



John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards

Scholarship Programme

2025-2026

Supervisor: Academic Reference Template

Please read this document carefully prior to completing the reference

Introduction

Maynooth University's John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards are offered via a competitive scholarship programme that supports suitably qualified students intending to undertake a doctoral programme at the University. Evaluation criteria include the applicant's academic record and the quality of research proposal submitted for the competition and alignment to the MU research strengths, priority areas and beacons.

References form a crucial part of assessing the applications. Each MU supervisor must write a reference for the applicant they plan to supervise on the PhD programme.

The reference must be signed by the Supervisor and Head of Department.

Applications that are not supported by a supervisor reference by the specified deadline will be deemed ineligible and excluded from the competition. It is therefore very important that the applicant allows sufficient time to request the reference and upload the signed reference provided to their Hume scholarship application before the deadline.

Only supervisors who have submitted an Expression of Interest prior to the deadline can supervise a Hume applicant for the 2025-2026 awards programme. Students can only submit an application to the research areas collated from the Expressions of Interest.

Supervisors must be permanent members of academic staff at the grade of assistant lecturer or above or contract lecturers on a contract of three years or more who have received approval from their head of department that they may act as supervisors (see GRA form GSF12).

If you have an enquiry that is not addressed in this reference guide, please email humephdscholarship@mu.ie



Academic Reference Template for use by Supervisors

Name of applicant the reference is for.

Include relationship between you and the applicant.

Please indicate how the applicant compares to other students at the same academic/professional level that you have interacted with – Top 5%, 20%, above average, below average etc.

Please provide your observations on the characteristics and achievements of the applicant. Comment on the suitability of the applicant for a research programme and, potentially, a research career (max 250 words).

Please also address the evaluation criteria of the Call.

Please send the reference to the applicant requesting it. The applicant is responsible for uploading the reference to their Hume application on the MU Apply “Hume Scholarship” portal. The reference must include the mandatory signature block below.

Mandatory signature block for Academic Reference

Supervisor 1:

I agree that to supervise the applicant named above and agree to nominate a co-supervisor or additional member of a supervisory team if the application is successful:

Name _____

Department _____

Signature _____

Date

Head of Department:

Only applicants that departments have indicated they are willing to accept will be considered by Faculty for the Hume review. The HoD agrees that their department will accept the named student above, subject to successful application to the PhD programme, whether successful or unsuccessful in securing a scholarship. The department commits to providing the necessary resources to support this research proposal.

HoD Name _____

HoD Signature _____

Date