



## GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS 2025

### 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](#).

#### 2. 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](#).

#### 3. 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 and in the FAQs.
- 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.
- Should your application be successful, you will receive your first stipend towards the end of October 2025. Therefore, you should have enough funds of your own to support yourself during the first weeks of your stay in Ireland.



#### 4. 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.

#### 5. Is the GOI-IES scholarship only for one year or can it be extended?

The scholarship is only available for one year of study and it cannot be extended.

#### 6. Who can apply for the GOI-IES?

To be eligible to apply for GOI-IES you must meet all four conditions below:

- 1) Have a domiciliary of origin outside the EU/EEA, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.
- 2) Have received an offer of a place as an international, fee-paying student in a full-time, in-person course at an eligible Irish higher education institution for either:
  - a. a taught master's degree programme which is at least one year long.
  - b. a postgraduate diploma at NFQ level 9 which is at least one year long.
  - c. a research programme (i.e. research master's or PhD) which is at least one year long.
- 3) Not have previously held a GOI-IES scholarship.
- 4) Not be a Russian or Belarussian citizen.

#### 7. 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.

#### 8. 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.



**9. 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.

**10. 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](#).

**11. Which study programmes are eligible for this scholarship?**

Please check with the eligible higher education institutions 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.

**13. Are online degrees eligible for this scholarship?**

No, online degrees are not eligible.

**14. 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 2025/2026 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.

**15. I am a final year undergraduate student due to graduate in spring/summer 2025. 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 2025/2026 academic year, should your GOI-IES application be successful.



#### 16. Are higher education institutions from Northern Ireland eligible?

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

#### 17. What documents can I attach to my application to show that I have an offer to study at an eligible Irish higher education institution?

Your application must include the offer letter issued to you by the higher education institution (HEI) where you were accepted. An offer letter is an official document whereby the HEI confirms that they have offered you a place on one of their programmes.

You may also submit an offer email from the HEI instead of an offer letter, if the email comes from the relevant Admissions Office. Similarly, you may submit a screenshot from your applicant portal on the HEI's website, if it confirms that you have been offered a place.

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.

#### 18. How do I get an offer? Can you help me get an offer?

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. 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, postgraduate diploma 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.

#### 19. 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 HEI website.

**20. 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.

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

There is no link to apply for an offer. Please follow the instructions listed in the answer to question 18.

**22. Can I apply for the GOI-IES if I do not have an offer?**

No. All applicants **must** possess a valid conditional or final offer from an eligible Irish higher education institution when they submit their application and must attach their offer document in the relevant section of the application form.

**23. I received my offer after the application deadline. Can I still submit my application?**

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

**24. Are undergraduate degrees eligible for GOI-IES funding?**

No, undergraduate degrees are not eligible for GOI-IES funding.

**25. Are foundation year studies eligible for GOI-IES funding?**

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



**26. 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.

**27. 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.

**28. 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.

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

Recommendations and requirements for references are specified in the “2025 GOI-IES Guidance for referees” document, available on the [GOI-IES webpage](#).

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

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

**31. Is there a language requirement for GOI-IES applications?**

All applications must be completed in English.



**32. 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.

**33. How should I complete the “Grade achieved” field in the Academic History section, if I have not received the final results of my studies yet?**

The response field allows for a line of text to be inserted. Please state the grade you have achieved so far, which you should be able to substantiate with appropriate documentation if requested. Please specify the period for which this grade was given, e.g. 5 semesters out of 6.

**34. What is the deadline for GOI-IES 2024 applications?**

The deadline for GOI-IES 2024 applications is 5pm (Irish time) on 05 March 2025.

**35. I have submitted my application, but I would like to edit it to correct a mistake or to add/replace a document submitted with it. Is there a way for me to edit a submitted application or to add/replace a document?**

No alterations whatsoever 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.

**36. Can I apply for this scholarship through email/post/telephone?**

No. All applications must be submitted through the online application portal.

**37. When will the 2025 GOI-IES results be available?**

The HEA expects to release the results of GOI-IES 2025 in early June 2025.



**38. 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](mailto: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](mailto:goi-ies@hea.ie).

**39. 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.

**40. 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.

**41. 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. We will also update you once all the successful applicants have confirmed that they accept the scholarship.

**42. 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. However, there is a cap of 5 awards per eligible HEI.

**43. 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.

#### 44. If I have more than one offer, 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.".

#### 45. How many applications can I submit?

A maximum of three applications can be submitted by one candidate in the 2025 GOI-IES cycle. The three-application submission limit applies to all applications submitted, even if some of the applications are deemed ineligible based on the preliminary eligibility check, as detailed in Section 3 of the 2025 Call document. It is the candidates' responsibility to check that they meet the eligibility criteria detailed in the 2025 GOI-IES Call document and in the 2025 GOI-IES FAQs and that they do not submit ineligible applications.

#### 46. How do I create a second/third application in the online application portal?

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.

The "Add another" button will become unavailable after three applications have been submitted, even if some of the applications submitted are deemed ineligible based on the preliminary eligibility check.

#### 47. How is my eligibility assessed?

A preliminary eligibility check is included at the beginning of the application form, where you will answer three questions regarding the main GOI-IES eligibility criteria. You must submit these answers in order to proceed to the rest of the application form. If your application is deemed ineligible based on your answers to the eligibility questions, you will not be able to proceed to the rest of the application form and you will receive an email confirming that your application is ineligible. Please note that this ineligible application counts towards the three-application limit. It is the candidates' responsibility to check that they meet the eligibility criteria detailed in the 2025 GOI-IES Call document and in the 2025 GOI-IES FAQs and that they do not submit ineligible applications.



If your application is deemed eligible based on your answers to the eligibility questions, you will be able to complete the entire application form and to submit your application for review. The HEI where you have been offered a place will then check the information and documents you provided with your application to confirm your eligibility.

**48. I cannot afford to pay the application fee required by the higher education institution. Can you help me?**

The HEA 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.

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

Yes. Confirmation emails are automatically sent from the application portal after applications are submitted.