution to complete their PhD, has been approved by **[name of the organisation]**.*

*On behalf of **[name of the organisation]**, I also confirm that we will work with the applicant's supervisory team in Ireland to guide the research during their placement in the Irish organisation, should their PhD studentship placement be funded.*

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

Name, Date, Signature, Stamp

Annex 4

Ireland Fellows Programme – Vietnam Pilot PhD Exchange

Letter of Commitment completed by an academic supervisor within an Irish Higher Education Institution

Minimum requirements:

- With heading or stamp from the HEI.
- Up-to-date document, i.e., not dated prior to the call publication.
- Demonstrating the will to actively support the PhD student with their research during their placement in the Irish organisation.
- Demonstrating the will to work with the applicant's supervisory team in Vietnam to guide the research.
- Overview of their position and role in their organisation

Non-binding example of template letter of commitment:

*I undersigned **[title, first name and surname]**, in my capacity as **[role in the organisation]** in **[name of the organisation]** commit to set up all necessary provisions to support the **[named PhD student]** with their PhD project, should their PhD studentship placement be funded.*

*On behalf of **[name of the organisation]**, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research, innovation and training activities as planned in this project. In particular, **[name of the organisation]** will be involved in **[free field for any additional information that the participating organisation wishes to indicate in order to describe its role and contribution to the project]**.*

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

Name, Date, Signature

Annex 5

Ireland Fellows Programme – Vietnam Pilot PhD Exchange

Referee form

All sections must be completed in full.

| Referee details: | |
|---|--|
| Full name | |
| Name of Higher Education Institution (HEI) and department or company/organisation | |
| Position and role in the HEI | |
| Work address | |
| Email address | |
| Phone number | |

| Recommendation: | |
|---------------------------|---|
| I know the applicant: | <input type="checkbox"/> Very well <input type="checkbox"/> Well <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly |
| I am/was the applicant's: | <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor, from: / / to: / / <input type="checkbox"/> Lecturer, from: / / to: / / <input type="checkbox"/> Tutor, from: / / to: / / <input type="checkbox"/> Other, from: / / to: / / If other, please provide further details: |

| | |
|---|--|
| Do you recommend this applicant be supported in their pursuit of the opportunity to study for one year at a higher education institution in Ireland as part of their PhD programme? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| How does this applicant compare to other researchers, at the same academic or professional level, that you have interacted with over the past five years? | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Well <input type="checkbox"/> Very well <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional |

Please provide your observations on the characteristics and achievements of the applicant and comment on their suitability for a career in research and the opportunities offered under this Programme:

Max 500 words

Declaration:

I certify that all the information I have given is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Name:

Date: / / (Day/Month/Year)



Irish Aid

Rialtas na hÉireann

Government of Ireland

Ireland Fellows Programme –
Vietnam Pilot PhD Exchange
2022/23

Application Form

ONLY TYPED APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY EMAIL ARE ACCEPTABLE

The closing date for receipt of applications and accompanying documents is 29 May 2022. Applications should be submitted by email to the Embassy of Ireland, Hanoi, at vietnamscholarship@dfanet.ie.

Have you included a scanned copy of the following documents with your application? Your application will not be valid unless copies of these documents are included.

A form completed by the applicant's host institution, i.e. the Vice President/Dean of Research or their authorised nominee, confirming that the applicant is currently enrolled fulltime in year 1 or year 2 of a PhD programme at their institution (or in year 1, year 2 or year 3 in the case of PhD programmes that run for 5 years or more). This form also includes an endorsement of the application to study for one year in Ireland as part of their PhD programme, and to return to their own institution to complete their PhD.

A Letter of Commitment completed by an academic supervisor within an Irish higher education institution endorsing the application and confirming that they are willing to actively support the applicant during their placement in the Irish organisation, and work with the applicant's supervisory team in Vietnam to guide the research.

Forms completed by two academic referees – the referees should know the applicant sufficiently well to provide a reference. The signatory of either of the endorsement forms may not act as one of the applicant's referees.

