



Musgrave

Cancer Research PhD Scholarship

In Partnership with

Breakthrough Cancer Research

Call for Submission of Applications

KEY DATES

Scholarship Announcement	25^h January 2021
Informal Inquiries	25th January – 31st March 2021
Deadline for submission of applications	31st March 2021, 17:00 Dublin Local Time
Interviews (Skype Maybe used)	15-31st May 2021
Scholarship Commences	September/October 2021

Terms of Reference

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of this document, it is provided for information purposes only and as a guide to expected developments. It is not intended, and should not be relied upon, as any form of warranty, representation, undertaking, contractual, or other commitment binding in law upon Musgrave or Breakthrough Cancer Research (Breakthrough). Breakthrough Terms and Conditions of Research Grants shall govern the administration of Breakthrough grants and awards to the exclusion of this and any other oral, written, or recorded statement.

All responses to this Call for Submission of Proposals will be treated in confidence and no information contained therein will be communicated to any third party without the written permission of the applicant except insofar as is specifically required for the consideration and evaluation of the application or as may be required under law.

1. Introduction

The Musgrave Cancer Research PhD Scholarship in association with Breakthrough Cancer Research represents a new partnership to fund world class cancer research in Ireland while educating the next generation of cancer research leaders. Funding for two 3 year PhD Scholarships will be provided to take place at any University in Ireland currently engaged in cancer research. They are open to researchers in Clinical, Biological, Epidemiologic or Public Health fields, so long as they are patient focused and with the ultimate aim to improve cancer care and increase survival.

2. Scholarship Details

2.1 About Breakthrough Cancer Research and Musgrave Retail Partners

Breakthrough is an Irish medical cancer research charity, which aims to inspire and enable financial support for exceptional research into cancer in Ireland leading to more effective treatments for patients in Ireland and Internationally and to improve cancer care and patient survival.

Our focus is on:

- funding world-class cancer research into poor prognosis cancers, which are poorly served by current treatment options
- facilitating collaboration between scientists and clinicians across Ireland and Internationally
- translating lab discoveries into new effective treatments for cancer patients today, tomorrow and into the future

Breakthrough Cancer Research are grateful and proud to have been to be main beneficiaries of **The Musgrave** (staff led) **Triathlon** for a number of years and from 2018 the two organisations will partner to use any donated funds for a new PhD scholarship. Applicants from anywhere in Ireland will be invited to apply for funding for a PhD scholarship in Cancer Research. Together Breakthrough and **Musgrave** have long invested in cancer research to impact patients but this PhD Scholarship programme will further promote and drive more patient focused cancer research within Ireland. The **Musgrave Triathlon** has supported charities looking to impact communities and with their support of Breakthrough invest in the power of research to transform the future.

Musgrave is one of Ireland's longest-running family businesses, founded in 1876 in Cork by brothers Thomas and Stuart Musgrave. Today Musgrave and its retail partners support more than 40,000 jobs, in more than 1,400 stores and offices across eleven brands in three markets, with total retail sales of €3.7 billion.

At Musgrave, Growing Good Business is at our core and we have an ongoing commitment to building sustainable communities across the island of Ireland as part of our sustainability strategy *Taking Care of Our World*

Breakthrough funds cancer research that responds to current clinical challenges and offers a clear and demonstrable path to improved clinical outcomes. Research programmes funded by Breakthrough must focus on translating discoveries into new therapeutic opportunities. To this end we work closely with clinicians in practice all over Ireland so that our research is targeted at finding new options for poor prognosis and currently incurable cancers.

- Click here for information on our current [research priorities](#).
- Click here for some of our [current and recently funded research projects](#).

2.2 Scholarship Details

The Musgrave Cancer Research Scholarship is for students starting their PhD in September/October 2021 and are fully funded for three years, with a stipend of up to €18,000 p.a. plus fees and up to €15,000 in consumables with justification. We are looking for high-achieving dynamic individuals, with drive and passion for patient focused cancer research, who are looking for research opportunities aimed at having an impact on patient care and survival.

2.3 Eligibility Criteria of Applicant

All eligible applicants to the Musgrave Cancer Research Scholarship call must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Successful applicants will be expected to have a first or upper second class honours primary degree or equivalent.
- Applications will not be accepted from persons currently registered as PhD students.
- English Language Requirements - please ensure you fulfil the English Language requirements of the relevant host University.

2.4. Research Body Requirements

For the duration of the award, the space and infrastructure required to enable the research programme to be undertaken should be made available by the host institution where the Applicant will be registered.

