



GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS 2024

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1: What is the Government of Ireland International Education Scholarship programme (GOI-IES)?

For an overview of the GOI-IES programme, please refer to the call document which is available [here](#).

1.1. What is the Higher Education Authority (HEA)?

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) has a statutory responsibility for the effective governance and regulation of the Irish higher education system. More details about HEA can be found on the [HEA website](#).

2: What practical issues should I consider before deciding to apply for this scholarship?

- You should make sure that you meet all the eligibility criteria outlined in the call document.
- Where necessary, you should look into visa requirements. The website of the Irish Immigration Service is a good place to start. We recommend having all necessary documents ready for your visa application by the time the results of the GOI-IES competition are released so that you may submit your visa application as soon as you are informed that your application was successful. Otherwise, you risk missing the start of your studies and losing the scholarship if you do not arrive in Ireland in time.
- If you need a visa and you have young children or other family members that need your support, be aware that they might not be granted a visa. Please note that GOI-IES does not provide any support to relatives or dependents of awardees.
- You should research the cost of living and accommodation in Ireland and prepare accordingly.

3: Does the GOI-IES programme provide funding for travelling to Ireland or for study materials?

No. The GOI-IES scholarship provides a €10,000 stipend to assist with living costs and a full fee waiver for one year of study.

4: Is the GOI-IES scholarship only for one year or can it be extended? Can I reapply for a second year if I have already received the scholarship once?

The scholarship is only available for one year of study. It cannot be extended, and, once you have received funding for one year, you cannot reapply for a second year of funding.

5: Who can apply for the GOI-IES?

To be eligible to apply for GOI-IES you must:

- 1) Have a domiciliary of origin outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland/United Kingdom.
- 2) Have received an offer of a place in a full-time course at an eligible Irish higher education institution for either:



- a. a taught master's degree program which is at least one year long
- b. a research programme (i.e. research master's or PhD programme) which is at least one year long.

6: How do I know if my domiciliary of origin makes me eligible for the GOI-IES?

Domiciliary of origin is defined as the applicant's country of legal and permanent residency prior to the deadline of this call. It does not alter as they progress through their academic career. For example, an Indian person that comes to Ireland two weeks prior to commencing a higher education course will be coded as Indian for the duration of their studies. Whilst their nationality is Indian and their correspondence address is in Ireland, their country of legal and permanent residence is still India.

7: In the wake of Brexit, are applicants from the United Kingdom eligible to apply for the GOI-IES programme?

Applicants from the United Kingdom are not eligible to apply for GOI-IES funding.

8: Are Russian and Belarussian nationals eligible to apply for the GOI-IES programme?

Russian and Belarussian nationals are not eligible to apply for GOI-IES funding.

9: What are the eligible Irish higher education institutions for this scholarship?

For a full list of eligible institutions, please refer to Appendix 1 of the call document, which is available [here](#).

9.1. Which study programmes are eligible for this scholarship?

Please check with the higher education institutions you are interested in if specific courses they offer accept GOI-IES scholars. It is the HEIs that shortlist candidates and decide for which courses they will provide fee waivers.

9.2. Are online degrees eligible for this scholarship?

No, online degrees are not eligible.

9.3. I am an international student already studying at an eligible institution, e.g. as a PhD student or master's student in a two-year programme. Can I apply for the GOI-IES for the 2024/2025 academic year?

If you meet the GOI-IES eligibility criteria, and if your course accepts GOI-IES scholars, you can apply. Please double-check with your institution to see if they accept GOI-IES scholars on your specific course/programme.



9.4. Are postgraduate diplomas eligible for GOI-IES funding?

Yes, postgraduate diplomas at NFQ level 9 are eligible for GOI-IES funding. Information about NFQ levels is available [here](#).

9.5. I am a final year undergraduate student due to graduate in spring/summer 2024. Am I eligible to apply for the GOI-IES to study at postgraduate level in Ireland?

Yes, you can apply as long as you meet the eligibility criteria, e.g. you have an offer of admission from an eligible higher education institution, as a full-time, international postgraduate fee-paying student. You must also be able to start your studies in Ireland in the 2024/2025 academic year, should your GOI-IES application be successful.

10: Are higher education institutions from Northern Ireland eligible?

No, higher education institutions from Northern Ireland are not eligible under this programme.

11: What is an offer letter?

An offer letter is an official document whereby the higher education institution confirms that they have offered you a place on one of their programmes. In order to apply for the GOI-IES, all applicants **must ALREADY** possess a conditional or final offer of study from an eligible Irish higher education institution.

