



GSI Masters by Research Scholarship Call 2023 **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. Do I need to submit an Expression of Interest to be able to submit a full proposal?

Yes. Full proposals will only be eligible if a related Expression of Interest is received before the deadline.

2. What happens if I miss the Expression of Interest Deadline?

Only applications received within the deadlines will be accepted.

3. Will my Expression of Interest be part of the review process and can I change it after it is submitted?

The Expression of Interest is to assist GSI identify reviewers and will be used to check eligibility of the topic. You will be asked to resubmit the EoI details as part of the Full Proposal, therefore only minor changes will be accepted.

4. Are personnel costs eligible costs?

Only scholarship/stipend costs for the Scholar carrying out the research are eligible.

5. Are overheads/indirect costs an eligible cost?

Overheads/Indirect costs can be included in the budget within the stipulated limit. Indirect costs must not exceed 12.5% of the total direct costs excluding subcontracting.

6. Will my project be assessed more favourably if it has co-funding or in-kind contribution from the Host Organisation?

No. Assessors will be asked to consider the overall project proposed and whether resources are appropriate. Host Organisation's will be expected to provide the essential resources such as technical support, storage, insurance etc. where required

7. Is VAT allowable?

Yes, VAT is allowable on items/services purchased; however, VAT on the overall research project is 0%.

8. The budget limit is €40,000 per year, can underspend from an individual year be carried forward?

A maximum of 15% of the budget for an individual year can be carried. For example, if the total budget for year 1 is €40,000 a maximum of €6,000 can be carried forward to year 2. GSI must be informed of any intended changes to the budget.

9. Will there be a negotiation stage after the results are announced?

No, there is no negotiation stage or opportunity to respond to reviewer's comments. It is therefore advisable that you ensure your proposal is clear and considered before submission.

10. Is the Lead Applicant interviewed by GSI/ reviewers?

No, the Applicant is expected to provide evidence (e.g. in their CV) of their suitability to deliver the proposed project.

11. Can researchers outside the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland be funded?

Scholars from outside the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland are eligible to apply, however the Lead Applicant and Host Organisation must be based in either the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland and adhere to all other criteria. The Scholar must be resident on the island of Ireland for the duration of the project and be hosted for administrative purposes at the Host Organisation.

12. Can researchers outside the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland be collaborators/partners?

Yes, there is no limit to the number or type of partner but they cannot receive funding.

13. Can the GSI staff be named partners on a project?

Yes, GSI staff can provide expertise, supervision, data etc. but cannot receive funding for their contribution. They will not be involved in the assessment of the Full Proposal.

14. Will my project be assessed more favourably if it has a GSI partner?

No. Assessors will be asked to consider the overall team composition in the context of the project proposed.

15. Can the host organisation apply for the Scholarship and then advertise the position?

No, the award is made to the Lead Applicant and Scholar, not the institute. The Scholar must be the person who will carry out the project and who will be awarded the qualification from the Host Organisation.

16. What happens if the Scholar has not yet graduated?

The Scholar must be registered for a full time Masters by Research qualification by the start of the academic year 2023/2024.

17. How does the joint award work?

The project is awarded jointly to the Lead Applicant and the Scholar; however, for administrative purposes the Lead Applicant will host the award and be responsible for the management and financial reporting.

18. Can the award be moved if the Scholar changes Host Organisation?

No, the project is awarded jointly to the Lead Applicant and Scholar. Exceptions will be made where both the Lead Applicant and Scholar both move to the same new organisation.

19. When does the project have to start?

All Grant Agreements must be in place by August 2023. All projects must be completed within a maximum of 24 months of the contract start date.

20. Are research performing agencies (e.g. Teagasc, EPA, Marine Institute) eligible for funding?

Research performing agencies are not eligible for funding but are encouraged to join as partners.

21. How many applications can be submitted?

A Lead Applicant can only submit a maximum of two proposals as Lead Applicant. A Scholar can only submit a maximum of one proposal.

22. What if my project is not covered by themes outlined?

All applications for GSI funding should comfortably fit within the themes outlined in the Terms and Conditions. If you have any queries, please contact research@gsi.ie in advance.

23. Is a computer considered durable equipment (and therefore not an eligible cost)?

If you the Host Organisation considers computers a consumable or with a lifespan of less than the duration of the project, then it is an eligible cost.

24. What are 'references'?

These are any publications, papers, published documents etc. that you have referred to in your text.

25. Do I have to make my results open access?

Yes, in line with [NORF policy](#) all project outputs (publications, data etc.) should be made open access within 6 months unless otherwise approved by GSI.

26. If a project is 'blue skies' or higher risk and does not achieve its goals, what happens?

'Blue skies' projects should still have clear objective. A null answer is valid and the project is still expected to deliver a full report to outline the project outcomes and potential future work to progress it or alternatives.

18. Will the names of the review panel be available?

No, in line with international practice, GDPR and to ensure their personal safety, the names of reviewers will not be made available to Applicants. GSI will ensure reviewers are of an international standard and follow the guidelines and regulations provided to ensure fair and high quality reviews.