

HRB Summer Student Scholarships (SS) 2027

Guidance notes



Guidance notes

Key dates & times	
Application open	14 September 2026
Application closing date	12 November 2026 @13:00

Applications must be completed and submitted through the HRB online Grant E-Management System (GEMS) (<https://grants.hrb.ie>). This system will close automatically at the stated deadline and timeline listed above.

Please note: Prior to final submission to the HRB, all applications must first be reviewed and approved within GEMS by the authorised approver at the host institution (HI) nominated in the application form. It is critical therefore that applicants leave sufficient time in the process for the Research Office (or equivalent) in their nominated HI to review, seek clarifications and approve applications prior to the final submission date. This may involve being aware of and complying with any internal HI deadlines for review and approval, distinct from the HRB deadline.

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1 Introduction

The Health Research Board (HRB) Strategy 2026-2030¹: Bringing Research to Life sets out our mission to lead national investment in health research by building capacity, supporting excellence, embedding ethics, and ensuring that high-quality evidence is translated into better policy and care. To achieve this, we lead and support excellent research, and we generate relevant knowledge and promote its application in policy and practice. This is enabled by the support of researchers and talent in health research across the different stages of their career.

In line with its strategic objectives, the HRB is now inviting applications for the Summer Student Scholarships 2027. The scholarship scheme offers undergraduates enrolled in a Level 8 degree an opportunity to undertake a health or social care research project and to work with researchers in high-quality research environments to gain research experience at an early stage in their career.

2 Objectives

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. Each student will be given an opportunity to gain practical research experience and an understanding of research processes, techniques, and methodologies by conducting a small research project.

Students must independently identify a suitable supervisor in their area of interest and work closely with them to develop a proposal to submit to the HRB. This offers a unique opportunity for undergraduate students to experience the grant application process. The HRB will assess the suitability of the supervisor in terms of research qualifications and track record to ensure appropriate supervision for summer students. While the academic supervisor is an integral part of the process, the student is the lead applicant and holder of the HRB student scholarship funding.

Following completion of the scholarship, the student is expected to have successfully completed the short research project described in their application.

3 Key changes from previous rounds

Scope: Studies involving the use of human cell lines, animals or animal-derived tissues, data or materials are not eligible for SS 2027. This change has been introduced in response to recurring eligibility issues observed in previous rounds of the scheme. A significant proportion of ineligible applications arose from misconceptions around the POR scope and included research with the aim to increase the knowledge base and understanding of the physical, chemical and functional mechanisms of life processes and diseases. HRB classifies this as ‘basic’ research. This revision is intended to provide greater clarity for applicants and reduce avoidable ineligibility.

¹ <https://www.hrb.ie/hrb-strategy-2026-2030/>

Academic Supervisors: The requirements relating to research experience and active engagement in research have been consolidated into a single section. This change simplifies the information requested from applicants, reduces duplication, and aims to support the provision of more accurate and consistent information. Supervisors must meet these criteria:

One peer-reviewed, original research article² 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

A - Two other research outputs³ which can be other peer-reviewed articles (not necessarily as leading or senior author) and/or other research outputs.

OR

B - 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.

The research grant value has been reduced from €100K to €50K.

Eligibility: Given the high volume of applications and the administrative effort required by HRB staff to complete eligibility checks and follow-up queries, 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 contact the HRB for any query regarding eligibility before the deadline.

4 Scope

Under this scheme, the student must be planning to work on a health and/or social care-related project, with a suitably qualified supervisor who is experienced in this area.

Successful applicants will undertake the scholarship on a full-time basis for a minimum of six and a maximum of eight weeks during the summer of 2027.

² 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.

³ 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.

The research project must be conducted in one of the three research areas supported by the HRB: **patient-oriented research, health services research or population health research** (see Appendix II for definitions). The conduct of **systematic reviews and scoping reviews** are eligible for the SS scheme.

The scholarship will **not fund**:

- Basic biomedical research, defined as ‘research conducted to increase the knowledge base and understanding of the physical, chemical and functional mechanisms of life processes and disease but not directed at solving any particular biomedical problem in humans or animals’.
- Studies involving the use of human cell lines, animals and animal-derived tissues, data or materials.
- Applications which lack a strong research element - such as study design, analysis, or interpretation - and are solely or predominantly
 - literature reviews
 - audits
 - surveys
 - needs assessments
 - technology developmentsalthough these elements may be part of an integrated research study.
- Applications which lack a strong research element and are solely or predominately
 - developing infrastructure, such as biobanking, databases or patient registers
 - health service developments or assessments.
- Research intended to create human embryos solely for the purposes of research or for the purposes of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.
- Applications from individuals applying for, holding, or employed under a research grant from the tobacco industry⁴.
- Applications from individuals applying for, holding, or employed under funding received from the alcohol industry and related actors⁵.