To receive an offer, the applicant must first apply to an Irish higher education institution for a course of study. The institution will then issue the student with an offer if they consider the student eligible for their course.

11.1. How do I get an offer letter? Can you help me get an offer letter?

To receive an offer, the applicant must first apply to an Irish higher education institution for a course of study. The Higher Education Authority cannot offer any assistance in this process.

To apply for a course of study at an Irish higher education institution that is eligible for the GOI-IES, candidates are advised to:

- Consult the list of eligible higher education institutions in Appendix 1 of the call document.
- Search the websites of eligible higher education institutions to see if the institutions offer any programmes they would like to apply for.
- Choose a programme that meets the GOI-IES eligibility criteria, i.e. master's and PhD programmes that are full-time, in-person, with a duration of at least one academic year.
- Double-check with the higher education institution to see if they accept GOI-IES scholars on that programme.
- Follow the application instructions provided on the webpage of the respective programme or on the website of the respective institution.
- Direct any queries about this application process to the respective institution.
- Prospective PhD students should first contact a potential supervisor and obtain this academic's agreement to supervise their project.



11.2. How do I find a supervisor for my PhD project? Can you help me find a supervisor?

The Higher Education Authority cannot provide assistance in this process. Information about the research interests of academic staff is usually available on the websites of higher education institutions. PhD candidates are advised to search for this information and contact the potential supervisor by using the contact details provided on the same page.

11.3. How do I get the student/application number required in the “Details of offer” section of the GOI-IES application form?

You will receive this number from the higher education institution where you have applied, once you have been accepted as a student there.

11.4. Where is the link to apply for an offer letter from eligible higher education institutions?

There is no specific link to apply for an offer letter. Please follow the instructions listed in the answer to question 11.1.

12: What information must be included in my offer letter?

Your offer letter must include the information necessary to show that you are eligible for the GOI-IES programme, i.e. that you are an international fee-paying student who will be studying on a full-time basis in a postgraduate programme for at least one year.

13: Can I apply for the GOI-IES if I do not have an offer letter?

All applicants **must** possess a valid conditional or final offer letter from an eligible Irish higher education institution before the application deadline of 13 March 2024. You can work on your application in the online portal even if you do not have the offer yet, but you must not submit your application if you do not have the offer by the deadline.

14: I received my offer letter after the application deadline. Can I still submit my application?

No. It is not possible to submit an application after the deadline has passed.

15: Are undergraduate degrees eligible for GOI-IES funding?

No. Undergraduate degrees are not eligible for GOI-IES funding.

15.1. Why is there an “Undergraduate” option under “Details of offer” in the application form if undergraduate degrees are not eligible?

The final year of undergraduate degrees used to be eligible in previous cycles. However, undergraduate degrees have not been eligible since the 2023 cycle of the GOI-IES programme.

16: Are foundation year studies eligible for GOI-IES funding?

No. Foundation year studies are not eligible for GOI-IES funding.



17: What internet browser is best for accessing the application portal?

Up-to-date versions of Chrome, Firefox, and Safari have all been proven to work with the application portal. If possible, we would advise against using Internet Explorer. We would also recommend accessing the application portal through a computer rather than a mobile device.

18: What references should I include in my application?

It is up to the applicant to decide what references they feel would best support their application. Please note we can only accept letters of reference that are uploaded via the online application portal. All reference letters must be written in English. Notarised translations are acceptable.

18.1. My referees would like to upload the references directly via a link sent exclusively to them, to maintain the confidentiality of the references. Can you send them such a link?

The GOI-IES application portal does not provide this facility. Reference letters must be uploaded by the candidates themselves.

18.2. Are there specific requirements about the format and content of the references?

No, there are no such requirements.

18.3. What kind of signatures are acceptable for the reference letters?

Both handwritten and electronic signatures are acceptable. Typed names are not acceptable.

19: Is there a language requirement for GOI-IES applications?

All applications must be completed in English.

20: Is there a word limit to the application?

Some sections of the application have word limits which are indicated within the relevant sections of the online portal.

21: What is the deadline for GOI-IES 2024 applications?

The deadline for GOI-IES 2024 applications is 5pm (Irish time) on 13 March 2024.

22: If I received additional references/offers/documentation after the deadline, can I send them to the HEA to add to my scholarship application?

No. Only documentation submitted before the deadline will be considered.



23: I have submitted my application but noticed there was an error/mistake that I need to change, is there a way for me to edit a submitted application?

No alterations can be made to an application once it has been submitted. It is therefore important that you check and re-check the application form until you are fully satisfied with all sections before submitting.

