



**Government  
of Ireland**  
International  
Development  
Programme

Ireland Fellows Programme –  
Vietnam Pilot PhD Research  
Programme 2024/25

Call for Applications

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# Ireland Fellows Programme – Vietnam Pilot PhD Research Programme

## Call for Applications

### 1. The benefits of studying in Ireland

Ireland has been a member of the European Union since 1973. Situated on the western edge of Europe, Ireland is a small, globally connected island nation with a population of five million people. While Ireland has its own language and distinct cultural identity, English is the universal spoken language.

Ireland is a friendly, safe, deeply welcoming country, steeped in a rich heritage and culture.

A focus on education has been at the core of Irish government policy since the foundation of the State in 1922. Ireland has a longstanding international reputation for high-quality education, built on a solid foundation of commitment to excellence. Ireland's higher education system is in the top-twenty worldwide, offering globally recognised expertise, and at 65%, Ireland has one of the highest educational participation rates at third level in the world. Studying at postgraduate level in Ireland offers a unique opportunity to join programmes that are driving innovation and changing lives worldwide.

Education has been a driver of Ireland's economic transformation. Ireland is an open economy and our location, combined with our highly educated workforce, has served to attract significant inward investment over recent decades. Today, Ireland is a leader in the technology, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sectors, with many leading international companies choosing Ireland for the location of their European headquarters. With some of the world's biggest and best companies locating their key strategic research facilities here, Ireland offers an unparalleled ecosystem that sees academic researchers working hand-in-hand with home-grown start-up companies. These work in partnership with some of the most innovative multinationals on the planet, through shared research projects and programmes, often supported by the Irish government.

For more information on studying in Ireland, please see: <https://www.educationinireland.com>

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It takes independent thinkers and doers to succeed in today's world – and it takes a pioneering, creative and agile country to produce them. That country is Ireland: [Why Should I Study In Ireland? - Education in Ireland](#)

The Education In Ireland Student Ambassador Programme - Meet some of our students and read their latest blog posts: [Home | Study in Ireland | Education in Ireland Blog](#)

Hear from Ireland Fellows Programme awardees about their experiences and the benefits they gained studying in Ireland: [Ireland Fellows Programme \(irishaidfellowships.ie\)](#)

## 2. Ireland Fellows Programme – Vietnam Pilot PhD Research Programme

The Ireland Fellows Programme Pilot PhD Research Programme 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 2024. 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 Research Programme* 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.

### What we offer

Ireland Fellows Programme PHD Research Programme awards are fully funded. The award includes the payment of academic fees; visa application fees; medical and travel insurance; economy flights to and from Ireland; and the Irish residence permit fee. Allowances include the following:

- A settling-in allowance towards items needed on arrival in Ireland;
- A completion and departure allowance at the end of the study period;
- A monthly living stipend of €700 (subject to review);
- Student accommodation arranged and paid for trimesters 1 and 2 (normally September to May), and in trimester 3 a monthly accommodation stipend of €800-€1000 depending on location in Ireland (subject to review).
- Eligible direct research expenses of up to €3,250 – eligible costs are set out [here](#).

In addition, the Ireland Fellows Programme features many extracurricular, training and volunteering opportunities to help you make the most of your experience in Ireland.

### 3. 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 Research Programme* award commencing at the beginning of the academic year 2024, applicants must:

- Be a resident national of Vietnam.
- Be currently enrolled full time in year 1 or year 2 of a PhD programme at a 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).
- 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 in annex 2).
- 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.
- 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 2024, and be in a position to take up the Fellowship in the academic year 2024/2025 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.
- Have the English language certification required by the Higher Education Institution in Ireland.

### 3. Application Process

Applicants who are interested in making an application for the Programme should complete and submit an application form. The application form should be submitted by email to the Embassy of Ireland, Hanoi, at [vietnamscholarship@dfanet.ie](mailto:vietnamscholarship@dfanet.ie), by 16 February 2024.

Applicants who are shortlisted and 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. Those who achieve a score of 120 or above will be invited to interview in early March 2024. Preparation materials for English language testing are available at [Duolingo English Test](#) as well as <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare> and [Road to IELTS \(clarityenglish.com\)](#).