⁴ Any company, entity, or organisation involved in the development, production, promotion, marketing, or sale of tobacco in any country of the world. The term also includes any companies that are a subsidiary or a holding company or affiliate of the above. This also includes e-cigarette companies and non-tobacco related companies which are fully or partially owned by the tobacco industry.

⁵ Including social aspects/public relations organisations (SAPROs) funded by alcohol companies or trade associations in which such companies are members.

4.1 Ethical approvals

Research Ethics Committee (REC) approval is required for all research work funded by the HRB that involves human participants, or human material (including tissue).

Applicants and supervisors should allow sufficient time to obtain ethical approval. The process to apply to an ethics committee can delay the start of the summer project so it is highly recommended to think carefully about the suitability of a summer project and the relevant documentation required prior to the drafting of the application. It is suggested that ethical approval is sought in **parallel with submission of an application** to the HRB as the approval must be in place **before** the start of the scholarship.

Please note: An approvals declaration form will be provided to all successful applicants once the funding allocation process is complete. All successful applicants will be required to submit this declaration to the HRB before commencing work. This includes confirming either that the necessary approvals are in place for the project, or that no such approvals are required.

5 Funding available, duration and start date

The scholarship provides a stipend of **€400 per week** for a period of **six to eight weeks** with no additional funding for research project costs. The HRB envisage to fund approximately 50% of eligible applications, or a minimum of 50 awards.

Host institutions will manage student payments and invoice the HRB after project completion. All successful students should liaise with the research office at their host institution well in advance of starting work on their project.

The earliest start date is **Monday 7 June 2027**. The scholarship is tax-free for students registered in full-time undergraduate courses; for students registered in part-time undergraduate courses the scholarship will be subject to standard taxation.

6 Eligibility criteria

Where the lead applicant, project, supervisor, and/or sponsor fails to meet the eligibility criteria listed below, the application will be deemed ineligible and will not progress any further. Applicants and host institutions will be informed accordingly.

Important notes:

- **Applications that do not meet all of the criteria described below will be deemed ineligible and will not be funded.**
- **Incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible and will not be funded.**
- **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 contact the HRB for any query regarding eligibility before the deadline.**

6.1 Lead applicant (student)

For the purposes of this scheme, the student, termed the 'lead applicant', is responsible for preparing the application with support from their supervisor and health agency sponsor, where applicable.

The lead applicant **must**:

- Be 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).
- Have the support of a suitably qualified supervisor (see Section 6.3) affiliated with a HRB-approved host institution.
- Have the support of the supervisor's HRB-approved host institution to administer the scholarship.
- Undertake the scholarship full time (35 hours/week) for a minimum of six and a maximum of eight weeks during the summer of 2027. The scholarship cannot be deferred to the following year.

The lead applicant **must not**:

- Be in the first or final year of their NFQ Level 8 degree course.
- Be 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.
- Have previously conducted a PhD and/or MSc by research.
- Have 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.
- Have already completed a HRB Summer Scholarship. Please note that applicants who were previously awarded a HRB SS award but withdrew before starting it may reapply.
- Hold a summer studentship/internship/scholarship from another organisation at the same time during the summer of 2027.
- Submit more than one application to this scheme per round. Where two applications are received from the same applicant, both will be deemed ineligible.

Please contact the HRB if you are unsure of your eligibility.

6.2 Research project

The proposed project **must**:

- Be within the scope of patient-oriented research (POR), health services research (HSR) or population health research (PHR). **Please read Section 4 and Appendix II carefully.**
- Be between 6 and 8 weeks in duration with a research project plan that is feasible and aligned to this timeframe.
- Include meaningful research activities such as study design, analysis, or interpretation. For example, projects that propose predominantly to collect data without analysis and interpretation will not be funded.
- Be conducted on site, either at the HRB-approved host institution of the supervisor or at a health agency. Remote projects are not eligible for funding.

Important note: Studies involving the use of human cell lines, animals or animal-derived tissues, data or materials are not eligible for SS 2027.

6.3 Academic supervisor

Supervision by a **suitably qualified researcher** who is affiliated with a HRB-approved host institution (HI) is an essential element of this application. Supervisors must be researchers with an academic position at the host institution or early-to-mid-career researchers on contract positions with research responsibility.

Each lead applicant must include an academic supervisor who is key in providing the lead applicant (student) with a positive research experience. The supervisor guides the lead applicant during the scholarship period so that they acquire the necessary skills to conduct the research project. Therefore, the HRB emphasises that supervisors have the relevant expertise and experience.

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 article⁶ 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

⁶ 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. **A - Two other research outputs⁷** which can be other peer-reviewed articles (not necessarily as leading or senior author) and/or other research outputs.

OR

2. **B - 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.

6.4 Health agency sponsor

If the research project is based within a health agency (such as a hospital, charity or a community care setting), a **health agency sponsor** based in that setting is required **in addition to the academic supervisor**. The inclusion of a health agency sponsor is to ensure that the lead applicant (student) is well supported, will work under good supervision at all times, and has the necessary local and digital accesses. In cases where the academic supervisor is also affiliated with the health agency and will be *in situ* with the lead applicant (student), a health agency sponsor is not required.