24: Can I apply for this scholarship through email/post/telephone?

No. All applications must be submitted through the [online application portal](#).

25: When will the 2024 GOI-IES results be available?

The HEA expects to release the results of GOI-IES 2024 in late May or early June 2024.

26: I have not received any communication about the outcome of my application although it has been announced that the results have been released. Should I email goi-ies@hea.ie?

You should first double-check that the email address you provided as part of your application was correct. You should also check your junk folder. If your email address was correct and the outcome email is not in your junk folder, please email goi-ies@hea.ie.

27: I have received an email informing me that my application has been unsuccessful. I would like to know how I can improve my application for next year. Can I have feedback for my application?

Due to the large number of applications received, it is not possible to give individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

28: My GOI-IES application was unsuccessful. Does this affect the offer I have received from my chosen higher education institution?

No, it does not. Your offer is a matter between you and the higher education institution. However, you will need to find alternative sources of funding for your studies if you do not yet have the necessary amount to cover your fees and to be able to travel to and live in Ireland.

29: I was informed that I am on the reserve list but there has been no further communication about it. Should I email the GOI-IES team to ask about it?

If a place becomes available, we will let you know as soon as possible. Once all the successful applicants have confirmed that they accept the scholarship, we will email the candidates on the reserve list to inform them that the allocation process has ended and that their application was not selected for funding.

30. How many GOI-IES awards are available per higher education institution?

The number of awards can vary depending on the institutions' availability to accept GOI-IES scholars on their programmes, but there is a cap of 5 awards per eligible HEI.



31. What English language proficiency certificate is required for the GOI-IES?

Applying for the GOI-IES does not require an English language proficiency certificate. However, when you apply for a place to study at an Irish higher education institution as an international student, you are usually asked for this type of certificate. Requirements may vary between institutions and are usually detailed on their websites. Please direct such enquiries to the higher education institutions where you are applying.

32. If I have more than one offer letter, should I submit all my offer letters in one application?

No. In section 3 of the call document, it is stated "Should an applicant be in receipt of more than one offer, separate applications may be submitted for each course offer.".

33. How many applications can I submit?

A maximum of three applications can be submitted by one candidate in the 2024 GOI-IES cycle.

34. How do I create a second/third application?

When you sign into the application portal, the instructions read:

"Step 1. Use + Create a Profile to Get Started to create profile

Step 2. Use + Get Started to enter details of your first offer.

Then Use + Add Another to enter additional offers that you have received. Each offer is evaluated separately, therefore each offer must have a complete set of information."

Clicking "Add another" will create another application, and you will upload your second offer letter there. Then you will do the same for the third offer letter (if you have one), i.e. create a third application by clicking "Add another" again.

35. I cannot afford to pay the application fee required by the higher education institution; can you help me?

Unfortunately, the Higher Education Authority cannot provide financial assistance in this respect. If your GOI-IES application is successful, your host institution will give you a fee waiver for registration and tuition fees. They are not required to waive application fees under the GOI-IES programme.

36. How can I provide evidence for my participation in extracurricular activities?

Fill in the fields provided in the application form. The application portal does not have an option for uploading certificates for extracurricular activities.



37. Should I expect to receive an automatic email confirming that my submitted application has been received?

No, confirmation emails are not sent by the application portal. When you submitted the application, a confirmation message was visible on your page, as shown below.

Step 1. Enter details into each section and click on **Save Draft** to save those details and remain in the form. Click **Mark Complete** to save details and return to list of sections.

Step 2. When all sections are complete, revisit each section and click **Mark Complete** when you are satisfied. This section will now show a status of **Complete**.

Step 3. When all sections have a status of **Complete**, click on **Click here to Submit Application** to finalise your submission. Once clicked, you can no longer edit your submission.

The screenshot shows a web interface titled "List of Sections" with a green confirmation message in the top right corner that says "This has been submitted". Below the title, it says "Thank you. Your application was submitted." There is a list of six sections, each with a "View" button to its right:

- Primary(Personal Detail)
- Application Eligibility
- Details of Offer
- Academic/Work History
- Personal Statements and Referees
- Declarations and Signature of applicant

At the bottom of the page, there is a small logo for "wizehive".

NEW 38. I have been offered a place at my chosen higher education institution by email, but my offer letter might be issued after the GOI-IES application deadline. May I submit the email with my GOI-IES application, instead of an offer letter?

You may submit the email instead of an offer letter if the email comes from the relevant Admissions Office and if it confirms that you have been offered a place on a full-time programme as an international, paying student.