

Summer Student Scholarships 2027

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Call launches on 14 September 2026 and closes on 12 November 2026 at 1pm.

Please read the SS 2027 guidance notes for further information.

1 Am I eligible?

You are eligible if:

- You are an undergraduate student, full-time or part-time, enrolled in an NFQ Level 8 degree course at a third level institute located on the island of Ireland. Students enrolled in courses delivered outside the island of Ireland are not eligible, even if studying with an Irish institution (e.g. RCSI overseas campus).
- You have the support of a suitably qualified supervisor (see Section 6.3 of the call guidance notes) affiliated with a HRB-approved host institution.

A list of HRB-approved host institutions is available on the [HRB website](#).

- You have the support of the supervisor's HRB-approved host institution to administer the scholarship.
- You must be able undertake the scholarship full-time (35 hours/week) for a minimum of six and a maximum of eight weeks between 7 June and 17 September 2027.
- 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, additional, or integrated 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 previously completed 8 or more weeks (full-time equivalent) of research experience outside undergraduate degree requirements, for example research roles/jobs, summer scholarships or similar awards, including the HRB Summer Student Scholarship.
- You have not previously completed a HRB SS award.
- You will not hold a summer studentship/internship/scholarship from another organisation at the same time during the summer of 2027.
- You will not submit more than one application to this scheme per round.

1.1 Can I apply for SS 2027 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 HRB SS funding?

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

1.3 I have completed a primary degree, a PhD and I am enrolled in another primary degree, can I apply?

No, if you have previously conducted a PhD and/or MSc by research you are not eligible for the SS scheme. The objective of this scholarship scheme is to foster an interest in health and social care research in **undergraduate students** enrolled in an NFQ Level 8 course, so having completed a PhD or MSc has already provided you research experience.

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.
- 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 Appendix II of the call guidance notes).
- Apply for the award using the HRB Grant E-Management System - 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 follow up on applications where information or support documentation is missing or not clearly provided, and eligibility will be assessed based on what was submitted by the deadline.

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 a literature review as my research project under SS 2027?

Your research project cannot be solely a literature review under SS 2027; however, a literature review can be a smaller component of your research project.

2.2 Can I perform a systematic review as my research project under SS 2027?

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

2.3 My proposed project is part of a larger research project; how do I define the timeline?

The research project must be achievable within the 6 - 8-week duration of the scholarship. In the application you are requested to describe your role in the project and activities you will undertake directly, as well as to provide an estimated weekly timeline for completion of the various elements of the research project (e.g. Week 1 - training, Week 2 - sample collection, Week 3 - data analysis, etc).

2.4 My project proposes primarily to conduct a survey and collect data while somebody else will do the data analysis after I complete the project. Is this eligible?

The project would not be eligible in this instance as it does not provide sufficient involvement in the research process. The project must include meaningful research activities such as study design, analysis, or interpretation. While data collection may be part of the project, students should also be involved in analysing and interpreting the data generated, where appropriate.

2.5 How do I determine if my project requires research ethics committee approval?

Research ethics committee approval (REC) is required for all research work funded by the HRB that involves human participants or human material (including tissue). Please note that if you require ethical approval 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.

2.6 Can I choose any host institution for the application?

No, the host institution must be a HRB-approved host institution with which your supervisor is affiliated, however the project can be conducted either at the HRB-approved host institution included in your application or at a health agency as described in Section 6.4 of the call guidance notes.

2.7 Who can I nominate as my academic supervisor?

Applicants should identify a supervisor working in a relevant health or social care research area and discuss the proposed project with them before applying to SS 2027. Supervisors should be willing to supervise the project and work with the applicant to develop a feasible project proposal. Supervisors must also complete and approve the relevant sections of the application form before the application can be submitted.

The academic supervisor must demonstrate appropriate research experience and active engagement in research by meeting the following two requirements:

1. One peer-reviewed, original research article ¹ OR one peer-reviewed systematic review, typically as leading or senior author, published in the last 3 years.

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 in that project.

AND

2A Two other research outputs² which can be a combination of other peer-reviewed articles (not necessarily as leading or senior author) and/or other research outputs.

OR

2B One independently peer-reviewed research grant as Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator or Co-Applicant of a minimum value of €50,000.

This may include individual career development grants, such as PhD scholarships or postdoctoral fellowships. Supervisors must provide the name of the grant, funding source, funding value awarded, and duration.

Additionally, the academic supervisor must:

- Have a contract of employment for the duration of the proposed project and have secured the support of their institution.
- Be personally affiliated with a HRB-approved host institute either by 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 health agency sponsors only.
- Be *in situ* with the lead applicant (student) at the host institution or health agency.
- If the lead applicant (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.

¹ A scholarly journal article which presents primary data, such as experiments, surveys, interviews, clinical or observational data and systematic empirical analysis. It is not a review, protocol, concept paper, commentary or case study. The article must have been assessed by independent experts in the field before publication. Pre-prints are not accepted for the purpose of eligibility to SS 2027.

² 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.

3 Do I need to submit letters of ethical approvals?

No, you will be required to fill out and submit a **HRB approvals declaration form** to confirm the required ethical approval is in place prior to starting the scholarship, however you are not required to submit the original letters of ethical 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 17 September 2027.

4 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.

5 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 the research/ finance office of your host institution and submit a completed Revenue Commissioners' Scholarship Exemption Declaration Form before you start working on your project.

6 What is the earliest start date for the scholarship?

The earliest date you may begin your research project is **Monday 7 June 2027**.

7 What is the latest completion date for the scholarship?

Your research project must be completed by **Friday, 17 September 2027**.

8 My project start date is 7 June, but this is a bank holiday. When should I attend?

Successful applicants should coordinate their attendance arrangements with their supervisor and/or health agency sponsor if applicable. As the official start date falls on a bank holiday, students are not normally expected to attend on that day. Attendance should commence on the next working day, unless otherwise arranged with the supervisor.

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 2027 was selected for funding, but I can no longer do the project during summer 2027. 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 am currently in the process of completing my PhD. Am I eligible to act as an academic supervisor for this scholarship?

Yes, provided you meet the supervisor eligibility requirements set out in Section 6.3 of the call guidance notes. Supervisors are not required to have a PhD, but must be researchers affiliated with a HRB-approved host institute and hold either an academic position at the HI or be early-to-mid-career researchers on contract positions with research responsibility. Only applicants who meet the eligibility requirements in Section 6.3 of the call guidance notes, can be nominated as supervisors.

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, **12 November 2026** at 13:00.

If you need further information, please contact:

summerstudents@hrb.ie