For the purposes of this call, a health agency is defined as an organisation that provides and/or supports healthcare on the island of Ireland. Additionally, in order to host a HRB summer student the health agency must be involved in health-related research activities.

⁷ 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.

7 Host institution

The HI must be a HRB-approved higher education institution with which the academic supervisor is affiliated. The HI approves and submits the application on behalf of the lead applicant (student). The HI will administer the scholarship in line with the terms and conditions set out by the HRB. The list of HRB-approved host institutions can be found on the HRB website⁸.

Hospitals (including teaching hospitals affiliated to a higher education institution) or other health agencies cannot be nominated as host institutions.

This call is open for HIs located in the **Republic of Ireland** and **Northern Ireland**.

8 Application, review process and assessment criteria

8.1 Grant E-Management System (GEMS)

Applications must be completed and submitted through the HRB online Grant Electronic-Management System (GEMS) (<https://grants.hrb.ie>)

The application must have been reviewed and approved by the signatory approver at the research office (or equivalent) in the HI before it is submitted to the HRB. Therefore, applicants should ensure that they give the signatory approver sufficient time before the scheme closing date to review the application and approve it on GEMS. Please note that many HIs specify internal deadlines for this procedure.

GEMS will close applications for this scheme automatically on **12 November 2026 at 13:00**.

8.2 Overview of the application process

Step 1: Lead applicants open the application, select the host institution, and invite the academic supervisor and, where applicable, details the health agency sponsor

- The lead applicant (student) is the person applying for the scholarship; they create and complete the application with the support of their supervisor.
- The lead applicant must first register on GEMS. Once registered they will receive an email to confirm registration and login details. This is a once-off process which creates a GEMS account for the user. If already registered on the GEMS system, the applicant should use their previously used login details to access the system.
- The lead applicant must select the HI as part of the application process. The system will automatically include the contact details of authorised signatories within the selected HI.

⁸ <https://www.hrb.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/List-of-Approved-HRB-Host-Institutions.pdf>

- Once a HI is chosen for the application, a notification will be made available on the GEMS system which should be sent to the relevant contact to notify them of your intention to submit an application to this call.
- The lead applicant adds the supervisor to an application and when a supervisor is added, GEMS will automatically email them to invite their participation.
- The supervisor can decide whether to accept or reject their inclusion. Should they accept, they can manage their details and supervisorship information, edit the application form, and give their consent to the application being submitted.
- Only the supervisor can access and populate the supervisor section of the application form.
- If applicable, the lead applicant adds information in the application regarding the health agency sponsor. The sponsor does not need to be invited to complete the application on GEMS, however they must provide a letter of support to the applicant on headed paper to be uploaded with the application form.

Step 2: Validation of the application prior to submission

- Once the application form is completed by the lead applicant, the academic supervisor is required to approve the application.
- When the supervisor has approved the application, it must be validated by the lead applicant.
- This validation process on GEMS highlights any mandatory fields that have not been completed and allows these to be corrected before the application is submitted to the HI for approval.

Step 3: Signatory at host institution and submission of the application

- Once the application is validated by the lead applicant (following approval by the supervisor), the lead applicant must submit the application.
- Submitting the application will trigger an automatic notification to the Dean of Research (or equivalent authorised signatory) in the nominated HI via GEMS.
- The HI notification informs them that their approval is requested and provides them with access to a PDF version of the application form for checking.
- The Dean of Research or authorised signatory approves or rejects the application.
- If the application is rejected at this point, it is returned to the lead applicant for further clarification/revision. In this instance, the lead applicant must make any required adjustments or clarifications before resubmitting the application. This step can be repeated as many times as is necessary until the signatory ultimately approves the application.
- The lead applicant may follow the progress of the HI approval process on the grant summary page in GEMS.

- When the HI signatory has approved the application, it is automatically submitted through GEMS to the HRB.
- Upon submission, a grant application number is assigned to the application, and a confirmation email is sent to the lead applicant and the Dean of Research at the HI.

More detailed information on the application process can be found in the GEMS Technical Guidance Notes, which can be accessed on the GEMS system when registered, or on the HRB website (www.hrb.ie/grants). Further information is provided in Appendix I - Detailed guidance on the application form.

Eligibility assessment

In the first step, HRB staff will assess all submitted applications for eligibility and suitability for funding. The three eligibility criteria are:

- Eligibility of the lead applicant (student) (see Section 6.1).
- Eligibility of the research project (see Section 6.2).
- Suitability of the supervisor and supervision arrangements (see Section 6.3).

Randomisation of the funding decision

In the second step, each eligible submitted application will be assigned a reference number, which will be then entered into a random number generator software. The software will randomly select applications until the target number of awards is reached.

The HRB envisage to award approximately 50% of eligible applications or a minimum of 50 awards.

