

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

JOHN & PAT HUME DOCTORAL AWARDS PROGRAMME 2025-2026

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Maynooth University has established an international reputation for excellence in research and research-led teaching across the arts, humanities, social sciences and science and engineering. In support of the University's mission to promote research and teaching, a range of postgraduate research awards are available for suitably qualified prospective doctoral students. Maynooth University aims to reflect the diversity of the community we serve, and welcomes applications from all individuals, in particular, from communities who are significantly under-represented in postgraduate higher education.

1. DESCRIPTION OF JOHN & PAT HUME DOCTORAL AWARDS

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards

John & Pat Hume doctoral awards will be offered to successful doctoral applicants in the 2025-26 competition with demonstrated excellence in academic course work and research. Consideration will be given to the relevance of the proposed doctoral research to departmental and university research priorities. Applicants may also outline prior non-academic engagement such as volunteering, outreach activities or similar, in line with the university's strategic plan. Non-academic accomplishments will be considered where relevant to the funding proposal or where two or more applicants receive equal marks under the criterion 'Quality of the Applicant' ([see Call Document](#)).

Each award offered is a four-year scholarship, below is the value for each year of study.

Award	Stipend	Research expenses allowance	Fees*	Open to
Hume Doctoral Award	€25,000	€2,000	Full EU fees paid	Full-time students

*Successful applicants must pay the standard PhD application fee and the student levy in accordance with Maynooth University regulations.

John & Pat Hume: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Doctoral Awards

As part of the University's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), Maynooth University funds three Hume EDI Doctoral awards annually in areas where there is significant under-

representation, including women in STEM, and the Maynooth Access Programme (MAP), consistent with the aims of the Strategic Plan 2023-2028.

i. Women in STEM (WISH) Hume Fellow Scholarship

As part of the Athena SWAN initiative, Maynooth University funds two Women in STEM Hume (WISH) scholarships annually. The WISH Scholarship aims to encourage women to take up a career in science, technology, engineering or mathematics through research.

Awards will be offered to the top two ranked female doctoral applicants with demonstrated excellence in academic course work and research. All applicants are subject to the eligibility requirements of Section 3 of these Terms & Conditions.

The WISH Fellow Scholarships are available for STEM research projects, with particular priority given to departments in which female students are underrepresented. These include: Chemistry, Computer Science, Electronic Engineering, Physics and Mathematics and Statistics.

All eligible applications for the WISH Fellow Scholarships will also be considered for the John & Pat Hume doctoral awards. Only one award may be held by each successful applicant.

ii. Maynooth University Access Programme (MAP) Hume Scholarship

The Maynooth University Access Programme (MAP) Hume scholarship aims to encourage people from communities and groups underrepresented in higher education, and who often face barriers to participation and success in higher education, to take up a career in research.

The award will be offered to successful doctoral applicants with demonstrated excellence in academic course work and research. This award is available to applicants who are underrepresented in higher education including;

- Entrants to higher education from socio-economic groups that have low participation in higher education (entered through Higher Education Access Route – HEAR and/or supported by a Higher Education Institution Access Office/Programme);
- First time, mature students;
- Students with disabilities (entered through Disability Access Route to Education – DARE and/or supported by a Higher Education Institution Disability Office/Service);
- Other widening participating entry routes.

For the MAP awards, priority may be given to applicants from target groups that are particularly under-represented in higher education, and/or who have faced additional challenges in accessing opportunities in education (e.g. socio-economic disadvantage; applicants with a physical/sensory disability; Irish Travellers; lone parents; refugee/asylum seekers; or where an applicant is member of more than one target group under-represented in higher education). Priority may be given to applicants from target groups who face multiple challenges.

All applicants are subject to the eligibility requirements as stated in the John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards Programme Terms and Conditions, Section 3.

2. DURATION OF AWARDS

The maximum duration of a Hume Doctoral Award is four years.

Continuation of funding is subject to satisfactory annual progression and continued compliance with the Terms and Conditions of the award.

- a) If progress is unsatisfactory during the departmental annual review, the Vice President Research and Innovation will consider whether funding should be discontinued. If continuation is approved, this will be subject to the submission of a plan to achieve satisfactory progress.
- b) All scholars will be expected to apply for external funding (e.g. Research Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship) during the first and/ or second year of their award. This is a requirement for the continuation of funding. Evidence of applications must be sent to the Graduate Research Academy at humephdscholarship@mu.ie in order that continuation of funding can be approved.

3. MODE OF STUDY & ELIGIBILITY

a. Mode of study

Only **full-time students** are eligible for the Hume Scholarships. Awardees are required to be available to engage in full-time research at Maynooth University. The awardee's principal duty is to the successful completion of the funded research project. Awardees will normally be based at the Maynooth University campus and may only conduct research elsewhere with the permission of their Head of Department and the Director of Graduate Research.

