Ghnó agus an tSochaí
Business and Society

PhD / MPhil Tuition Fee-Only Scholarship for Part-time Students [1]

Guidelines for Applicants

[1] This Fee-only scholarship is for **new** research students, registering part-time for a PhD or MPhil in DCU Business School in the academic year 2025/26. The scholarship is for tuition fees only, without additional support for living expenses or other costs. It is for a maximum of the EU tuition fee. It is for a period of a maximum of three years (MPhil) or six years (PhD).

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Overview

DCU Institute for Business and Society invites applications for part-time PhD or MPhil fee-only scholarships. The scholarships are open to applicants who will register in Year 1 of the part-time PhD programme or MPhil programme in DCU Business School in the 2025/2026 academic year.

Our PhD and MPhil programmes combine scholarly theory-building with a strong applied focus. Research scholars work under the supervision of academic experts and are an important part of DCU Institute for Business and Society's vibrant research community. The scholarship will allow the successful students to undertake research in one of the Research Groups in the DCU Institute for Business and Society:

- **trustLAB** (Led by Prof. Lisa van der Werff - lisa.vanderweff@dcu.ie) – One of Europe's largest trust research groups, studying trust in workplace relationships between people, organisations and technologies.
- **OBAIR** (Led by Dr. Margaret Heffernan - margaret.heffernan@dcu.ie) – Examining job security, remote work, and the impact of technology on work and well-being.
- **Centre for Family Business** (Led by Dr. Eric Clinton - eric.clinton@dcu.ie) – Exploring family business sustainability and entrepreneurship across generations.
- **International Network for Online Harms in Sport** (Led by Dr. Gary Sinclair - gary.sinclair@dcu.ie) – Investigating online abuse in sport.

Or in one of the Institute's Special Interest Groups:

- **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Group** (Led by Dr. Yuhui Gao - yuhui.gao@dcu.ie)
- **finLAB** (Led by Dr. Aref Mahdavi Ardekani - aref.mahdavi@dcu.ie)
- **Risk & Crisis Management (R4I)** (Led by Prof. Caroline McMullan - caroline.mcmullan@dcu.ie)
- **Sustainable Aviation Hub** (Led by Prof. Marina Efthymiou - marina.efthymiou@dcu.ie)
- **Technological and Corporate Innovation Group** (Led by Dr. Peter Robbins - peter.robbins@dcu.ie)
- **Contemporary Accounting and Governance Group** (Led by Dr. Brid Murphy - brid.murphy@dcu.ie)
- **Business & Public Policy Special Interest Group** (Led by Dr. Julie Bertz - julie.bertz@dcu.ie)

Further details on research groups in DCU Institute for Business and Society are available at https://www.dcu.ie/business-and-society. Faculty interests and profiles can be found at https://business.dcu.ie/academic-staff/**.** Interested candidates should typically contact research group leaders in the first instance.

The Scholarship

The following scholarship type will be awarded: Payment of fees, to the maximum of the EU fee per annum, for a maximum of six years for part-time PhD students and three years for part-time MPhil students.

Eligibility Criteria

- Successful applicants are required to meet the MPhil/PhD eligibility criteria of DCU (https://www.dcu.ie/registry/making-postgraduate-research-application). For PhD., they will normally hold an honours master's degree (taught or by research).

- Applicants must have the support of a DCU Business School academic supervisor who is a member of a research group in DCU Institute for Business and Society. Potential supervisors can be identified through the research group leads and from the DCU Business and Society and DCU School websites:
  https://www.dcu.ie/business-and-society
  https://business.dcu.ie/academic-staff/

- **The scholarship will only be awarded for part-time study.** Successful applicants will register in year 1 during the academic year 2025/2026.

- Applicants should indicate if they have an alternative external source of funding.

- The award will commence in the academic year 2025/2026.

Scholarship Application Guidelines and Process

- All applicants are required to submit the following documentation in soft copy as a single PDF file:

  - A fully completed 2025/26 DCU Institute for Business and Society Fee-Only Scholarship Application Form. Applications should be typed. Signatures from you and your proposed DCU supervisor are also required. This form includes your research proposal. For details on the requirements for the research proposal, please go to https://business.dcu.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Writing-a-Research-Proposal-DCUBS-PhD-Scholarship-1.pdf

  - Scanned copies of a full set of original, notarised academic transcripts of results for all years of your undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, if not completed in DCU.