The randomisation process will be conducted in the presence of **two independent observers** from the HRB Approved Institutions Research Officers Group to ensure transparency and fairness in the process.

Approval and outcome

Once the eligibility assessments and randomisation are completed, the outcome is then presented for approval to the HRB Executive Team.

After approval, lead applicants and host institutions are informed of the outcome, with applications classified as:

- a) Funded
- b) Not funded

It is envisaged that applicants will be informed of the outcome by mid-February 2027.

9 Timeframe

Call opening	14 09 2026
Call closing	12 11 2026 @13:00
Eligibility check	November 2026 - January 2027
Selection process via randomisation	Early February 2027
HRB Executive Team approval	Mid-February 2027
Notification of outcome (subject to approval)	Mid-February 2027
Earliest start date	07 06 2027
Latest end date	17 09 2027

10 Contact

For further information on the Summer Scholarship scheme contact:

Dr Elaine Dempsey
Project Officer
Research Strategy and Funding
Health Research Board

Email summerstudents@hrb.ie

The HRB reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet the terms of this call.

The HRB's Policy on Appeals on funding decisions is available at [HRB Appeals Policy](#).

Appendix I: Detailed guidance on the application form

This form is for information purposes only. All applications must be submitted via HRBs grant management system (GEMS). Please register or log in at <https://grants.hrb.ie>.

The **lead applicant** (student) must create the application and completes it with the support of the supervisor and a health agency sponsor (if applicable).

The lead applicant can register on GEMS, and they will receive an email to confirm their registration and log in details. The lead applicant can then add information on their contact and CV details in the 'Manage my details' section of GEMS. Lead applicants previously registered on GEMS can login to GEMS and update any information regarding their contact and CV details in 'Manage my details'.

Once logged in to GEMS, applicants are taken directly to the homepage, which is the starting point to create a new grant application.

To access the application form, the lead applicant must complete and satisfy the conditions of the following checklist:

- I have read the Guidance Notes for the SS 2027 call.
- I confirm that I have discussed the application with my supervisor who has checked the eligibility criteria for supervisors and they are eligible.
- I confirm that the project is within the scope of patient-oriented research (POR), health services research (HSR), or population health research (PHR) as outlined in Section 4 and defined in Appendix II of the SS 2027 Guidance Notes.
- I understand that I need to allow sufficient time in the application process for my supervisor to access the application, complete the supervisor sections and review and approve my final application through the GEMS system, before it can be validated by me and submitted to the host institution for their approval.
- I understand that I need to allow sufficient time in the application process for the HI to access, review, and approve my final application for submission to the HRB through the GEMS system.
- I confirm that the information that will be provided in this application form is correct to the best of my knowledge.
- By submitting this application, I consent to the use of my data for assessment of my application; monitoring of successful grants; and evaluation of HRB's approach to funding and investment in research, in line with HRB policies and as detailed in the SS 2027 Guidance Notes.

The lead applicant will be then able to start the application. Further details for completing each of the main sections of the application form are provided below.

Host institution and signatory notification

Host institution

For the purposes of contracting, payment, and management of the grant, HRB funds can only be awarded to HRB-approved host institutions. For the purposes of this call, the host institution must be a HRB-approved institution with which the academic supervisor is affiliated. Hospitals (including teaching hospitals affiliated to a higher education institution) or other health agencies cannot be nominated as host institutions. Please see the list of HRB-approved host institutions [here](#).

This call is open for host institutions located in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

In GEMS you will be asked to identify a HRB-approved host institution and type it in full (do not use acronyms such as TCD, UCD, UCC). Once you have entered the first 3-4 characters of the host institution, you will be assisted with auto-select options. It is important that the host institution name is entered accurately and in full as an incorrect entry may result in delays in attaining host institution approvals.

Signatory notification (within host institution)

The Dean of Research (or equivalent person authorised to endorse research grant applications) at the host institution must be notified of your intention to submit an application to SS 2027. The authorised signatory must confirm their willingness for the host institution to participate in the application through GEMS. Once confirmed, they will be able to view and review a PDF of the application, ultimately allowing the host institution to approve the final version and submit it to the HRB.

Applicants are advised to notify the host institution signatory of their intention to apply as soon as possible in the application process.

Additionally, at the end of the process, applicants are advised to leave sufficient time for the Dean of Research Office (or equivalent) in their nominated host institution to review, seek clarifications, and approve applications prior to the final submission date. **This may involve being aware of and complying with any internal host institution deadlines for review and approval, distinct from the HRB deadline.**

The GEMS system is pre-populated with agreed contact points within the Dean of Research Office (or equivalent) at each host institution. Once you select a host institution in the previous step, you can [click here](#) to 'Notify Dean of Research' to send an email to the Dean of Research (or equivalent authorised signatory) for the host institution.

1 Lead applicant (student) details

1.1 Full name and institution

Please provide the lead applicant's full name and the name of the third level institution where they are currently studying.

