

## Postgraduate Education Funding Support in Ireland

(July 2020)

The Union of Students in Ireland has welcomed the allocation of €36.5 million to the third level sector in the Budget but has emphasised that the funding is insufficient by over €100 million. The union recommended spending of €140million in their pre-budget submission to reduce registration fees and increase student support. The Budget allocated €4 million to reinstate maintenance grants from September 2017 for the most disadvantaged postgraduate students. USI welcomed the reintroduction of postgraduate grants but emphasised that it would only benefit 1,100 students from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds, and further investment would be needed.

SUSI is the online application system for new and renewal grant applications for higher level education students ranging from PLC to Postgraduate level in Ireland and students wishing to study outside the state who fill the necessary criteria.

A wide range of resources on financing your education, as well as information on the SUSI process, can be found on [www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie)

### OTHER SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Within Ireland fees alone can range from €3,000 to €10,000 per year depending on the mode and programme you choose up to a huge €34,500 for the prestigious Smurfit School of Business MBA. Outside of the regular fee support and grant systems traditionally offered by the State there are a range of sources through which you can seek financial support for your studies. These include:

**Loans:** whilst financial institutions have a bad record in respect of lending at present, depending on the size of the loan, the level of income you can guarantee and your credit record with the organisation you may be able to secure what you need. The UK has operated a student loan system for a number of years (with mixed success) and many are calling for the introduction of such a scheme here.

**Employers:** if you in employment your employer may be able to be in a position to support your studies financially, usually in return for some guarantee of your tenure. Postgraduate researchers in academia are often expected to participate in teaching hours, tutorial work or other research supervision as part of the funded research they are undertaking.

**Other sources:** There are scholarships (also known as studentships), bursaries, grants and awards offered by a variety of bodies to help support you in your studies. These include those granted by the college you are currently studying in or the one you wish to enter. Contact each individual college to find out what they offer. Funding sponsorships are also offered by many other public or private sector organisations. A selection of these is included in the list below.

### SELECTION OF OTHER SOURCES OF POSTGRADUATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN IRELAND

- **Universities Ireland** – promotes collaboration between universities in the North and Republic of Ireland and provides awards for students from both parts of Ireland who choose to undertake postgraduate study in the opposite jurisdiction. See [www.universitiesireland.ie](http://www.universitiesireland.ie)
- **Irish Marie Curie Office**  
<http://www.iaa.ie/irish-marie-curie-office/introduction/>  
Advice and support to researchers, research-active Organisations and companies in submitting *proposals and in managing their Marie Curie Programmes*

- **Central Remedial Clinic** – offers the annual Dr.Ciaran Barry postgraduate research scholarship for a student with a disability. See [www.crc.ie](http://www.crc.ie)
- **Royal Irish Academy** – RIA offers research grants in the humanities and social sciences. See [www.ria.ie](http://www.ria.ie)
- **Irish Research Council** –Following the merger of IRCHSS and IRCSET the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship subsumes the previous IRCSET Empower Fellowship and IRCHSS Government of Ireland Postgraduate Fellowship. See <http://research.ie/>
- [www.sfi.ie](http://www.sfi.ie)  
Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) funds oriented basic and applied research in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), which promotes and assists the development and competitiveness of industry, enterprise and employment in Ireland.
- **Health Research Board** –The HRB is the lead agency in Ireland supporting and funding health research. It provides funding for postgraduate research students and post-doctoral researchers through post-doctoral research fellowships and the PhD Scholars Programme. See [www.hrb.ie/research-strategy-funding/](http://www.hrb.ie/research-strategy-funding/)
- **Enterprise Ireland** – provides a range of direct funding and other supports to postdoctoral researchers. See <http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/> .
- [www.oreillyfoundation.ie](http://www.oreillyfoundation.ie)  
**The O'Reilly Foundation** supports a programme of scholarships to provide world-class educational opportunities for young Irish scholars. The Foundation sponsors scholars to undertake post-graduate education in their chosen field and in an institution or university of their choice. O'Reilly Scholars are individuals who have an excellent academic record and have demonstrated leadership qualities, as well as the potential and desire to make a significant contribution to the future of Ireland.
- [www.teagasc.ie/research/opportunities.asp](http://www.teagasc.ie/research/opportunities.asp)  
**An Teagasc** is the Irish government's research and development agency for the agricultural sciences. An Teagasc currently funds ninety contract researchers and 212 postgraduate students in association with Irish and international universities. The Walsh Fellowships provide up to three years' funding.
- Funding and Scholarships;  
<http://www.iua.ie/students-graduates/graduate-education/>

## **Euraxess**

<http://www.euraxess.ie/>

**EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion** is a European web portal providing access to a wide range of information and support services for researchers wishing to pursue research careers in Europe.

EURAXESS jobs brings together four major initiatives, which support the mobility of researchers Europe-wide - is a job database with constantly updated job vacancies for researchers throughout Europe. Researchers can search for up-to-date vacancies and post their CVs. Universities and research institutes can post their vacancies and find qualified research talent

**European Commission – research and Innovation**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=sitemap>

Directorate-General for Research and Innovation supports research and innovation through European Framework Programmes, coordinates and supports national and regional research and innovation programmes, contributes to the creation of the European Research Area by developing the conditions for researchers and knowledge to circulate freely, and supports European organisations and researchers in their cooperation at international level.

[www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie)

This website is a convenient and user-friendly source of information on financial support for further and higher education. You will see as you browse through studentfinance.ie that there are several financial assistance schemes available in Ireland to help you to progress through further and higher education.

[Fulbright Commission](http://www.fulbright.ie)

The Fulbright Commission in Ireland annually awards scholarships to Irish and EU students, scholars, and professionals to study, research, and lecture across all disciplines in the US. More information is available on [www.fulbright.ie](http://www.fulbright.ie).

**Academic vacancies**

<http://www.universityvacancies.com>

**Researcher show cases and database of researchers**

<http://www.sfi.ie/investments-achievements/research-showcase/>

**Useful links for Science – TU Dublin Career Development Centre:**

<http://www.dit.ie/careers/studentsgraduates/resources/>