

Summer Student Scholarships 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

Call launch 16 October 2023 and closes on 14 December 2023

Please read the [SS 2024 Guidance Notes](#) for further information.

1 Am I eligible?

You are eligible if:

- You are an undergraduate student.
- You are currently studying full-time or part-time in a health/social care-related discipline at a university/third level institute in the island of Ireland. This may include but is not limited to health sciences, social sciences, informatics, mathematics, statistics, and management sciences.
- If you are a part-time student you must be able undertake the scholarship on a full-time basis for a minimum of six and a maximum of eight weeks between 4 June and 13 September 2024.
- You are not in the first or final year of your NFQ Level 8 degree course.
- You are not in the final year of the undergraduate component of a degree course which includes an optional or additional year or more for further level 9 or 10 qualification such as MSc MPharm or PhD.
- You have not previously conducted a PhD and/or MSc by research.
- You have not worked as a research assistant, research technician or in any role with experience of eight consecutive weeks or more of active research.
- You have not undertaken any research project longer than eight weeks consecutively, in a full-time capacity including HRB or other summer student scholarships.
- You have not previously completed a SS award.

1.1 Can I apply for SS 2024 funding if I am a graduate-entry medical student?

Yes, if you fulfil all eligibility requirements listed in the guidance notes. Please note that if you are in your first or final year of study you **cannot** apply.

1.2 My undergraduate medicine course has a Foundation year. In which year of my course am I eligible to apply for the SS funding?

If your medicine course has a Foundation year, you can apply from year 2 (to 5) of your degree. The Foundation year will be counted as your first year in college.

2 What do I have to do to apply?

- Download and read carefully the Guidance Notes for the scheme.

- Secure the support of an appropriate, suitably qualified Academic Supervisor who possess a PhD degree or demonstrates equivalent research experience as defined in the ‘Towards a European Framework for Research Careers’¹.
- PhD equivalency is defined in national² and international frameworks³ as at least four years ‘full time’ research experience post-primary degree, which does not need to be consecutive. For more information regarding HRB PhD Equivalency and Form please click [here](#). The completed form must be sent to the HRB at **by Monday 04 December 2023**.
- Once researcher is granted HRB PhD equivalency, it is valid for all HRB funding schemes, which require PhD or PhD equivalency under eligibility criteria. HRB PhD equivalency is valid indefinitely and does not require renewal, therefore if you have been previously granted HRB PhD equivalency and have received an email from the HRB confirming this, you do not apply again.
- Identify a HRB approved Host institution to administer the award in the island of Ireland. This must be a third level institution in which you are currently studying for the degree or where your Academic Supervisor is based. Please see the full list of HRB approved Host Institutions [here](#).
- Plan to undertake a research project in one of the following research areas: patient-oriented research, health services research, or population health research (full descriptions of each area can be found in the guidance notes appendix II).
- Apply for the award using Grant E-Management– GEMS- via the following link: <https://grants.hrb.ie>. Register or login on GEMS to complete the online application form, making sure that you complete all relevant sections and upload all the required documentation. The HRB will **not** accept paper-based applications.

Please bear in mind that the HRB approved Host Institution nominated by you (i.e., third level institution where you are currently studying or your Academic Supervisors institution) must review and submit your application to the HRB through GEMS on your behalf. It is essential that you take their internal deadlines into consideration when preparing your application.

2.1 Can I perform literature review as my research project under SS 2024?

Your research project cannot be solely a literature review under SS 2024; however, a literature review can be a part of your research project.

¹https://cdn5.euraxess.org/sites/default/files/policy_library/towards_a_european_framework_for_research_careers_final.pdf

² <https://www.iaa.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Post-Doctoral-Researcher-Level-1-General-Job-Description.pdf>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-guide-appl-msca-if-2018-20_en.pdf

2.2 Can I perform a systematic review as my research project under SS 2024?

Yes, you can perform a systematic review as your research project, while adhering to all principles of a scientific systematic review.

3 How do I determine if my project requires Research Ethics approval or animal licence?

Research Ethics approval (REC) is required for all research work funded by the HRB that involves human participants, human material (including tissue) or animals. An animal licence is required when working with animals.

Please note that if you require ethical approval and/or animal licence for any part of your project you should take into account the time required to apply for new ethical approval from the relevant Research Ethics Committee. **Ethical approval must be in place prior to starting the summer project**, if awarded.

4 Do I need to submit letters of ethical and/or animal licence approvals?

No, you will be required to fill out and submit a **HRB approvals declaration form** to confirm the required ethical approval and/or animal licence is in place prior to starting the scholarship, however you are not required to submit the original letters of ethical and/or animal licence approvals.

Important note: You won't be allowed to start your project until the applicable approvals are in place. Any delay in obtaining the approvals might reduce the time you spend on your summer project, which must be completed by the 13 of September 2024.

5 Whom do I contact if I have a question regarding the GEMS system?

The online tutorial should help you in starting to use GEMS but if you need further assistance, please contact the GEMS helpdesk gemshelp@hrb.ie

6 Is there a payment for the duration of the Scholarship?

Yes, the scholarship will fund you €400 per week for a minimum of six and maximum of eight weeks. If you are successful, this payment will be made by the nominated Host Institution directly to you. To arrange the payment, you will need to contact Research/ Finance office of your HI and submit a completed Revenue Commissioners' Scholarship Exemption Declaration Form before you start working on your project.

7 What is the earliest start date for the scholarship?

The earliest date you may begin your research project is 4 June 2024.

8 What is the latest completion date for the scholarship?

Your research project must be completed by Friday, 13 September 2024.

9 Can I undertake the summer research project remotely?

No, all research projects under this scheme must be performed on site at the chosen Host Institution/Health Agency.

10 I would like to be an Academic Supervisor; however, I am currently in the process of completing my PhD. Am I eligible to supervise a student under this scholarship?

If you are currently studying for a PhD qualification, regardless of your previous research experience, you are not eligible to apply for HRB PhD equivalency and as a result you cannot supervise a student for SS 2024.

11 My application has been submitted but I realise I have amendments to make/a document to upload – is it possible to amend the application?

In fairness to all other applicants, once the HI has submitted your application and associated documents it cannot be edited or un-submitted. Please make sure to review your application carefully before you send it to the HI for submission.

12 When is the deadline for applications?

The deadline is Thursday, **14 December 2024** at 13:00.

If you need further information, please contact:

summerstudents@hrb.ie