This information will be automatically included in the application form. If this information requires updating, please edit the details in the 'Manage my details' section of your GEMS profile.

1.2 Degree course details

1.2.1 Please state the name and duration of the degree course you are currently undertaking and indicate which year of the course you are currently completing.

Degree name:

Degree duration:

Current year:

1.2.2 Are you a full-time or part-time undergraduate student enrolled in an NFQ Level 8 degree course at a third level institute on the island of Ireland?

Yes/No

If **no**, you are not eligible to apply.

1.2.3 Are you in the first or final year of this NFQ Level 8 degree course?

Yes/No

If **yes**, you are not eligible to apply.

1.2.4 Are you in the final year of the undergraduate component of a degree course which includes an optional or additional year or more for a further Level 9 or 10 qualification, such as MSc, MPharm or PhD?

Yes/No

If **yes**, you are not eligible to apply.

1.3 Previous research experience

1.3.1 Have you previously undertaken any research project equal to or longer than eight weeks consecutively, in a full-time capacity, outside your degree requirements, including research roles/jobs, summer scholarships or similar awards, including HRB Summer Scholarship?

Yes/No

If **yes**, you are not eligible to apply.

1.3.2 Have you worked as a research assistant, research technician, or any role with experience of eight weeks full time equivalent or more of active research?

Yes/No

If **yes**, you are not eligible to apply.

1.3.3 Have you previously conducted a PhD and/or MSc by research?

Yes/No

If **yes**, you are not eligible to apply.

1.4 Past submissions and other current applications

1.4.1 Have you previously applied to the HRB Summer Scholarship scheme?

Yes/No

If **yes**, please state the year of submission and outcome.

Please note: You are not eligible to apply if you have previously completed a HRB Summer Scholarship. However, if you were awarded a HRB Summer Scholarship but withdrew prior to its commencement, you remain eligible.

1.4.2 Have you submitted or do you intend to submit an application to any other organisation to conduct a summer research project in 2027?

Yes/No

If **yes**, please give the name of the funding scheme(s), the name of the funding organisation(s) and date(s) of expected outcome.

Please note: If your application to the HRB Summer Scholarship is successful, you may not concurrently hold a scholarship from another organisation.

1.4.3 Is this your only application to the HRB Summer Scholarship 2027?

Yes/No

If **no**, you are not eligible to submit this application.

1.4.4 Are you able to undertake the scholarship on a full-time basis for a minimum of six and a maximum of eight weeks during the summer of 2027?

Yes/No

If **no**, you are not eligible to apply.

2 Project details

2.1 Project title

Please provide a title that clearly describes the research to which this application relates. This should be descriptive and concise and should reflect the aim of the project. The **character limit is 200 characters**.

2.2 Project start date

Please indicate the proposed start date. The earliest start date is **Monday, 7 June 2027**. Your project work must be completed by **Friday, 17 September 2027**.

Please note: A completed ethical approval declaration form must be submitted to the HRB **before** you begin your project.

2.3 Scholarship duration and stipend

This scholarship offers a stipend of €400 per week for a minimum of six and a maximum of eight weeks. **Projects which are shorter than six weeks or longer than eight weeks will not be funded.**

In the drop-down box provided, please indicate the duration of your project. The total amount of funding for which you intend to apply will be automatically calculated based on the duration of your project.

2.4 Project abstract

Please provide a succinct, structured summary of the proposed research. The abstract should clearly outline the background to the research, the aims and hypotheses of the project, and the objectives of the proposed work, including what the work is expected to establish. It should provide a clear overview of your application and place the proposed research into context. The word limit is **300 words**.

2.5 Project description and timeline

2.5.1 Project description

Please provide a clear description of the research project including hypothesis, research design and methodology, data analysis and key outputs. Please avoid duplication with the abstract. If your project is a part of a larger research programme, please describe your role in the project and the research activities which will be undertaken directly by you. The word limit is **600 words**.

2.5.2 Project timeline

The research project must align with the 6–8-week duration of the scholarship. Please include 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). The word limit is **300 words**.

2.6 Please confirm that this project will be conducted on-site at the HRB-approved host institution or health agency (i.e. not remotely)

Yes/No

If **no**, you are not eligible to submit this application. Remote projects are not eligible for this scheme.

2.7 Alignment of your project with the scope of SS 2027

2.7.1 Please select the research area that best describes your research project.

1. Patient-oriented research - excludes human cell lines, animals, or animal-derived tissues, data or materials
2. Health services research
3. Population health research

Please note: Definitions of research areas within the scope of this scheme can be found in Appendix II of the SS 2027 guidance notes.

2.7.2 Please provide a brief and clear overview of how your proposed project aligns with the scope of SS 2027.

The word limit is **100 words**.

2.8 References

Please provide a list of any sources cited in Section 2 (up to a maximum of **five publications or other references**).

