

## Department of International Development

### Dr Sinead McGrath Memorial Scholarship Scheme, 2025/26

For the forthcoming academic year, 2025/26, the Department of International Development at Maynooth University is offering one Masters bursary worth €2500 to an outstanding individual who has been accepted for a place on either the full-time taught MA in International Development or MA in International Peacebuilding, Security and Development Practice. Please note: this offer is intended only for applicants with EU status who would be required to pay EU-rates for tuition fees.

This bursary has been set up in memory of **Dr. Sinéad McGrath** who passed away in January 2022. Sinéad was a part time lecturer with Maynooth University. She taught in the areas of conflict, development, migration and human rights. She was an inspirational teacher, researcher and activist who was deeply committed to peace, justice and human rights and particularly concerned about the rights of women. For more information on the life and work of Sinéad please see: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/node/519077>

#### Eligibility

Applicants must intend to pursue a full-time taught Master's degree in International Development or International Peacebuilding, Security and Development Practice at Maynooth University in the academic year 2025/26 and meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Demonstrated some experience or engagement in community development or global development or international peacebuilding in areas such as social justice, human rights, global citizenship education, volunteering or campaigning.
2. Applicants will need to demonstrate, through the provision of official academic transcripts, that they have achieved (or will achieve in summer 2025):
  - a 2.1 upper 2<sup>nd</sup> class honours undergraduate degree (or equivalent).
3. Applications will be accepted from EU-status candidates living in Ireland or elsewhere, who can satisfy the eligibility criteria for the Master's programme. Graduates from universities (both national and international) are welcome to apply, including applicants graduating in 2025.
4. Applicants are required to complete and submit a CV, a personal statement (500 words) and a short outline (400 words) of their proposed research topic, to the Department of International Development, by no later than the **1st September 2025**.
5. Applicants must have received a firm or conditional offer of a place – via the MU online application portal - on either the **MA in International Development**, or the **MA in International Peacebuilding, Security and Development Practice**, by **31st July 2024** in order for their bursary application to be assessed.
6. Provision of two letters of academic reference (as part of the MU Apply application).

#### Ineligibility

Graduates or current students of PhD or Master's programmes are not eligible to apply. Prospective students interested in postgraduate research programmes should apply instead for the Maynooth University John and Pat Hume Doctoral Research Awards. Prospective students with Non-EU fee status are not eligible to apply. Students who have been awarded a **Sanctuary scholarship** from MU or a full scholarship from elsewhere are ineligible to apply.

### Value of the Scholarship

The total value of this bursary will be €2500. The scholarships will be paid to registered recipient in two payments of €1,250. The recipient must be a registered student on a full-time taught master's programme at the time of payment of both installments. Failure to cover payment of course fees by the 31 January 2025 will result in suspension of the 2nd payment until full fees (or balance of) have been paid.

### Scholarship assessment

An initial eligibility check will be undertaken by the Department of International Development at Maynooth University to ensure that applications have met the eligibility requirements.

Applications will be reviewed by an academic panel consisting of the Head of the Department of International Development and the Lecturer responsible for postgraduate admissions at the Department. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview (by online video where a person-to-person interview is not possible) to discuss their interest. The panel will rank candidates based on their expressions of interest and interviews using the following marking scheme:

1. Academic attainment – 20%
2. Previous experience – 20%
3. Personal statement/interview – 30%
4. Master's thesis proposal – 20%
5. References – 10%

To apply please send a personal statement outlining your expression of interest along with your CV and a short (less than 500 words) thesis proposal to [tom.campbell@mu.ie](mailto:tom.campbell@mu.ie) by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025. Please note that reference letters should be provided as part of your programme application on pac.ie.

### Miscellaneous

- If an awardee does not take up a place or accept the scholarship the award may be made to the next ranked candidate. The scholarship may not be deferred.
- It is expected that scholarship funds will be used towards the costs of attending Maynooth University and should not be used for other purposes.
- The awardee is expected to maintain satisfactory attendance for their course, including attending lectures, tutorials and any other subject related activities or opportunities. Failure to maintain the expectations/performance - for example not attending lectures, failing Semester 1, any gross misconduct, or withdrawing from the programme - will result in the funds being withheld or repaid.
- As part of the scholarship the awardee may be required to undertake an ambassadorial role for the scholarship, the Department of International Development and Maynooth University – such as assisting with postgraduate programme Open Days (details to be provided and not to negatively impact on academic commitments).

### Closing Date

Applications (i.e., your personal statement, CV and outline research topic) should be submitted via email by the closing date of the **1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2025**. Applications may be submitted any time before the closing date. Late applications will not be accepted.

### Enquiries

Enquiries regarding the application process may be submitted by email to: [tom.campbell@mu.ie](mailto:tom.campbell@mu.ie)