All Hume Doctoral Award holders will register with Maynooth University. Hume awards cannot be used for registration at or fees payments to other universities.

All Hume applicants must have agreement, before making an application, of at least one Maynooth University supervisor that they will undertake to supervise the research for the duration of the award. Co-supervision is encouraged and is required where a supervisor has not yet supervised a doctoral student to successful completion. The Head of Department must agree that resources are in place to support the research as outlined in the proposal. Where there is just one supervisor, an additional staff member who is eligible to supervise at doctoral level must be willing to join the supervisory team for the applicant, to ensure continuity of supervision should the principal supervisor become unavailable to supervise over the course of the programme.

b. Eligibility

Applicants must be new entrants to their PhD programme and commencing in AY 2025-2026.

Applicants must have made contact with and received commitment from a Maynooth University supervisor prior to making their application. Applicants may only apply with a supervisor who has submitted an Expression of Interest as advertised on the website. Applicants must upload an academic reference ([template provided](#)) from that supervisor as part of their application. This reference must be signed by the supervisor and relevant Head of Department.

Only full-time students are eligible for a Hume Doctoral Award. Awardees must be available to pursue their programme of research on a full-time basis at Maynooth University.

The minimum standards for eligibility for MU John & Pat Hume doctoral awards are:

- Applicants must have:
 - (i) a first class or upper second-class honours bachelor's degree, or the equivalent, in the discipline of the department of application or in a cognate discipline approved by the proposed supervisor, where permitted by a department.
 - If undergraduate examination results are not known at the time of application, Maynooth University may make a provisional offer of an award on condition that the scholar's bachelor's (equivalent) degree result is a first class or upper second-class honours.
- or
- (ii) If an applicant does not have a first class or upper second-class honours bachelor's degree (or equivalent), they must either hold a first class or upper second-class master's degree or have completed a research master's degree in the discipline of the department of application or cognate discipline as approved by proposed supervisor.

Degrees may be from Ireland, the EU or from any recognised international university. Equivalency of degrees awarded and results obtained outside of Ireland will be determined by the Vice President for Research and Innovation or President's nominee.

In certain cases, where a higher diploma operates as a master's qualifier, the higher diploma result can be considered equivalent to a primary degree.

Applicants in the final year of the qualifying degree apply on the basis of expected results. Should results be unavailable at the time of award offers, applicants with the highest ranking will be made conditional offers (subject to confirmation of actual results). If the required qualification is not achieved, the university shall deem the applicant ineligible and rescind the conditional offer.

For international students from a country where English is not the primary language, an English proficiency test is mandatory. An international applicant may apply for the Hume Scholarship without the English proficiency test, but, if the applicant is deemed successful, only a conditional offer can be made, pending proof of English language proficiency i.e. an original certificate is submitted within 30 days. For international students from a country where English is not the primary language, the minimum English language requirement for an MU PhD programme is as follows: IELTS: 6.5 minimum overall score; TOEFL (Paper based test): 585; TOEFL (Internet based test) 95; and PTE (Pearson): 62. International students who completed their primary degree through the medium of English are not subject to this requirement.

c. Nationality

Applicants of any nationality are eligible to apply.

d. Exclusions

- Those who have commenced a postgraduate research degree at Maynooth University prior to application are not eligible to apply for an award for that degree.
- Those who hold only a pass degree qualification and who do not meet the required standard of qualification as stated under *Term 2b. Eligibility* are not eligible to apply.
- Those who have previously received a Maynooth University John & Pat Hume doctoral award are not eligible to apply for funding for a second postgraduate degree under the Maynooth University John & Pat Hume doctoral awards Programme.

4. DUTIES OF AWARD HOLDERS

The primary duties of MU John & Pat Hume doctoral award holders are to advance their study with the objective of completing the doctoral degree within the expected timeframe of four years. Before engaging in any additional activities, either within the University or outside, award holders should discuss these with their supervisor(s) or supervisory team and should carefully consider possible implications of such activities for their progress and should only engage in other activities to the extent that they will not negatively impact on their primary duties as a research student.

MU John & Pat Hume doctoral award holders who wish to develop their teaching skills, contribute to pedagogical developments in their discipline and develop other skills to enhance their future employability may be considered for activities such as tutorials, laboratory demonstrations, marking and/or similar related work for which they will receive additional payment subject to University guidelines, policies and procedures. Please note, there is no obligation on the University to offer the scholar any additional paid work, and there is no obligation on the scholar to accept any such offers of paid work. Moreover, any such work, where offered, is to exclusively advance the scholar's training and development in their capacity as a Doctoral Scholar.