A copy of the identity page of the applicant's passport, or another form of certified official identification. *Successful applicants will be required to submit a certified copy of the identify page of their passport. If their existing passport expires before December 2023, they will be asked to provide a new passport.*

A copy of the graduation certificate for each higher education qualification you have completed, including your Bachelor's level qualification and, if applicable, any postgraduate qualifications completed. Do not include copies of certificates from short programmes or for non-degree level programmes.

A copy of the academic transcripts for each higher education qualification you have completed, including your Bachelor's level qualification and, if applicable, any postgraduate qualifications completed. Please also include the explanation of the grading system, where provided with your transcript or otherwise available.

Evidence of meeting the English language requirements of the HEI to which the applicant is applying.

Application Summary

- I am a national of _____ and am resident in _____.
- I am currently enrolled fulltime in year _____ of a PhD programme at the following Higher Education Institution or research performing organisation in Vietnam: _____.
- I am in receipt of an agreement for a one-year placement as part of my PhD from the following partner Higher Education Institution in Ireland: _____.

I do not already hold a qualification at PhD level.

I am applying for a one-year placement at an HEI in Ireland commencing no sooner than August 2022, and am in a position to take up the Fellowship in the academic year 2022/2023 if successful.

| A. Personal Information | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| A1 | Full name as it appears on your passport | |
| A2 | Date of birth (day/month/year) | / / |
| A3 | Nationality | |
| A4 | Country of residence | |
| A5 | Gender | |
| A6 | | |
| Passport details: if available | | |
| | Country of issue | |
| | Date of expiry | / / |
| | If you hold a passport for another country, or a diplomatic passport, please provide details | |
| A7 | | |
| Contact details: | | |
| | Main email address: <i>It is vital that we can communicate with you by email. Please provide the email address that you most regularly check. If this is a work address, please also provide your personal email address.</i> | |
| | Mailing Address: <i>If possible, please provide an address where registered post can be delivered to and signed for. (This is the address that will appear on your official scholarship award letter if you are successful.)</i> | |
| | Phone no. 1 | |
| | Phone no. 2 | |
| A8 | Are you in receipt of any other funding to study at PhD level? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <i>If yes, please provide details</i> | |

| B Education and Research Achievements | |
|---|--|
| B1 PhD enrolment: | |
| Name of Higher Education Institution in Vietnam | |
| Faculty or Department | |
| Date of enrolment | |
| Name of Supervisor | |
| Email address of Supervisor | |
| Primary area of research | |
| Discipline | |
| Second categorisation (if interdisciplinary) | |

| | |
|--|--|
| What is the title of your PhD/your research topic? | |
|--|--|

B2 Bachelor's level qualification:

| Qualification and name of degree <i>(e.g. B.Sc. Mathematics)</i> | University/College <i>Include location</i> | Dates <i>from/to</i> | Final overall grade. <i>Please also provide final GPA score and GPA scale if available.</i> |
|---|---|-------------------------|---|
| | | | Grade GPA score GPA Scale |

B3 Other higher education qualifications

| Qualification and name of degree <i>(e.g. Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy)</i> | University/College/Institution <i>Include location</i> | Dates <i>from/to</i> | Final overall grade. <i>Please also provide final GPA score and GPA scale if available.</i> |
|---|---|-------------------------|---|
| | | | Grade GPA score GPA Scale |
| | | | Grade GPA score GPA Scale |

B4 Research achievements

*Please provide any additional information regarding your research achievements to date such as publications, research awards, creation of data sets and databases, conference papers, patents, and/or public broadcasts:
Max 300 words*

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

C. Work Experience
Please provide details of any relevant work experience, including voluntary work and internships:

| Name of organisation | Full address | Dates <i>Month/year from/to</i> | Position held; your roles and responsibilities. |
|----------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

D. Proposal to study for one year at a higher education institution in Ireland as part of your PhD programme

Higher Education Institution in Ireland:

Name of proposed partner HEI

Department and School

Name of proposed Supervisor

D1 Please provide a lay abstract of your current research (no more than 300 words)

D2 Proposed research in Ireland

Please provide details of how you will use your time in Ireland under the following five headings (no more than 200 words each). This should be agreed with both your Supervisor in your home institution and your proposed Supervisor in Ireland.

