

Department of International Development

Master's Scholarship Scheme, 2020/21

Following the launch of the new Maynooth University Department of International Development in 2019, the Department has decided to enhance its reputation for excellence in teaching and research by offering up to two full EU-fee scholarships to outstanding individuals wishing to pursue the taught MA in International Development.

This is a unique opportunity for experienced practitioners to be able to deepen their understanding and enhance their skills in the area of international development. Applying critical learning approaches, they will be enabled to reflect on their own experience in the light of development theories, policies and different approaches to practice. They will also be prepared to advance their work in the international development field through linking development theory with practice, seeking alternatives to current development processes, and learning how to turn development aspirations into realities in the Global South and North.

Eligibility

Applicants must intend to pursue a full-time taught Master's degree in International Development at Maynooth University in the academic year 2020-21 and meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Demonstrated experience (3 years or more) in community development or global development in areas such as social justice, human rights, development 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 2020):
 - a 2.1 upper 2nd class honours undergraduate degree, or equivalent.
3. Applications will be accepted from candidates living in Ireland who can satisfy the eligibility criteria for the Master's programme. Graduates from Maynooth University and other universities (both national and international) are welcome to apply, including applicants from the BA graduating class of 2020. Alumni of Maynooth University who are unaware of their degree result should contact the Maynooth University Student Records office: records.office@mu.ie to request official transcript information.
4. Applicants are required to complete and submit their CV and expression of interest to the Department of International Development by 22nd June 2020.
5. Following their expression of interest, candidates must have applied for the MA in International Development at Maynooth University on www.pac.ie by the 31st July 2020.
6. Provision of two x letters of academic reference (as part of the PAC.ie application).

Ineligibility

Graduates or current students of PhD or Master's programmes are not eligible to apply. Prospective students interested in research programmes should apply instead for the Maynooth University John and Pat Hume Doctoral Research Awards.

Value of the Scholarship

The total value of each full-time scholarship will be up to the cost of full-time EU fees of €6,850.

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.

Expressions of interest 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 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%

Expression of Interest

Please send a personal statement outlining your expression of interest along with your CV and a short (less than 1,000 word) thesis proposal to paddy.reilly@mu.ie by June 22nd 2020. Two reference letters (one academic and one related to your experience) must be submitted via email directly from referees to paddy.reilly@mu.ie by the closing date. Please note that reference letters should be provided as part of your programme application on pac.ie. For further information please contact pacinfo@mu.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.

The recipient may be required to undertake some light departmental duties, such as attendance at University Open Days or assisting at conferences, at the discretion of the Head of Department.

Closing Date

Completed expressions of interest (i.e., your personal statement, CV and reference letters) should be submitted via email by the closing date of the **22nd June 2020**. 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: paddy.reilly@mu.ie