John & Pat Hume doctoral award holders are required to immediately contact the Graduate Research Academy by email to humephdscholarship@mu.ie if they intend to suspend or withdraw from their studies, regardless of the reason, before they submit the postgraduate registration suspension/withdrawal form. Should an award holder fail to comply with this requirement, funding will cease, and the University may seek to recover funds paid to the award holder for the period from the date of suspension/withdrawal of postgraduate registration where applicable.

It is the responsibility of award holders to inform the Graduate Research Academy at humephdscholarship@mu.ie of any change of their bank account details, address, telephone or e-mail within two weeks of such a change.

John & Pat Hume doctoral award holders are required to inform the Graduate Research Academy at humephdscholarship@mu.ie when they have submitted their thesis for examination and when they have submitted their hard bound copy of the thesis post examination.

Upon completion of their programme, John & Pat Hume doctoral award holders are required to provide follow-up contact details in a final report submitted to the Graduate Research Academy at humephdscholarship@mu.ie. Award holders must agree to being contacted after graduation and provide information for the purposes of collecting information on Hume graduates' career outcomes.

Award holders are required to complete research integrity training and to complete a module on Grant Management & Compliance (see Section 5 below). Awardees must complete a minimum of 30 taught credits in subject-specific and transferable skills modules, over the duration of their programme.

Award holders are required to acknowledge Maynooth University's support in their thesis and any outputs from their thesis, and in all relevant publications, disseminations and outreach activities. Awards holders should acknowledge that: "This research was supported by funding through the Maynooth University Hume Doctoral Awards" and include the award/grant number where relevant.

Maynooth University should appear as the scholar's affiliation in relevant research outputs. Awardees are required to comply with the University's Open [Access](#) Policy and ensure that, on completion, their thesis and other outputs where relevant are made available through the online institutional repository.

All award holders must make a declaration of all other sources of awards, scholarships, and grants when accepting an award. This declaration must be countersigned by the head of department and supervisor.

The University reserves the right to terminate funding to award holders who fail to fulfil their duties and to seek reimbursement where applicable.

5. TENURE OF AWARDS

a. Mode of study

The maximum duration of awards, as specified above, is subject to satisfactory progress and reporting. The funding will cease at the end of four years of full-time study, or before this if progress is not satisfactory.

b. Payment of Awards

Payments of stipends awarded under Hume Doctoral Awards will be made monthly in arrears by direct funds transfer into the award holder's bank account, typically on 28th day of each month, with the first payment of a year of study being in October. The fees portion of the scholarship will be managed internally.

c. Non-transferability of Awards

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards are tenable at Maynooth University only.

d. Other Awards

Hume Scholarships awarded under this Programme cannot be held in conjunction with any other award that provides a research stipend. Small specific purpose awards (e.g. travel or conference support) may be permitted. The awardee should consult with the Graduate Research Academy before applying for such awards.

John & Pat Hume Doctoral award holders are required to apply for external awards that provide a fully funded stipend (such as Research Ireland) during the first and/or second year of their programme. If a John & Pat Hume doctoral award holder subsequently secures funding from an external source, then in recognition of that achievement the student will continue to be recognised as a Maynooth University John & Pat Hume doctoral award holder and will retain the corresponding title, and must continue to acknowledge the award as outlined in Section 3. The awardee will receive one further contribution of €2,000 towards research expenses following successful transfer to the external funding. The stipend funding provided under the John & Pat Hume Doctoral Award Programme will cease from the date when the new funding commences.

John & Pat Hume doctoral award holders are required to inform the Graduate Research Academy about any funding received during their award tenure, regardless of the amount awarded, source or purpose of the funding at humephdscholarship@mu.ie.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RESEARCH EXPENSES

Eligible direct research expenses include: essential research supplies such as consumables; books and journals; pay-as-you-go access to national research infrastructure; software and hardware critical for the research; archival research costs including travel costs; conference travel and registration; generic and/or specialist disciplinary skills training; and publishing and write-up costs (note that professional editing of theses is not permitted). Only vouched expenses incurred in carrying out the research project will be reimbursed. Unused funds can be rolled over to the next year, subject to the award holder's successful progress and continued registration, for the duration of the award.

Expenses incurred outside the four-year funding term are not eligible under the award.

The scholar, in collaboration with their academic supervisor, is responsible for appropriate financial planning and spending during the funding term of the awards. It is the responsibility of the scholar and their academic supervisor(s) to ensure expenditure complies within the award holder's budget limits and MU financial policies. Award holders are required to complete a module on Grant Management & Compliance at a stage in the programme to be agreed with the supervisor.

Where the hard-bound thesis is submitted before the end of the funding term, the award holder must inform the Graduate Research Academy immediately at humephdscholarship@mu.ie whereupon funding to the awardee will cease.

7. REPORTING

Continuation of funding will be conditional on satisfactory annual progress and submitting applications for external funding during the first two years of the programme.

