

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

JOHN & PAT HUME DOCTORAL AWARDS PROGRAMME 2024-2025 Information for applicants

Maynooth University has established an international reputation for excellence in research and research-led teaching across the arts, humanities, social sciences, science and engineering. In support of our 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 people who are significantly under-represented in postgraduate higher education.

1. DESCRIPTION OF JOHN & PAT HUME DOCTORAL AWARDS

1.1. John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards

John & Pat Hume doctoral awards will be offered to successful doctoral applicants with demonstrated excellence in academic course work and research and high potential for post graduate research. Consideration will be given to the relevance of the proposed doctoral research to University research priorities.

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 Fellow Scholarship | €22,000 | €2,000 | Full EU fees paid | Full-time students |

* Successful applicants must also pay the student levy in accordance with Maynooth University regulations.

1.2. John & Pat Hume: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Doctoral Awards

As part of our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), Maynooth University funds three Hume Doctoral awards annually to applicants where there is significant under-representation, including women in STEM, and the Maynooth Access Programme (MAP) target groups.

a) Women in STEM (WISH) Hume Scholarship

As part of the Athena SWAN initiative, Maynooth University funds two Women in STEM Hume (WISH) scholarships annually. The WISH Scholarship aim 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 as stated in the John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards Scheme Terms and Conditions.

The WISH Fellow Scholarship are available for STEM research projects, with particular priority given to disciplines in which female students are underrepresented. These include: Chemistry, Computer Science, Electronic Engineering, Experimental Physics and Theoretical Physics.

All eligible applications for WISH Fellow Scholarship will also be considered automatically for the John & Pat Hume doctoral awards. Only one award may be held by each successful applicant. The value of the WISH Fellow Scholarship is €24,000 (€22,000 stipend and €2,000 expenses) plus full EU fees for four years.

b) Maynooth University Access Programme (MAP) Hume Scholarship

The Maynooth University Access Programme (MAP) Hume scholarship aims to encourage people from communities and groups under-represented in higher education, and who often face barriers to participation and success in higher education, to take up doctoral level study.

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 participation entry routes.

For 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. All eligible applications for this award will also be considered automatically for the John & Pat Hume doctoral awards. The value of the MAP Fellow Scholarship is €24,000 (€22,000 stipend and €2,000 research expenses) plus full EU fees for four years.

2. DURATION OF AWARDS

The maximum duration of Hume Scholarships is four years full-time.

Annual continuation of funding is subject to satisfactory annual progress and continued compliance with the terms and conditions of the award.

- 1) If progress is unsatisfactory during the departmental annual review, the Vice President for 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.
- 2) John & Pat Hume doctoral awards may be used as a “stepping-stone” towards securing other funding and award holders are strongly encouraged to apply for external awards (such as the Irish Research Council).

3. MODE OF STUDY & ELIGIBILITY

a. Mode of study

Only **full-time students** are eligible for the Hume Scholarships.

All Hume Doctoral Award holders will register with Maynooth University as a postgraduate research student. Hume awards cannot be used for fees payments to or registrations in other universities.

According to the MU academic regulations, “Each research student will have a suitably qualified lead supervisor whose responsibility will be to supervise the student on a regular and frequent basis. A supervisory team composed of MU academic staff members should be established where practicable.” If more than one department is involved in supervision, only one home department will manage the annual progression processes.

b. Eligibility

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

- All applicants must have a first class or upper second-class honours bachelor’s degree, or the equivalent, in discipline of the department of application
- If undergraduate examination results are not known at the time of application, Maynooth University may make a provisional offer of a scholarship on condition that the scholar’s bachelor’s (equivalent) degree result is a first class or upper second-class honours.
- If a scholar does not have a first class or upper second-class honours bachelor’s degree (or equivalent), they must possess a first class or upper second-class 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.

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 through PAC within 30-60 days. For international students 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.

c. Nationality

Applicants of any nationality are eligible to apply.

d. Exclusions

- Those who have access to other external scholarship, including governmental, funding;
- Those who have commenced a postgraduate research degree at Maynooth University prior to application are not eligible 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 3b. Eligibility* are not eligible to apply.
- Those who have received a 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 scheme.

Address any enquiries regarding eligibility to humephdscholarship@mu.ie.