#### Required documents

- 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 2024, 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.

Applications and supporting documents must be typed and can be submitted as a Microsoft Word (.docx) file or as a PDF. Your passport copy should be in PDF format.

Please use the following format when naming each of the documents to be attached:

- *Your Name* – Passport
- *Your Name* – Application form
- *Your Name* – Academic Referee

Applications submitted without all of the required documentation will be deemed incomplete and will not be considered.

#### **4. Next Stages Of The Application Process**

Shortlisted eligible applicants who do not have an English language certificate as required by their receiving HEI will be given a Duolingo coupon. The Duolingo test must be taken before the interview. Those who achieve a score of 120 or above will be invited to interview in early March 2024.

Applicants who are invited to interview will be required to provide a certified copy of their passport, bearing the official stamp and signature of the certifying authority.

Applicants will be contacted by the Embassy of Ireland, Hanoi, once final decisions have been made and informed whether they have been successful. Please do not otherwise contact the Irish Embassy during this period. Successful applicants will be notified that their application will be forwarded to the management agency for the Ireland Fellows Programme.

Candidates who are successful at interview will go forward to the last stage of the application process, which is the confirmation of the award of Fellowship places by June 2024. The academic year in Ireland is from autumn 2024 to summer 2025.

Candidates who would like to accept an Ireland Fellows Programme PhD Research Programme Award will need to complete and sign a Form of Undertaking and Award Acceptance in which they agree to abide by the Ireland Fellows Programme PhD Research Programme Terms and Conditions.

Please note that a medical form is required for successful fellows before travel to Ireland so that, where appropriate, we can discuss with them any necessary supports.

The Fellowship covers the recipient only. Financial support or visas for spouses or dependents are not included within the scope of the programme.

A Learning Agreement should be agreed and signed by the home and hosting HEI and the student. The host HEI's own template can be used for this.

### **Timeline**

- November 2023 – Applications open
- 16 February 2024 - Deadline for receipt of Application Form and required documents
- March 2024 – Interviews for shortlisted applicants
- By late March 2024 – Outcome of interviews communicated to applicants; candidates who are successful at interview will go forward to the last stage of the application process, which is the confirmation of the award of Fellowship places.
- Late August/early September 2024 - Successful applicants travel to Ireland

## **Annex 1**

### **Eligible HEIs in Vietnam**

All HEIs in Vietnam awarding PhDs

### **Eligible HEIs in Ireland**

Atlantic Technological University, Galway/Sligo/Donegal [www.atu.ie](http://www.atu.ie)

Dublin Business School, Dublin, [www.dbs.ie](http://www.dbs.ie)

Dublin City University, Dublin, [www.dcu.ie](http://www.dcu.ie)

Dundalk Institute of Technology, Dundalk, [www.dkit.ie](http://www.dkit.ie)

Griffith College Cork, Cork/Dublin/Limerick, [www.griffith.ie](http://www.griffith.ie)

Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, [www.mic.ie](http://www.mic.ie)

Munster Technological University, Cork/Kerry, [www.mtu.ie](http://www.mtu.ie)

Maynooth University, near Dublin, [www.maynoothuniversity.ie](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie)

National College of Art and Design, Dublin, [www.ncad.ie](http://www.ncad.ie)

National College of Ireland, Dublin, [www.ncirl.ie](http://www.ncirl.ie)

University of Galway, Galway [www.universityofgalway.ie](http://www.universityofgalway.ie)

Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, [www.tcd.ie](http://www.tcd.ie)

Technological University Dublin, Dublin, [www.tudublin.ie](http://www.tudublin.ie)

Technological University of the Shannon, Athlone/Limerick, [www.tus.ie](http://www.tus.ie)

South East Technological University, [www.setu.ie](http://www.setu.ie)

University College Cork, Cork, [www.ucc.ie](http://www.ucc.ie)

University College Dublin, Dublin, [www.ucd.ie](http://www.ucd.ie)

University of Limerick, Limerick, [www.ul.ie](http://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.