

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2024-2025

Guide for Referees

Please read this document carefully prior to completing the reference

Introduction

Maynooth University's John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards scheme is a competitive scheme 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. References form a crucial part of assessing the applications and it is very important that references are to the point and frank.

One referee must support each application. The referee cannot be part of the supervisory team of the research topic the applicant is applying for. Applications that are not supported by a reference by the specified deadline will be deemed ineligible and excluded from the competition. It is therefore very important that the student allows sufficient time to request the reference and upload the reference to their PAC application before the deadline.

Subject to Freedom of Information and Data Protection legislation, which is now operational in the University, your reference will be treated as confidential.

Guidelines for referees providing a reference

You must include the following:

- Name and address of University/Institute where you are/were employed
- 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 send the reference to the student requesting it. The student is responsible for uploading the reference to their Hume application on the PAC system.

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