4. Student Application and Review Process

The call for student applications will open on Friday 2nd February 2024.

a. Student Application Process

The application call will open on **Friday 2nd February 2024 at 1pm**. Applications must be submitted by the closing date of **Tuesday 5th March at 9am**.

One application only per applicant can be submitted. Submission of more than one application will deem both submissions ineligible. Applicants should make contact with the potential supervisor to discuss their research proposal before applying.

Applications for awards should be made through the **Hume PAC portal** which goes live on **2nd February 2024**. The deadline for applications is **Tuesday 5th March 9am**.

Information to be covered in the application includes:

- The Applicant: The personal statement, achievements, work experience and reference will be considered as evidence for the applicant's suitability for doctoral study.
- Quality of the detailed proposal: The quality of the proposed approach to the research project, the methodology, aims, objectives and outputs will be assessed.
- Career Development Activities Reasons for choosing this area of research and PhD study at MU, and the possible training and development needs during the PhD programme.

Instructions are available in the **guide for applicants** on the Graduate Research Academy website.

All applicants, including Maynooth University students and graduates, must ensure that a reference is submitted through the Hume PAC application portal as outlined (the reference should be independent of the proposed supervisory team).

Applicants must include copies of official diplomas and transcripts for all degrees obtained and listed on the application form. For diplomas and transcripts in languages other than English, documents in the original language must be accompanied by an English translation. Originals or certified copies of official diplomas and transcripts will be required from applicants selected for awards. Offers will be conditional on providing originals or certified copies of official diplomas and transcripts. Should an applicant fail to provide these upon request, the award offer will be withdrawn.

Incomplete applications not accompanied by a reference, transcripts as outlined above will be deemed ineligible and will be excluded from assessment. Late submissions will not be accepted.

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. The information contained in this section will not be shared with the assessment panel but will be used by the Vice President for Research and Innovation in collaboration with the EDI Office/MAP to identify applicants eligible for the WISH and MAP awards.

b. Assessment and decision processes

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria and must meet a minimum quality threshold in order to be deemed eligible for award of a scholarship:

- 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).

The assessment panel(s) will include representatives of the University community and the EDI office. The panels will review all scores and make decisions on awards. The Graduate Research Academy will coordinate the assessment process.

c. Notification of Awards

The Research and Development Office will notify students of the outcome of their scholarship application. Applicants whose eligibility for MU John & Pat Hume doctoral awards are subject to pending final results will receive conditional offers, to be confirmed (or withdrawn) when official final results become available.

5. 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 the Graduate Research Academy. 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 be granted for a maximum of one year.

Award holders requesting deferral or suspension must email the Director of the Graduate Research Academy at humephdscholarship@mu.ie explaining why a deferral or suspension is needed, for what duration, and what progress has been made to date. The supervisor shall email the Director of the Graduate Research Academy at humephdscholarship@mu.ie to support the deferral/suspension.

If the deferral/suspension occurs without prior written approval by the Vice President for Research, the award will be revoked and cannot be reinstated.

6. 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 of the award. All John & Pat Hume awardees must commence their PhD programme in October 2024 only.

Award holders may, with the permission of their research supervisor, 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 the Graduate Research Academy 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.

Award holders must acknowledge Maynooth University's support in all relevant publications, disseminations and outreach activities.

All award holders must make a declaration of all 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 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.

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

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Maynooth University values the enrichment that comes from a diverse community and seeks to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of each individual. To learn more about our commitment to Equality and Diversity, please read the Maynooth University [Equality and Diversity Policy](#). Additionally, as an [Athena SWAN Bronze Award](#) Institute, we are committed to advancing gender equality across the University.

We aim to reflect the diversity of the community we serve and welcome applications from all individuals, in particular from people underrepresented in our institution.



8. CLOSING DATE

Completed and signed applications should be submitted via the PAC online application system **no later than 9am on 5th March 2024** - Late applications will not be accepted.

Applications can be made through the link below.

[**Hume PAC portal**](#)

9. ENQUIRIES

Enquiries regarding eligibility, the application process and any other aspect of the competition, should be sent by email to humephdscholarship@mu.ie. Responses to enquiries submitted by email will be published in a FAQ document list on the Graduate Research Academy website.

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/graduate-research-academy/john-pat-hume-doctoral-awards>

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

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