



Cancer Research PhD Scholarships 2024

Call for Submission of Applications

1. **Musgrave Breakthrough Cancer Research PhD Scholarship 2024**
2. **Breakthrough Cancer Research (Breakthrough) - Irish Association for Cancer Research (IACR) PhD Scholarship 2024**
3. **The Attracta O'Regan PhD Scholarship in partnership with Breakthrough Cancer Research 2024**

KEY DATES

Scholarship announcement	12th January 2024
Informal inquiries deadline	15th March 2024
Submission of applications deadline	22nd March 2024 17:00 (Irish time)
Submission of references deadline	29th March 2024 17.00 (Irish time)
Interviews (Zoom may be used)	May/June 2024
Scholarship commences	September/October 2024

Terms of Reference

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of this document, it is provided for information purposes only and as a guide to expected developments. It is not intended, and should not be relied upon, as any form of warranty, representation, undertaking, contractual, or other commitment binding in law upon Breakthrough Cancer Research (Breakthrough). Breakthrough Terms and Conditions of Research Grants shall govern the administration of Breakthrough grants and awards to the exclusion of this and any other oral, written, or recorded statement.

All responses to this Call for Submission of Proposals will be treated in confidence and no information contained therein will be communicated to any third party without the written permission of the applicant except insofar as is specifically required for the consideration and evaluation of the application or as may be required under law.

1. Introduction

Applications for the Cancer Research PhD Scholarships 2024 are now open, featuring three distinct scholarship programmes. It is important to note that each scholarship has its own specific scope, so please carefully review the information provided below. Applicants have the flexibility to apply for more than one PhD scholarship programme if the scope is appropriate to the research proposal.

1.1. Scope of Musgrave Breakthrough Cancer Research PhD Scholarship 2024

The Musgrave Breakthrough Cancer Research PhD Scholarship, in association with Breakthrough Cancer Research, represents a partnership to fund world class cancer research in Ireland, while educating the next generation of cancer research leaders. This scholarship is funded up to a maximum value of €140,000, over 4 years. It can take place at any University in Ireland currently engaged in cancer research. The Scholarships are open to researchers in Clinical, Biological, Epidemiological or Public Health fields, as long as they are **patient focused** and with the ultimate **aim of improving cancer care and increasing survival**. Applications will be limited to those focused on **pancreatic, oesophageal, ovarian, lung, brain, liver or gastric cancer only**.

1.2. Scope of Breakthrough Cancer Research (Breakthrough) - Irish Association for Cancer Research (IACR) PhD Scholarship 2024.

The Breakthrough-IACR PhD Scholarship 2024 represents a new partnership to fund world class cancer research in Ireland while educating the next generation of cancer research leaders. Funding for this 4-years PhD Scholarship is to a maximum of €140,000 and will be provided to take place at any University **on the island of Ireland** currently engaged in cancer research. The scholarship is open to researchers in Clinical, Biological, Epidemiologic, Health Services or Public Health fields, so long as they are patient focused and with the ultimate aim to improve cancer care and increase survival. Applications will be limited to those focused on **low survival cancer only**, that is cancer sites where the overall 5-year survival is <50% ([NCRI AnnualStatisticalReport 2023.pdf](#)).

1.3. Scope of The Attracta O'Regan PhD Scholarship in partnership with Breakthrough Cancer Research 2024

A major challenge in the clinical management of ovarian cancer is the late stage of diagnosis. Approximately 7 in 10 women are diagnosed at a late stage, when clinical management are more challenging and survival is lower. In memory of Attracta O'Regan, who died from ovarian cancer, her family are fundraising to support cancer research aimed at improving earlier diagnosis and therefore outcomes for women with an ovarian cancer diagnosis. They are partnering with Breakthrough Cancer, to fund one 4-year PhD Scholarship to a maximum value of €149,000 to take place at any University on the island of Ireland currently engaged in cancer research. The scholarship is open to researchers in Clinical, Biological, Epidemiologic, Health Services or Public Health fields, provided they maintain a **patient-focused approach** and **aim to improve the early detection of ovarian cancer**.

2.0. Scholarship Details

Each of the three Cancer Research PhD Scholarships 2024 is for students starting their PhD in September/October 2024 and is fully funded for **four years**, with a stipend of up to €21,000 p.a. plus fees and up to €15,000 in consumables in one year with justification. For non-lab-based research we anticipate consumables costs would be significantly lower – we would not expect applicant to request the maximum budget unnecessarily. We are looking for high-achieving dynamic individuals, with drive and passion for

patient focused cancer research with an impact on patient care and survival.

2.1. Eligibility Criteria of Applicant

All applicants to the Cancer Research Scholarships call must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Applicants will be expected to have a first or upper second-class honours primary degree or equivalent.
- Applications will not be accepted from persons currently registered as PhD students.
- If you are successful in obtaining either full or partial funding for your PhD, from Breakthrough or any other funding body, during this application and review process, you are not eligible for this Scholarship.
- You must inform Breakthrough if you are successful in securing funding for your PhD from another funding body.
- English Language Requirements - please ensure you fulfil the English Language requirements of the relevant host University.