Please use the following format:

Gallagher PA, Shoemaker JA, Wei X, Brockhoff-Schwegel CA, Creed JT. Extraction and detection of arsenicals in seaweed via accelerated solvent extraction with ion chromatographic separation and ICP-MS detection. *Fresenius J Anal Chem*. 2001 Jan 1;369(1):71-80. PMID: 11210234

3 Student experience

Please list and briefly describe the most important training activities you will undertake during your research project, including the techniques and skills you expect to learn and the experience you aim to gain. The word limit is **150 words**.

4 Ethical approval

Research Ethics Committee (REC) approval is required for all research work funded by the HRB that involves human participants or human material (including tissue).

Applicants should allow sufficient time to obtain ethical approval. The process to apply to an ethics committee can delay the start of the summer project so it is highly recommended to think carefully about the suitability of a summer project and the relevant documentation required prior to drafting the application. It is suggested that ethical approval is sought in parallel with submission of an application to the HRB as the approvals must be in place **before** the start of the scholarship.

4.1 Is ethical approval required for your project?

Yes/No

Please note: An approvals declaration form will be provided to all successful applicants once the funding allocation process is complete. All successful applicants will be required to submit this declaration to the HRB **before** commencing work. This includes confirming either that the necessary approvals are in place for the project, or that no such approvals are required.

5 Supervision

5.1 Academic supervisor - basic details

Applicants are required to have one suitably qualified academic supervisor. The academic supervisor **must fulfil eligibility criteria as outlined in Section 6.3 of the SS 2027 guidance notes.**

Please note: Supervisor eligibility has changed since SS 2026 to simplify the process. Please refer to the updated section of the SS 2027 guidance notes.

The lead applicant (student) nominates the academic supervisor by entering their details in GEMS. The supervisor is automatically invited via GEMS and must accept the invitation in order to act as supervisor and access the application. Once the supervisor accepts the invitation, they can input details such as name, institution, present position, profession, degrees and qualifications, and employment history via the “Manage my details” section of their own GEMS account. This information is automatically included in the application.

Please note: It is the responsibility of the lead applicant to ensure that the supervisor has completed the 'Manage my details' section of their GEMS account as this will not be enforced by the system prior to submission.

5.2 Academic supervisor - eligibility checklist

Please note: Section 5.2 and section 5.3 of the application form may only be edited by the academic supervisor; they are read-only for the lead applicant.

The supervisor will be asked to review the supervisor eligibility criteria outlined in Section 6.3 of the SS 2027 guidance notes and confirm that they meet all of the requirements.

5.3 Academic supervisor - research experience and supervisory arrangements

5.3.1 Appropriate research experience and active engagement in research

Please provide the following:

One peer-reviewed, original research article⁹ OR one peer-reviewed systematic review, typically as leading or senior author published **in the last 3 years**. If not the leading author, please clearly outline your contribution to the published research to demonstrate a significant role and contribution to that project.

AND

- (A) **Two other research outputs** which can be a combination of other peer-reviewed original research articles (not necessarily as leading or senior author) and/or other research outputs¹⁰.

OR

- (B) **One independently peer-reviewed research grant** as principal investigator or co-principal investigator or co-applicant of a minimum value of €50,000. This includes individual career development grant such as PhD scholarships or postdoctoral fellowships.

You must provide the start date of your grant, duration of the grant, total grant value, name of the funding body, grant reference number, type and title of the grant and role (principal investigator, co-principal investigator (co-lead), co-applicant).

Please ensure that this question is answered correctly, as failure to do so may impact your eligibility.

5.3.2 Contract of employment

Are you permanently employed?

Yes/No

If **no**, please provide employment contract end date.

5.3.3 Host institution affiliation

Are you affiliated with a HRB-approved host institution?

Yes/No

If **yes**, please provide the name of the HI and describe the nature of your affiliation with, or role within the host institution. The word limit is **150 words**.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

If **no**, you are not eligible to act as supervisor on this application.

5.3.4 SS 2027 supervisory commitments

Is this the only HRB Summer Scholarship 2027 application on which you are listed as academic supervisor?

Yes/No

If **no**, you are not eligible to act as supervisor on this application.

5.3.5 Supervisory arrangements

Please describe the planned approach for supervising the lead applicant (student) and monitoring their progress during the scholarship. This should include information on the accessibility of the supervisor and the level and nature of supervision that the applicant will receive. The word limit is **200 words**.

Please note: Only *in situ* supervision, either by the supervisor or health agency sponsor, is allowed during the scholarship.

5.4 Host institution/ Health agency

If the research project is to be conducted outside of the supervisor's HRB-approved host institution (e.g., in a charity/hospital), further information on the health agency is required.

If the supervisor is not affiliated with the chosen health agency or will not be *in situ* with the lead applicant (student), a suitable individual working in the agency must be nominated to act as a health agency sponsor and additional information must be provided, **including a letter of support from the health agency sponsor**. The inclusion of a health agency sponsor is to ensure that the lead applicant (student) is well supported and working under good supervision at all times regardless of the setting.

