



## GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS 2026

### 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, 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. If you do not arrive in Ireland in time, you risk missing the start of your studies and losing the scholarship.
- 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 2026. 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. 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 Belarusian citizen.

**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 United Kingdom citizens eligible to apply for the GOI-IES programme?**

No, United Kingdom citizens are not eligible to apply for GOI-IES funding.



**8. Are Russian and Belarusian citizens eligible to apply for the GOI-IES programme?**

No, Russian and Belarusian citizens are not eligible to apply for GOI-IES funding.

**9. I am a national of [such-and-such] country. Am I eligible to apply for the GOI-IES in the 2026 call? And what are the requirements for people of my nationality?**

The eligibility criteria are outlined in the 2026 Call document and FAQs, available on [the GOI-IES webpage](#). You should also check directly with the eligible Irish higher education institution (HEI) whether they have any nationality-based eligibility criteria. A list of eligible HEIs and their contact details is included in Appendix 1 of the 2026 GOI-IES call document, “Eligible Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)”, available [here](#).

There are no specific requirements for people of specific nationalities.

**10. Are asylum seekers/refugees eligible to apply for the GOI-IES?**

Yes. However, the same eligibility criteria apply to asylum seekers and refugees as to all other prospective candidates.

**11. Is there an age limit for GOI-IES applicants?**

No, there is no age limit for GOI-IES applicants in the 2026 call.

**12. 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 2026 call document, available [here](#).



**13. Are higher education institutions from Northern Ireland eligible?**

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

**14. UPDATED 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. The HEIs' contact details for GOI-IES queries are available in Appendix 1 of the 2026 GOI-IES call document, available [here](#). Information about courses that are eligible for the GOI-IES may also be available on the HEIs' websites. Links to GOI-IES information on the HEIs' websites, where available, can be found in Appendix 1 of the 2026 GOI-IES call document.

**15. Are blended courses eligible for this scholarship?**

Blended courses are eligible only on condition that GOI-IES awardees attend all the in-person classes included in these courses and live in Ireland for the entire duration of their scholarship.

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

No, online degrees are not eligible.

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

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

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

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



**19. Are courses that start in winter/spring 2026 eligible for GOI-IES funding?**

No. The 2026 GOI-IES call relates to autumn 2026 intakes. Please see p. 2 of the 2026 GOI-IES Call document: “GOI-IES scholars will be expected to commence their studies in either September or October 2026.”

**20. 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 2026-2027 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. You must submit, with your GOI-IES application, a document issued by your higher education institution confirming that you will continue your studies in the 2026-2027 academic year, in the course for which you are applying for the GOI-IES.

**21. I am a final year undergraduate student due to graduate in spring/summer 2026. 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 2026-2027 academic year, should your GOI-IES application be successful.

**22. How do I get an offer? Can you help me get an offer?**

To receive an offer, a prospective GOI-IES candidate 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.

#### **23. 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 potential supervisors by using the contact details provided on the HEI website.

#### **24. 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.

#### **25. What English language proficiency certificate is required for the GOI-IES?**

Applying for the GOI-IES does not require an English language proficiency certificate.

You may be asked for this type of certificate when you apply for admission to an Irish higher education institution as an international student. 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.



**26. 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 22.

**27. 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 GOI-IES application and must attach their offer document in the relevant section of the application form.

**28. The outcome of my application for admission at an eligible HEI will be available after the GOI-IES application deadline. How can I still apply for the GOI-IES?**

You are not eligible to apply for the GOI-IES if you have not already been accepted as a student at an eligible HEI and if you cannot submit proof of admission with your GOI-IES application. Not all prospective GOI-IES candidates will be able to secure an offer of admission before the GOI-IES application deadline. This is because the application processes for the courses offered by the eligible HEIs have different timelines. It is not possible to synchronise all of them with the GOI-IES process timeline.

**29. 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.

**30. I have an offer to study at an eligible HEI, but the HEI has asked me to confirm my acceptance/pay a deposit/pay (a part of) the tuition fees, to secure my place on the course. The deadline for accepting/paying is before the GOI-IES results are announced in June. Can I apply for the GOI-IES if I don't accept the offer/pay the deposit? Are GOI-IES applicants exempted from paying the deposit?**



Accepting an offer or paying the deposit is a condition for securing a place on the course for which you have an offer. You may apply for the GOI-IES if you have an offer, even if you have not accepted the offer or paid the deposit.

However, if you do not accept the offer or pay the deposit by the deadline set by the HEI, you risk losing your place on your course. If you lose your place, you will most likely not be able to benefit from the GOI-IES scholarship, even if your GOI-IES application is successful.

We recommend contacting your HEI directly to confirm their approach to this matter. Questions about exemptions must also be addressed to the HEIs and not to the Higher Education Authority.

**31. I have an offer to study at an eligible HEI and I have paid a deposit to confirm my acceptance. Will this deposit be refunded if my GOI-IES application is successful?**

The GOI-IES provides a tuition fee waiver. If the deposit is a part of your tuition fees, your HEI will be required to refund it to you, should your GOI-IES application be successful.

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

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

**33. 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 also recommend accessing the application portal through a computer, rather than a mobile device.

**34. I am experiencing difficulties/getting error messages when signing up for an account on the application portal, or logging in. Can you help me?**

Please try the following:

- Clear the browser's history/cache. If you have received this error before, coming back to re-enter the same information may cause the system to bring up the same message.