- The aims and objectives of your research in Ireland, and how this will contribute directly to your PhD (200 words)
- Research design and methodologies to be employed (200 words)
- A schedule to include a time plan and milestones and deliverables for the year (200 words)
- Expected outputs. These could include your plans for knowledge exchange of your research, such as publications, conference papers, poster presentations, reports and outreach activities (200 words)
- The added value to a year spent at the proposed Higher Education Institution in Ireland as part of your PhD. This could include access to any facilities, infrastructure, training programmes, or other relevant supports. (200 words)

E. Motivational Statement

The aims of the Ireland Fellows Programme Pilot PhD Exchange are to nurture world-class future leaders; to develop in-country capacity to achieve national SDG goals; and to build positive relationships with Ireland.

Your response under the following five headings (no more than 200 words each) should explain your motivation for applying for this Fellowship:

- What are your key achievements and leadership roles, such as within the workplace; in volunteer work; within social activism; in community organisations; as class/work representative; or college roles? (200 words)
- How will your chosen research topic help you work towards achieving your country's national SDG goals? (200 words)
- How do you see your career developing and how would your proposed year of study in Ireland as part of your PhD help you to achieve your career goals? (200 words)
- What do you understand to be Ireland's international development priorities? What interests you about living and studying in Ireland? (200 words)
- How would you propose to develop personal and professional links while in Ireland and promote a positive relationship between your country and Ireland on your return home? (200 words)

Please note that points may be deducted from your application if you exceed the word allowance.

Motivational statement...

Does your proposed research deal with any of the following prohibited areas?

- Research activity aimed at human cloning for reproductive purposes
- Research activity intended to modify the genetics of human beings that could make such changes heritable (with the exception of research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be funded)
- Research activities to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer

Yes

No

DECLARATION

When your application form is received, we create a record in your name, which contains much of the personal information you have supplied. This personal record is used solely in processing your candidature. Such information held is subject to the rights and obligations set out in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The Ireland Fellows Programme is fully funded by the Irish Government and is offered under the auspices of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). It aligns with the Irish Government's commitment under Global Ireland and the national implementation plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Ireland's Policy for International Development, and Ireland's International Education Strategy.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (the Department) is committed to protecting your personal data and your privacy. This Data Privacy Notice lets you know how, and why, we use your personal information.

The Department has identified Article 6(1)(e) of the GDPR and Section 38(1)(b) of the Data Protection Act 2018 as lawful bases for processing your personal data. Section 38(1) provides that processing of personal data is lawful to the extent that it is necessary and proportionate for the administration of any non-statutory scheme, programme or funds where the legal basis is a function of a controller conferred by or under an enactment or the Constitution. In addition to the provisions of [Bunreacht na hÉireann/the Constitution of Ireland](#) and the International Treaties which guide Ireland's foreign policy work, the power to collect and process data, is bestowed to the Department by The Ministers & Secretaries Acts 1924 to 2017.

Information on your rights under the GDPR, including the contact details of the Department's Data Protection Officer, can be found here:

<https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/alldfawebsitemedia/aboutus/Data-Privacy-Notice.pdf>

The Department reserves the right to amend this privacy notice and an updated notice will be issued where required.

I give permission for the information and documents I submit as part of my application to be shared with:

- (i) the managing agency for the programme;
- (ii) the Irish Embassy
- (iii) the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs
- (iv) appropriate staff of my nominated Higher Education Institutions, as required, regarding any programme applications and place offers;
- (v) any other individuals, companies and/or organisations as necessary to make arrangements related to my participation in the Fellowship Programme.

I understand the purpose for which Fellowships are awarded and the necessity to abide by the conditions specified.

If accepted for an Ireland Fellows Award I will undertake the necessary medical examinations and provide the required medical certificates.

I have read and understand the following:

We do not ask whether applicants have a criminal record at the application stage. However, applicants should note that a criminal record may be a reason for a refusal of a visa or for entry to Ireland. If an applicant has a query about this, they are advised to contact the Irish Embassy.

I certify that all the information I have given is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and that my Motivational Statement is entirely my own original work.

Name:

Date: / / (Day/Month/Year)

- ✓ Have you double-checked and proofread **all** your answers?
- ✓ Are **all** your required documents ready to submit?