In cases where the academic supervisor is also affiliated with the health agency and will be *in situ* with the lead applicant (student) during the research project, the health agency-based sponsor and letter of support are not required.

Please note that a hospital, including a teaching hospital affiliated to an university, will be considered a health agency and so it should be selected as such in the application.

5.4.1 Will the lead applicant (student) be based in a health agency?

Yes/No

If **no**, please, please provide the name of the HRB-approved host institution where the research project will be conducted.

If **yes**, please complete Section 5.4.2.

5.4.2 Is the academic supervisor affiliated to the health agency?

Yes/No

If **yes**, please provide the name and address of the health agency and the current role of the academic supervisor within the agency, and complete Section 5.4.3.

If **no**, please complete Section 5.5.

5.4.3 Will the academic supervisor be *in situ* at the health agency with the lead applicant (student) for the duration of the project?

If **yes**, the letter of support from a health agency sponsor is **not** required.

If **no**, please complete Section 5.5.

5.5 Health agency sponsor details

5.5.1 Name and address of health agency

Please state the name and address of the health agency. Where the health agency has multiple locations, please include the address where the lead applicant (student) will be based. Please include a health agency website link if available.

5.5.2 Name, job title, and role of health agency sponsor

Please state the name and job title of the health agency sponsor and include details of their role in the health agency.

5.5.3 Arrangements for supervisory support

Please describe why the health agency sponsor was chosen and how they will complement the supervision of the lead applicant (student) and the supervisory arrangements of the academic supervisor. The word limit is **150 words**.

5.5.4 Health agency letter of support

Please upload a letter of support from the health agency, on headed paper, outlining the health agency and health agency sponsor's commitment to the lead applicant (student) and the project.

Submission of Application

The HRB deadline for submission of complete applications is 12 November 2026 at 13:00.

The lead applicant should ensure that all the relevant sections of the application form are completed and that the letter of support from the health agency sponsor (if applicable) is clearly labelled and uploaded. Please note that once the application is submitted it cannot be edited or unsubmitted. Please ensure that you retain a PDF copy of your application on file for your own records.

It is the responsibility of the lead applicant (student) to upload the supporting documentation when submitting to the host institution. If the application is not approved by the HI and submitted to the HRB on time, fully completed, with the required supporting documents, the application will be deemed ineligible without further review.

It is critical that the lead applicant submits the application on GEMS leaving sufficient time in the process for the Research Office (or equivalent) in their nominated host institution to review, seek clarifications and approve applications prior to the final submission date.

This may involve being aware of and complying with any internal host institution deadlines for review and approval, distinct from the HRB deadline. Note that the host institution signatory may return the

application to the lead applicant for clarification or amendment prior to granting approval. Once final approval is granted, the application will be automatically submitted to the HRB for consideration for funding.

Important note: The HRB will not follow up on applications where information or supporting documentation is missing or not clearly provided, and such applications will be deemed ineligible.

The HRB reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet the terms of this call.

The HRB's Policy on Appeals on funding decisions is available at: [HRB Appeals Policy](#).

Appendix II: Definition of research areas within the scope of the scheme

The details below are not exhaustive but should serve as a useful guide to applicants in considering relevance and eligibility for this scheme. Applications will be reviewed upon receipt by HRB staff based on the criteria below.

Patient oriented research

Patient-oriented research (POR) is defined as research conducted with human subjects, or on material of human origin such as blood products or tissues, specimens and cognitive phenomena. Research involving computational or bio-informatics studies with an emphasis on yielding clinically relevant results are eligible.

However, **for the purposes of SS 2027**, studies involving the use of human cell lines, animals and animal-derived tissues, data or materials are not eligible.

Important note: Research conducted to increase the knowledge base and understanding of the physical, chemical and functional mechanisms of life processes and disease but not directed at solving any particular biomedical problem in humans or animals does not constitute POR and is not in scope.

Population health research

Population health research (PHR) is defined as research with the goal of improving the health of the population, or of defined sub-populations, through a better understanding of the ways in which social, cultural, environmental, occupational and economic factors determine health status or through the identification of effective interventions for improving health status and reducing health inequalities.

The emphasis of applications submitted within this research area is on the prevention of disease, promotion of health and wellbeing and the reduction of inequalities in health. It focuses on the health of the whole population or on defined sub-groups and aims to generate evidence that is highly relevant to improving the health and wellbeing of the public.

Note: There is significant overlap between clinical medicine and population health approaches. For the purposes of this scheme, if you are submitting a science- or medically-driven proposal where the emphasis is on disease diagnosis, treatment or care of an individual or a patient group, you should choose the patient-oriented option as the research area for your proposal.