All John & Pat Hume Doctoral Award holders must report annually their progress to the Departmental Research Student Progress Committee as per MU University annual review guidelines. The report should include a full list of research outputs noting where acknowledgement of the Programme has been made.

8. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications can only be made via the [MU APPLY portal](#)

Please refer to the step by step [Guide for Applicants](#) on the [Hume Doctoral Awards web pages](#).

The application call will open on Thursday 20th March 2025 at 12 noon. Applications must be submitted by the closing date of Thursday 17th April 2025 at 11:45pm. Late applications cannot be accepted.

Applicants may submit one application. Submission of more than one application will deem both submissions ineligible. Applicants should make contact with their supervisor to discuss their suitability before applying. Applicants can only apply to the research areas and with supervisors advertised in the Expressions of Interest on the [Hume Doctoral Awards web pages](#)

Instructions are available in the [Guide for Applicants](#) available on the Graduate Research Academy website.

Incomplete applications not accompanied by a reference, transcripts as outlined in the Terms & Conditions will be deemed ineligible and will be excluded from assessment. Late submissions will not be accepted. Applications submitted with supervisors who did not submit an expression of interest will be deemed ineligible.

Applicants wishing to be considered for the award of a John & Pat Hume - Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Doctoral Award under WISH or MAP are required to complete the designated EDI section of the application form under supplemental items & documents. The information contained in this section will not be shared with the assessment panel but will be used by the EDI office to identify applicants eligible for the WISH and MAP awards.

9. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Applications will be assessed by a panel of reviewers at departmental level and at faculty level against the following criteria. Applications must meet a minimum quality threshold in order to be deemed eligible for award of a scholarship:

Departmental Assessment:

- The Applicant: This criterion includes excellence in academic and research achievement (50%).
- Quality of the detailed proposal: The quality of the proposed approach to the research project, the methodology, aims, objectives and outputs will be assessed (50%).

Faculty Assessment:

- The Applicant: This criterion includes excellence in academic and research achievement (40%).
- Quality of the detailed proposal: The quality of the proposed approach to the research project, the methodology, aims, objectives and outputs will be assessed (40%).
- Alignment of research to the research priorities/ strengths/ Maynooth University Strategic Plan (20%).

Applicants should address the above criteria in their application and research proposal.

MAP awards are assessed under a separate set of agreed criteria and are evaluated by an assessment panel within the EDI office. All applications are confidential.

The Research Development Office will coordinate the assessment process. The departmental and faculty review panels will review all applicants and make recommendations on awards. Recommendations will be ratified by a University panel, which will confirm the cross-Faculty MAP and WISH awards.

10. DEFERRALS AND SUSPENSIONS

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards may not be deferred or suspended other than for eligible career breaks (e.g. maternity or parental leave) or in exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness) and with the permission of the Director of Graduate Research. Requests for deferrals/suspensions are considered on a case-by-case basis. Only deferral/suspension requests made in advance of the period of absence will be considered and can only be granted for a maximum of one year.

Award holders requesting deferral or suspension must email the Director of Graduate Research at director.graduate.research@mu.ie explaining why a deferral or suspension is needed, for what duration, and what progress has been made to date. The request should have the support of the supervisor(s) and Head of Department and confirmation of this should be included in the email.

If the deferral/suspension occurs without prior written approval by the Director of Graduate Research, the award will be revoked and cannot be reinstated.

11. MISCELLANEOUS

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Award holders who withdraw from their studies will be ineligible to apply for the award again. An award must be first taken up within the academic year following communication of the award offer. The latest date for first registration is normally 31st October of that academic year.

Awards holders are normally based at the Maynooth University campus. Award holders may, with the permission of their research supervisor(s), spend part of the academic year engaged in research at other institutions in Ireland or abroad.

It is the responsibility of the supervisor to inform the Head of Department and Director of Graduate Research at humephdscholarship@mu.ie if an award holder is not devoting sufficient time or effort to the research. In such cases, the award may be terminated and the recipient may be required to repay monies advanced.

The University reserves the right to suspend or terminate a John & Pat Hume doctoral award and/or require reimbursement by the award holder of payments made to the award holder if in the opinion of the university there has been a material breach of the terms and conditions as outlined in this document or where an adverse finding with regard to research integrity, academic misconduct or the code of discipline has been made.

12. CLOSING DATE

Applications must be submitted via the online application portal no later than Thursday 17th April 2025 at 11:45pm (GMT)

Late applications will not be accepted.

13. ENQUIRIES

Enquiries regarding eligibility, the application process and any other aspect of the competition, should be sent by email to humephdscholarships@mu.ie

Responses to enquiries submitted by email will be published in a FAQ document list on the website.

Maynooth University reserves the right to amend the Terms & Conditions at any time.

Maynooth University
Research Development Office

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Maynooth University
Research Development Office
Email: humephdscholarship@mu.ie