  - IELTS or Duolingo Test results, if applicable.

- Two references provided by independent referees who have knowledge of the candidate's academic and/ or other professional achievements. Note that these referees should not be the proposed supervisor.

- Applications should be submitted as a single PDF file by email to DCU Business School Research Officer, Ruth Finnegan (dcubsresearch@dcu.ie).

- The file name should be: surname_firstname_DCU_BSRI_2025.pdf.

- Late and incomplete applications will not be accepted.

- The DCU Business School Research Officer will acknowledge receipt of applications by e-mail.

- Applicants who choose to withdraw their application after submission should inform the Research Officer by email (dcubsresearch@dcu.ie) at their earliest convenience.

- Shortlisted applicants will be required to attend for interview in person or via Zoom if necessary.

- Award of the fee scholarship is conditional on acceptance of a place on the MPhil/PhD programme.

Important Dates

- Call opens on **Tuesday 3rd June 2025**

- Applications must be received, in full, by **12 mid-day GMT on Monday 28th July 2025**

- Interviews will be held during the week of **Monday 11th August 2025**

Assessment Process

- Applications will be assessed by a panel of evaluators from DCU Institute for Business and Society and DCU Business School.

- Applicants will be assessed according to the specific weightings given to each of the sections of the application as follows:

APPLICATION FORM SECTION	WEIGHTING[1]
1. Biographical & Application Information	not applicable
2. Academic Record a) prior academic record b) prior relevant business or work experience c) publications	 30% 24% 6%
3. Research Proposal	40%
4. Signature	not applicable

[1]Although no weighting is given to Sections 1 or 4 of the application form, these sections must be completed for the application to be considered.

Enquiries

All enquiries about the 2025/26 DCU Institute for Business and Society MPhil / PhD Fee Scholarship Scheme can be directed as follows:

- Email: Ruth Finnegan, Research Officer: **dcubsresearch@dcu.ie**
- Telephone: **+353 (0)1 700 8106**

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APPLICATION FORM NOTES

Notes on Section 2: Academic Record

This section of your application is worth a total 60% of the overall assessment. There are three categories within the section: qualifications, experience, and publications.

In terms of qualifications, evaluators will consider factors such as academic grades, class position and previous academic awards. If you have completed a research-based capstone module such as a dissertation, please make this clear in your application. Under work experience, evaluators will consider factors such as work or professional experience that is relevant to the focus of your research, involvement in previous research projects (e.g. research assistant work). It is not mandatory that you would have published work on applying for the scholarship but increasingly our applicants demonstrate experience in preparing research for dissemination at conferences and/or publication in academic journals. The following are also important: evidence of particular suitability for MPhil/PhD research, personal motivations for pursuing a higher degree by research, and longer-term career plans. Applicants should include any information that they feel the evaluators should know which they feel would strengthen their application.

Applicants should fully complete all sections of the application form and adhere to the specified word limit.

Applicants must include a results transcript for each year of their undergraduate and, where relevant, master's degrees [non-DCU applicants only]. The transcripts must be original and notarised. They should be scanned, appended to, and submitted in soft copy as part of your application file.

Applications must include two references from relevant academic or professional referees.

Notes on Section 3: Research Proposal

This section of the application is worth 40% of the overall assessment. Only projects which are well thought through, innovative and indicate good potential to make a substantial contribution to knowledge will be supported. The research proposal should be a **maximum 3000 words in length** and should address the following issues:

- The background to the proposed research, research question and objectives
- The preliminary literature review
- The research methodology to be employed
- The expected impact the research will have on theory development and practice

It may also be relevant to comment on why the applicant has chosen a particular research supervisor, and/or why they have chosen DCU Institute for Business and Society and DCU Business School, to pursue the proposed research with reference to how the proposed

research builds on and complements the DCU Institute for Business and Society's current expertise.

Applicants should insert their research proposal into the relevant section of the application form. Proposals should include a list of relevant references to support the proposed research. **The proposal** (excluding references) **should not exceed the word limit of 3000 words.**