Applications submitted under the population health research area should focus on issues such as:

- Macro-level socio-economic determinants of health (the influence of social and economic policies on health)
- Individual-level socio-economic determinants of health (the relationships between access to the resources of society such as housing, income, employment, food security and health)
- Individual behavioural/lifestyle factors such as smoking, nutrition, alcohol and substance abuse, physical activity and sexual behaviour and their impact on health
- Occupational and environmental determinants
- The health of populations over the lifecourse (e.g., birth, child and adult development, and ageing)
- Health of specific population groups (e.g. children and youth, people with disabilities, older adults, migrant populations)
- Gender issues and health
- Health protection, promotion, health education and intervention programmes
- Genetic epidemiology
- Prevention and control
- Monitoring and surveillance of population health

Health services research

Health services research (HSR) is defined as research with the goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of health professionals and the health care system through changes to practice and policy. Health services research is a multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that studies how social factors, financing systems, organisational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviours affect access to health care, the quality and cost of healthcare and ultimately health and well-being.

Applications submitted under this research area will focus on the planning, management, organisation, financing, purchasing and provision of health and social care services. Applications may address aspects of the quality of services, access and equity in provision, relevance and appropriateness to the needs of individuals and communities, effectiveness and efficiency, workforce capacity and capability issues or how services are experienced. Applications focusing on the three main dimensions of quality – patient safety, patient experience and effectiveness of care – are particularly welcome.

Applications submitted under the health services research area should focus on issues such as:

- Access to services
- Strategic management of waiting times
- Health service planning
- Health service delivery and organization
- Integration of care
- Evaluation of health services interventions
- Delivery and organisation of hospital and primary health care
- Community-based care (long-term care, home care)
- Chronic disease prevention and management
- Citizen engagement
- Health professional influences on health care
- Public and private health care sectors
- HR and financing of health services
- Health policy and systems management
- Health ethics and law
- Health informatics
- Pharmacoepidemiology
- Quality of life and quality of care
- Health systems and policy

Appendix III: HRB Funding Policies and Procedures & Useful Links

General Data Protection Regulation

The **General Data Protection Regulation** (GDPR) came into force on 25 May 2018. As a result, the applicant team will be asked through the HRB online grant management system GEMS to **confirm you understand** that personal data provided as part of this application, including but not limited to CV information, may be shared with person(s) based outside of the European Economic Area (EEA) for the specific purpose of obtaining peer reviews of this application. International reviewers play a vital role for the HRB in setting standards and in benchmarking our scientific community to enable them to operate in a global context. Individual peer reviewers are selected for their specific expertise in relation to submitted applications and can be based anywhere in the world.

Furthermore, by confirming participation, you will be asked to confirm you understand that HRB uses the information you provide (regarding all applicant team members) to consider your application, contact you about your application, and if you are successful, to manage your grant throughout its lifetime in accordance with HRB general T&C for research awards. This will include contacting you with regard to monitoring of progress through written reporting and other means e.g., interim review. We will publish some basic information on funded grants including PI, Host Institution, amount awarded and lay summary on our website and may highlight individual grants or researchers in more detail (with specific consent). We will also use the information you have provided to generate general statistics around our current funding portfolio, and to evaluate our funding mechanisms and investment. After your grant has ended, we will continue to keep your information on file (in accordance with HRB policies) to allow us to evaluate the outcomes, outputs and impacts of HRB investment in your research.

Please note that we will also use information associated with *unsuccessful* applications for a number of the purposes outlined above such as generating general statistics around our current funding portfolio, and to evaluate our funding mechanisms and investment e.g., demographics of applicants, research areas of applicants. Similarly, we will use the information provided about people employed on grants to help evaluate our career support and capacity building initiatives.

The Health Research Regulations

Following the implementation of GDPR, a regulation for health research known as the Health Research Regulations 2018 (S.I. 314) has been implemented, with further amendments made in 2019 (S.I. 188) and 2021 (S.I. 18)¹¹. These regulations outline the mandatory suitable and specific measures for the processing of personal data for the purposes of health research. They further set out that explicit consent is a mandatory safeguard that must be obtained from individuals when using their personal data for health research. Where it is not feasible to obtain explicit consent, an application for a consent declaration can be made to the Health Research Consent Declaration Committee¹².

¹¹ <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2021/si/18/made/en/pdf>

¹² <https://hrcdc.ie/>

Ethical Approval

Ethical approval is required for all research work funded by the HRB that involves human participants, and human material (including tissue). Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all necessary approvals are in place prior to the start of the research.

Applicants should allow sufficient time to obtain ethical and/or competent authority approval as, if successful, the applicant will be required to complete and submit an Approvals Declaration form to the HRB before the initiation of the grant. It is suggested that these are sought in parallel to the submission of the application to the HRB.

Appeals Procedure

The HRB's Policy on Appeals on funding decisions is available at: [HRB Appeals Policy](#).

Privacy Policy

To understand why we collect the information we collect and what we do with that information, please see our Privacy Policy at: [HRB Privacy Notice](#)

Useful Links

Useful online resources and websites can be found on the HRB Funding Opportunities webpage at: [HRB Funding Opportunities - Useful Links](#)