2.2. Research Body Requirements

For the duration of the award, the space and infrastructure required to enable the research programme to be undertaken should be made available by the host institution where the Applicant will be registered.

2.3. Funding

The Cancer Research Scholarships award have a maximum value (see, section 1.1-1.3)

The budget requested should **include the fees and stipend** of the postgraduate student and costs for their materials, consumables and travel.

Consistent with all other grant awards, Breakthrough will not pay overheads or indirect costs associated with this grant award.

2.4. Application process

Applications must be submitted on our [Grant Management system](#)

2.5. Proposal Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

Applications will not be assessed if they are incomplete.

- On the Grant Management system, you must submit
 - a completed application form by the **22nd March 2024, 17:00 (Irish time)** and
 - a completed Supervisor form and Co-Supervisor form by the **29th March 2024, 17:00 (Irish time)** and
 - two completed Academic Reference forms by the **29th March 2024, 17:00 (Irish time)**.
- Completed applications will be assessed by a panel of peer reviewers.
- The panel will consist of at least three reviewers with
 - experience of similar review processes and
 - backgrounds relevant to the research area.
- The applications will be assessed under four main headings, which reflect the main sections of the application process. Reviewers will consider all four elements of the application and allocate scores as follows:
 - Academic Qualifications (max. 25 points)
 - Personal Statement (max. 25 points)
 - Research Proposals (max. 30 points)
 - Alignment with Breakthrough Strategy & Potential Impact on cancer (max. 20 points)
- Shortlisting of applicants will be undertaken by the panel of reviewers.
- All shortlisted candidates will be interviewed. The Interview will include a short (5min) lay presentation by the applicant followed by questions from the panel.

Breakthrough and Partners reserve the right to modify the review process. Applicants will be notified of any relevant modification to the review procedure.

3. Application Procedure

3.1 Informal Inquiries

Between the posting/advertising of the Scholarship (12th of January 2024) and the deadline for informal inquiries (15th of March 2024) you can contact the office at research@breakcancer.ie for more information.

3.2 Submission

Completed applications must be submitted by the **22nd March 2024, 17:00 (Irish Time)** and completed supervisor forms and academic references must be submitted by the **29th March 2024, 17:00 (Irish time)** on the Grant Management system.

3.3 Short Listing

A short list of applicants will be invited for interview. This will include a short (5min) lay presentation by the applicant followed by questions from the panel.

3.4 Budget

The costs eligible for the Cancer Research PhD Scholarships are those costs that can, uniquely and unambiguously, be identified with the proposed research programme. Applicants must give details of all relevant costs, including student fees and stipend, equipment, materials and consumables and travel. All awards are made directly to the applicant's host Institution. The Scholarship award funds to a maximum value of (see section 1.1-1.3) direct costs for a period of four years.

Equipment

As Scholarship applicants will have access to laboratory space and standard equipment within their host university, it is not expected that they will require significant items of equipment in their budget request. Small equipment (including computer/laptops) of a value of **less than €2,000** can be included in the materials and consumables section but listed as individual budget line items.

Materials and Consumables

An outline of all materials and consumables that will be used in the course of the research programme should be provided.

Access charges may be sought for use of infrastructure where pre-approved access charge plans are in place. Note that these may include, with Breakthrough approval, access to facilities and services not available to the applicant, such as the costs associated with accessing international databases or commissioning specific experiments in national facilities (e.g. Tyndall NAP, CRANN).

Access charge requests must be included as a separate line item in the budget and, where relevant, must include the grant code and name of the relevant infrastructure to be used. A rationale for the amount of use proposed must be provided in the budget justification.

Travel

Only travel costs for journeys directly related to the progress of the research programme may be requested as a direct cost on the research grant. The applicant should outline the details of travel expenses directly related to, for example, conferences, scientific collaboration on the research programme, or learning special research techniques. Where possible, please supply the conference name and location. In the case of working visits, the rates sought for subsistence and other allowances may be no more than those which the research body's permanent staff may claim.

3.7 Declaration

It should be noted that submission of an application represents agreement from the applicant to the [Breakthrough Terms and Conditions](#). The applicant must understand acceptance of these terms and conditions will be required before funding is provided.

3.8 Deadlines

Applicants must submit their application on the Grant Management system by the **22nd March 2024, 17:00 (Irish Time)**. **Applications cannot be submitted after this deadline**. Applicants must submit their supervisor forms and academic references on the Grant Management system by the **29th March 2024, 17:00 (Irish Time)**.

4. Award Management

4.1 Reporting Requirements

Breakthrough has stringent requirements for the reporting on awards that it makes. Individuals who hold the primary responsibility for reporting and who fail to comply with reporting requirements, run the risk of having their grant payments suspended and their eligibility to apply for funding in forthcoming Breakthrough calls affected. Reporting is inclusive of annual reporting, sharing of Research Outputs, the completion of a Researcher Bio and photo and final report. Continued funding will be contingent on successful review.

The support of *Breakthrough Cancer Research and partners* must be acknowledged in all publications. Please see [Guidelines for Acknowledgement of Funding](#).

5. Further information

Informal inquiries should be made to research@breakcancer.ie