2.5 Funding

The Musgrave Cancer Research Scholarship award has a maximum value of **€140,000** direct costs for a period of **three years**. General overheads are not provided.

The budget requested should **include the fees and stipend** of the postgraduate student and costs for their materials, consumables and travel.

Consistent with all other grant awards, Breakthrough will not pay overheads or indirect costs associated with this grant award.

2.6 Proposal Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

- Applications **will not** be assessed if they are **incomplete** i.e. an incomplete application form, a completed supervisor form and/or two academic reference forms are not supplied, or received after the advertised closing date.
- Completed applications will be assessed by a panel of reviewers.
- The panel will consist of a number of reviewers with experience of similar review processes.
- All applications will be assessed by at least three reviewers from different but relevant backgrounds to the research area.
- The applications will be assessed under four main headings which reflect the main sections of the application process.

- Reviewers will consider all four elements of the application and allocate scores as follows:
 1. Academic Qualifications (max. 25 points)
 2. Personal Statement (max. 25 points)
 3. Research Proposals (max. 30 points)
 4. Alignment with Breakthrough Strategy & Potential Impact on cancer (max. 20 points)
- Shortlisting of applicants will be undertaken by the panel of reviewers.
- All shortlisted candidates will be interviewed.
- The Interview will include a short (5min) lay presentation by the applicant on a relevant research topic followed by questions from the panel.

Breakthrough and Musgrave reserves the right to modify the review process. Applicants will be notified of any relevant modification to the review procedure.

3. Application Procedure

3.1 Informal Inquiries

Between the posting/advertising of the Scholarship and the deadline for submission of applications, informal inquiries can be made to research@breakcancer.ie.

3.2 Submission

Completed applications must be submitted by **31st March 2021**, 17:00 Dublin Local Time to research@breakcancer.ie.

3.3 Short Listing

A short list of applicants will be invited for interview including a research presentation as outlined above.

3.4 Budget

The costs eligible for the Musgrave Cancer Research PhD Scholarship are those costs that can, uniquely and unambiguously, be identified with the proposed research programme. Applicants must give details of all relevant costs, including student, equipment, materials and consumables and travel. Ensure that the final total provided includes all costs. All awards are made directly to the applicant's host Institution.

The Scholarship award funds to a maximum value of **€140,000** direct costs for a period of three years.

- **Equipment**
As Scholarship applicants will have access to laboratory space and standard equipment within their host university, it is not expected that applicants will require significant items of equipment in their budget request. Small equipment (including computer/laptops) of a value of **less than €2,000** can be included in the materials and consumables section but listed as individual budget line items.
- **Materials and Consumables**
An outline of all materials and consumables that will be used in the course of the research

programme should be provided.

Access charges may be sought for use of infrastructure where pre-approved access charge plans are in place. Note that these may include, with Breakthrough approval, access to facilities and services not available to the applicant, such as the costs associated with accessing international databases or commissioning specific experiments in national facilities (e.g., Tyndall NAP, CRANN etc.).

Access charge requests must be included as a separate line item in the budget and where relevant must include the grant code and name of the relevant infrastructure to be used. A rationale for the amount of use proposed must be provided in the budget justification.

- **Travel**

Only travel costs for journeys directly related to the progress of the research programme may be requested as a direct cost on the research grant. The applicant should outline the details of travel expenses directly related to, for example, conferences, scientific collaboration on the research programme, or learning special research techniques. Where possible, please supply the conference name and location. In the case of working visits, the rates sought for subsistence and other allowances may be no more than those which the research body's permanent staff may claim.

3.7 Declaration

It should be noted that submission of an application represents agreement from the applicant to the [Breakthrough Terms and Conditions of Research Grants](#). The applicant must understand acceptance of these term and conditions will be required before funding is provided.

3.8 Deadlines

Applicants must submit their application documents and research proposals by **31st March 2021**. **Applications cannot be submitted after this deadline.**

4. Award Management

4.1 Reporting Requirements

Breakthrough has stringent requirements for the reporting on awards that it makes. Individuals who hold the primary responsibility for reporting and who fail to comply with reporting requirements, run the risk of having their grant payments suspended and their eligibility to apply for funding in forthcoming Breakthrough calls affected. Reporting is inclusive of annual reporting, Sharing of Research Outputs and the completion of a Researcher Snapshot. There will be annual reporting requirement for this scholarship. Continued funding will be contingent on successful review.

The support of Musgrave and Breakthrough Cancer Research must be acknowledged in all publications.

5. Further information

Informal inquiries should be made to research@breakcancer.ie