

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

JOHN & PAT HUME DOCTORAL AWARDS PROGRAMME 2025-2026

Call Document

BACKGROUND

Maynooth University has established an international reputation for excellence in research and research-led teaching across the arts, humanities, social sciences and science and engineering. In support of the University's mission to promote research and teaching, a range of postgraduate research awards are available for suitably qualified prospective doctoral researchers. Maynooth University aims to reflect the diversity of the community we serve, and welcomes applications from all suitably qualified individuals, in particular, from communities who are significantly under-represented in postgraduate higher education.

Key Dates & Documentation:

- Prospective supervisor submission of an EoI by Wednesday 19th March 2025 @ 12 noon
- Call opening date for student applications on Thursday 20th March 2025 @ 12 noon
- Call closing date for student applications on Thursday 17th April 2025 @ 11:45pm GMT
- Scholarship applications are accepted through our [MU APPLY portal](#) (live on 20th March)
- This Hume Call Document is a summary of the programme and should be read in conjunction with the detailed Hume Doctoral Awards Terms & Conditions
- All Hume documentation is available on the University Hume webpages.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

1.1 John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards

The 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 postgraduate research. Consideration will also be given to the relevance of the proposed doctoral research to Maynooth University research strengths, priorities and beacons as outlined in the University Strategic Plan 2023-28.

There will be up to 15 scholarships offered for the academic year 2025-2026; 12 awards will be at faculty level (4 awards in each of the 3 faculties) and 3 cross-Faculty awards (WISH and MAP awards; see Sections 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 below).

Each of the 15 awards offered is a four-year scholarship; below is the value for each year of study.

Award 2025-2026	Stipend	Research expenses allowance	Fees*	Open to
Hume Doctoral Award	€25,000	€2,000	Full EU fees	Full-time students

* Successful applicants must pay the standard application fee and annual student levy in accordance with Maynooth University regulations.

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

As part of Maynooth University's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), three Hume Doctoral awards are funded annually to address areas of significant under-representation, including women in STEM, and the Maynooth Access Programme (MAP) target groups, as highlighted in the University's Strategic Plan 2023- 2028.

1.2.1 Women in STEM Hume (WISH) Scholarship

As part of the Athena SWAN initiative, Maynooth University provides 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 in STEM project areas, with priority given to disciplines in which women are under-represented: Chemistry, Computer Science, Electronic Engineering, Physics and Mathematics and Statistics.

All applicants are subject to the eligibility requirements as stated in the [John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards Programme Terms & Conditions](#).

1.2.2 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 a career in research.

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.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must be new entrants to their PhD programme and commencing in AY 2025-2026.

Applicants must have made contact with and received commitment from a Maynooth University supervisor prior to making their application. Applicants may only apply with a supervisor who has submitted an Expression of Interest as advertised on the website. Applicants must upload an academic reference (template provided) from that supervisor as part of their application. This reference must be signed by the supervisor and relevant Head of Department.

Only full-time students are eligible for a Hume Doctoral Award. Awardees must be available to pursue their programme of research on a full-time basis at Maynooth University.

All applicants should meet the minimum standards for eligibility for MU John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards. All John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards are offered as conditional awards subject to approval for registration by Maynooth University.

All Hume scholars must either receive co-supervision by a team of at least two supervisors or benefit from additional input from a supervisory team with at least one additional member who can in their own right act as a PhD supervisor under Maynooth University's Postgraduate Research Regulations.

SUPERVISOR PROCESS

For supervisors who would like to supervise a Hume Scholar:

An email will be circulated to all potential supervisors on Tuesday 11th March 2025. Supervisors are asked to submit an internal Expression of Interest. **The deadline for EOI's is 12 noon on Wednesday 19th March 2025.** The online application portal for students will go live at 12 noon on Thursday 20th March and will close at 11:45pm on Thursday April 17th 2025. Prospective supervisors must have submitted an EOI before the 19th March 2025 and have engaged in discussions with students prior to the student submitting an application. Students can only submit an application to the research areas collated from the Expressions of Interest. These research areas will be advertised on the website.

Only supervisors who have submitted an Expression of Interest prior to the deadline can supervise a Hume applicant for the 2025-2026 awards programme.

Supervisors with queries on any other aspect of the competition can send an email to humephdscholarship@mu.ie

The EOI will consist of:

- A description of the research area or areas the supervisor would be willing to accept student applications for (max. 300 words). This should be clear and informative for potential applicants.

- A brief outline of how the project aligns with the areas of research strength, priorities or beacons highlighted in the University's Strategic Plan 2023-28 (max. 200 words).
- Confirmation that the proposed supervisor(s) is available to supervise for the duration of the research project.

The EOI must be associated with a home department to which a successful applicant would register.

All supervisor names, contact email and descriptions of research areas will be advertised on the [University Hume webpages](#).

STUDENT APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications can only be made via the [MU APPLY portal](#)

Applicants should refer to the step by step [Guide for Applicants](#) on the Hume webpages.

The application call will open on Thursday 20th March 2025 at 12 noon. Applications must be submitted by the closing date of Thursday 17th April 2025 at 11:45pm. Late applications cannot be accepted.

Applicants may submit one application. Submission of more than one application will deem both submissions ineligible. Applicants should make contact with their supervisor to discuss their suitability before applying. Applicants can only apply to the research areas and with supervisors advertised in the Expressions of Interest on the [Hume Doctoral Awards web pages](#).

Instructions are available in the [Guide for Applicants](#) available on the Graduate Research Academy Hume webpages.

Incomplete applications not accompanied by a reference, transcripts or other essential documents as outlined in the Terms & Conditions will be deemed ineligible and will be excluded from assessment. Late submissions will not be accepted. Applications submitted with supervisors who did not submit an expression of interest will be deemed ineligible.

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 EDI office to identify applicants eligible for the WISH and MAP awards.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed by a panel of reviewers at departmental level and at faculty level against the following criteria. Applications must meet a minimum quality threshold in order to be deemed eligible for award of a scholarship:

Departmental Assessment:

- 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%).

Faculty Assessment:

- The Applicant: This criterion includes excellence in academic and research achievement (40%).
- Quality of the detailed proposal: The quality of the proposed approach to the research project, the methodology, aims, objectives and outputs will be assessed (40%).
- Alignment of research to the research strengths/ priority areas/ Maynooth University Strategic Plan (20%).

Applicants should address the above criteria in their application and research proposal.

MAP awards are assessed under a separate set of agreed criteria and are evaluated by an assessment panel within the EDI office. All MAP applications are confidential.

The Research Development Office will coordinate the assessment process. The departmental and faculty review panels will review all applicants and make recommendations on awards. Recommendations will be ratified by a University panel, which will confirm the cross-Faculty MAP and WISH awards.

CLOSING DATE

Applications must be submitted via the online application portal no later than **11:45pm (GMT) on Thursday 17th April 2025.**

Late applications will not be accepted.

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 website.

Full Terms and Conditions are available in a separate document. Maynooth University reserves the right to amend the Terms & Conditions at any time.

Maynooth University
Graduate Research Academy

Please email any queries to humephdscholarship@mu.ie