

Summer Student Scholarships 2026

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Call launches on 29 September 2025 and closes on 27 November 2025.

Please read the SS 2026 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 or social care related discipline at a 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.
- You must be able undertake the scholarship on a full-time basis for a minimum of six and a maximum of eight weeks between 2 June and 11 September 2026.
- You have the support of an appropriate, suitably qualified supervisor (as detailed in guidance notes in Section 5.3 Academic supervisor) who is affiliated with a HRB approved host institution.
 - A list of HRB approved host institutions is available on the [HRB website](#).
- The HRB approved host institution of the supervisor must agree to administer the grant.
- 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 2026 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 carefully read the guidance notes for the scheme.
- Secure the support of suitably qualified supervisor with a research track record and who is affiliated with a HRB approved host institution. The academic supervisor **must demonstrate adherence to three requirements:**

- 1) Have appropriate research experience by having at least:
- **One peer-reviewed, original research publication**, typically as leading or senior author. If the individual is not the leading author, then their contribution to the published research must be clearly outlined to demonstrate they played a significant role and contribution to that project.
- AND**
- **(A) Two other research outputs** which can be a combination of other peer-reviewed publications (not necessary as leading or senior author) and/or other research outputs¹.
- OR**
- **(B) One independently peer-reviewed research grant as Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator or Co-Applicant of a minimum value of €100,000.** This includes individual career development grant such as PhD scholarships or postdoctoral fellowships. The name of the grant, funding source, funding value awarded, and duration must be provided.

AND

- 2) Be research active by having:
- **One peer-reviewed, original research publication published in the last three years which is relevant to the proposed research project in this SS application.** This may be the same publication as under point 1.

AND

- 3) Fulfil the following criteria:
- Have a **contract of employment for the duration** of the proposed project and have secured the **support of their institution.**

¹ Published book chapters, reports to government, research data and datasets, research materials, databases, audio/video products, national and/or international reports, patents, models and protocols, software production, evidence of influence on health policy and practice, outreach and/or knowledge translation activities, media coverage or other relevant activities and/or any other relevant outputs that have resulted in a significant impact in their field.

- Be **personally affiliated with a HRB approved HI**. A personal affiliation in this context is defined by either being employed by or holding an honorary position in the HI. Individuals who are employed in a health agency/health institution, which is affiliated with a higher institution, will not be accepted as academic supervisors. These individuals can act as a health agency sponsors only.
- Be ***in situ* with the student at the host institution or health agency**. If the student will be based in a health agency with which the academic supervisor is **not affiliated**, a health agency sponsor must be appointed.
- Only support **one student application** in this round.

- 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 of the supervisor 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 2026?

Your research project cannot be solely a literature review under SS 2026; however, a literature review can be a part of your research project.

2.2 Can I perform a systematic review as my research project under SS 2026?

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

2.3 Can I choose any host institution for the application?

No, the host institution must be a HRB approved host institution of your supervisor, however the project can be conducted either at the HRB approved host institution included in your application or at health agency as described in Section 5.4 Health agency sponsor.

3 How do I determine if my project requires research ethics committee approval or animal licence?

Research ethics committee 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 Friday 11 of September 2026.

5 Who 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 host institution 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 Tuesday 2 June 2026.

8 What is the latest completion date for the scholarship?

Your research project must be completed by Friday, 11 September 2026.

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 was notified that my application for SS 2026 was selected for funding, but I can no longer do the project during summer 2026. Can I defer the scholarship?

Please note that the HRB will not allow successful awards to be deferred to future years. Each successful award must be completed in the year the grant was awarded.

11 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?

The HRB does not require supervisor to have a PhD or equivalent research experience anymore. Once you can qualify as a supervisor based on the requirements stated in page 3 and 4 and in the guidance notes, you can apply as supervisor.

12 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 host institution 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.

13 When is the deadline for applications?

The deadline is Thursday, **27 November 2026** at 13:00.

If you need further information, please contact:

summerstudents@hrb.ie