- Use a different browser.
- Use the most up-to-date version of either Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. If you aren't using one of these, please do. If you are using, for example, Chrome, please try switching to Firefox or vice versa.
- Use Incognito or Private browsing mode. Browsing in a private mode will allow you to log in without having your previous cache in the session.
- Avoid "Auto-Fill" browser features by manually typing in your username and password. The autofill feature of a browser like Google Chrome can cause issues when trying to log in. This information could be outdated, incorrect, or the feature could just be causing issues in general in combination with the user's personal computer.
- Restart your device. If you are using a desktop/laptop please try restarting your system and logging back into the portal. If you are not using a laptop/desktop and are using a mobile/tablet device, we recommend trying on a desktop/laptop device and seeing if you still encounter the issue.

If you still need help after trying the above, please email [goi-ies@hea.ie](mailto:goi-ies@hea.ie) and include screenshots of the issue in your email.

**35. I applied for the GOI-IES in the 2025 call. Do I need to sign up for another applicant account to apply for the GOI-IES in the 2026 call?**

You do not need to sign up for another applicant account if you use the same email address as the one you used for your 2025 applicant account. After you have clicked on the 2026 application portal link, you should be able to log in using the email and password you used in the 2025 call.

**36. I applied for the GOI-IES in the 2025 call. How can I access the application(s) I submitted in 2025?**

You can access your 2025 applications by logging in to the 2025 application portal at [this link](#).

**37. I am trying to complete the application form, but a message is displayed that the deadline has passed. It is not the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2026 yet, so why is this message displayed?**

You are using an application link for one of the previous calls. The correct application link is provided on [the GOI-IES webpage](#).



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

A maximum of **one** application can be submitted by each candidate in the 2026 GOI-IES cycle.

This limit applies to applications deemed eligible after the preliminary eligibility check in the application portal. The portal allows for a maximum of two applications to be submitted, including ineligible ones, i.e. those that did not pass the preliminary eligibility check (see 2026 GOI-IES Call document, p. 4). If your first application is deemed ineligible based on the preliminary eligibility check, you may try submitting a second one. If your second application is also deemed ineligible based on this check, you will not be able to submit any more applications for the 2026/27 academic year.

If your first application passes the preliminary eligibility check and is submitted successfully, **you must not submit a second eligible application.**

### 39. How many offers can I submit with an application?

A maximum of one offer can be submitted per application.

### 40. Can I submit more than one eligible application if I sign up for more than one applicant account, for example, by using different email addresses?

No. Only one eligible application is allowed per applicant. If it is found that you set up multiple applicant accounts to submit more than one eligible application, this will be considered a case of fraud and all your applications will be disqualified (deemed ineligible).

### 41. Is there a language requirement for GOI-IES applications?

All applications must be completed in English.



**42. 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.

**43. 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 for admission.

**44. 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, for example, 5 semesters out of 6.

**45. What references should I include in my application?**

It is up to the applicant to decide what references would best support their application. Please note that 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.

**46. Do my references have to be written specifically for the GOI-IES, or can I submit the same references that I used when applying for admission at my chosen HEI?**

It is specified in Appendix 2 of the 2026 call document that “References are required to help assessors evaluate a candidate’s suitability for a Government of Ireland International Education



**Scholarship (GOI-IES).** They are one of the assessment criteria for the programme ... [and should] contain enough specific information to support the candidate's application." Therefore, your references should be relevant for your GOI-IES application.

**47. To whom should the references be addressed?**

"To whom it may concern", "Dear GOI-IES Selection Committee" and any other such salutations are acceptable, since the applications will be reviewed by more than one person.

**48. 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.

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

Recommendations and requirements for references are specified in Appendix 2 of the 2026 call document, available [here](#).

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

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

**51. What is the deadline for GOI-IES 2026 applications?**

The deadline for GOI-IES 2026 applications is 5pm (Irish time) on 12 March 2026.



**52. 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?**

**Can you delete/cancel my application, so that I may start a new one?**

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

**53. Are applications assessed as soon as they are submitted?**

No. All applications will be assessed after the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2026 submission deadline. However, the automated preliminary eligibility check based on candidates' answers to the three eligibility questions is applied as soon as the eligibility section of the application form is submitted. If an application is deemed ineligible based on the candidate's answers to the three questions, the candidate will receive an email notification about this.

**54. I have received an email stating that my application is ineligible. Can you tell me why I am ineligible?**

Your application was deemed ineligible based on your answers to the three eligibility questions in the section titled "Application eligibility" of the application form. These questions are directly related to the GOI-IES eligibility criteria. These criteria are outlined in the 2026 Call document and FAQs, available on [the GOI-IES webpage](#).

After becoming familiar with all the GOI-IES documentation provided on the GOI-IES webpage, the reason for your ineligibility will become clear. The Higher Education Authority cannot advise individual applicants how to answer the questions in the application form, neither can we provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants, as specified in the 2026 Call document (page 6).

**55. When will the 2026 GOI-IES results be available?**

The HEA expects to release the results of GOI-IES 2026 in early June 2026.



**56. 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.

**57. 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).

**58. 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 on my application?**

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

**59. 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 have the necessary amount to cover your fees and to be able to travel to and live in Ireland.



**60. 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.

**61. If my GOI-IES application is successful, what requirements are there after completion of studies?**

The GOI-IES programme does not have any formal post-completion requirements, such as returning to your country of origin.

**62. NEW I applied for the GOI-IES in previous years. Am I allowed to apply again in 2026?**

Yes, you may apply if you meet the eligibility criteria of the 2026 call.

**63. NEW I am a non-EU student who has studied/is studying in Russia/Belarus. Can I apply for the GOI-IES in the 2026 call?**

Yes, you may apply if you meet the eligibility criteria of the 2026 call. Studying in Russia/Belarus does not make you ineligible, unless you are a Russian/Belarusian national.