

PhD Scholarships in the School of Law 2015 Conditions of Tenure
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About the School of Law, NUI Galway

The School of Law, NUI Galway is committed to high-quality research and to enhancing its position as a centre of scholarship, nationally and internationally. The key research strength of the School of Law lies in the area of public law but some of its academics are research-active in areas of private law and legal and political theory. For further information on the School of Law and the research profiles of its academic staff, see <http://www.nuigalway.ie/business-public-policy-law/school-of-law/research/>.

The School is renowned for its two key research centres, the Irish Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Disability Law and Policy. The Irish Centre for Human Rights makes significant contributions to developing of a body of specialised human rights, international humanitarian law and conflict studies literature. The Centre has an established international reputation for excellence in research, teaching and advocacy in human rights and related fields. The Centre for Disability Law & Policy provides an innovative model for interdisciplinary research. It has formed an active collaboration with the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology and the Child and Family Support Research Centre. Its focus is the production of research that contributes to the resolution of disability law reform issues in Ireland. In doing so it aims to expand the range of policy solutions for Government and equip those who advocate for change with relevant comparative research. The School of Law is also home to two other centres, the Centre for Housing Law Rights and Policy and Marine Law and Ocean Policy Centre.

Purpose of scholarship

The School of Law wishes to disburse two PhD scholarships. Each scholarship is worth €16,000 per year for four years, a proportion of which will be used to cover fees. The scholarships are awarded for the purpose of enabling the holder to undertake a fulltime Structured PhD at the School of Law including its research centres. The holder may not simultaneously register for another course. Preference will be given to new entrants and those PhD students in the first year of their doctoral studies.

Tenure

The scholarships are awarded for a period of four years, subject to verification of satisfactory progress at the end of each year of the scholarship. Satisfactory progress is measured by the annual report of the student's Graduate Research Committee and a letter of recommendation by the student's supervisor. Scholarship holders are expected in their second year to apply for alternative sources of funding, such as Irish Research Council funding and other scholarships external to NUI Galway. If a scholarship holder is successful in attaining such funding, he/she must relinquish his/her scholarship, which will then be reallocated by the School of Law.

Classification of scholarship payment

Scholarships are officially classified as 'scholarships' and hence do not attract tax or social insurance. Recipients are not employees of the University.

Conditions for payment of scholarship

In order to receive payment of the scholarship, the holder must:

- a) Be accepted for admission to the Structured PhD programme in the School of Law (PAC code GYH00);
- b) Have completed the due registration procedures;
- c) Have furnished complete information regarding grants, scholarships, or other endowments held by him or her or for which he/she is eligible. These alternative sources of funding may be taken into account in determining the value of the scholarship;
- d) Have undertaken to comply with the conditions of tenure and be resident in or near Galway.

Payment of scholarship

The required fees will be paid from the scholarship award with the balance payable in equal monthly instalments over twelve months.

The scholarship value is paid by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) directly into the scholarship holder's bank account. The appropriate documentation must be completed in order to receive payment.

Responsibilities of the scholarship holder

As indicated above, the purpose of the scholarship is to enable the holder to undertake a Structured PhD at the School of Law, including its research centres. Accordingly, undertaking a Structured PhD in accordance with the University Guidelines for Research Degree Programmes and any relevant guidelines of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law and the School of Law is the key responsibility of the scholarship holder. However, with a view to the general academic development of the holder and in order to assist him/her in the acquisition of skills, the transfer of knowledge and the assessment of students, the holder will be given experience in teaching, associated examining and/or related responsibilities, such as assisting in the organisation of conferences, doctoral seminars or summer schools. These responsibilities will be assigned to the scholarship holder by the Head of School or Director of the Centre. These responsibilities will **not** attract additional payment but are regarded as a part of the terms of the scholarship. Scholarship holders will be required to contribute a maximum of 120 hours per year to the School or Centre as per University Guidelines.

Application process

Applicants must submit:

- A **curriculum vitae** with the names and contact details of two referees;
- A **personal statement** (max 500 words), indicating why the applicant should be considered for the scholarship;
- A **statement of the proposed doctoral research** (max 2,000 words), outlining:
 - The central research question;
 - The proposed methodology;
 - The intended contribution to existing scholarship;
 - A research plan encompassing intended time-frames for the different stages of the research;
 - A training and career development plan to support and build upon the research.

In advance of their application, applicants must also have received provisional agreement for supervision from an academic supervisor drawn from the School of Law or its Centres. Application materials must be sent to lawships@nuigalway.ie by close of business on Friday 16th October, 2015. Incomplete applications or late applications will be deemed ineligible. Applicants may be shortlisted for interview. Successful scholarship candidates will be required to submit a full application for the full-time Structured

PhD program to Postgraduate Admission Centre (www.pac.ie), with the final award conditional on admission by the University.

Selection criteria

The School of Law PhD Committee will consider the applications on the basis of the following criteria:

Project: Quality of the research project, including:

- Clarity and coherence of the proposed research question;
- Quality and appropriateness of approach, including research methodology, and consideration of ethical issues and the limitations of the approach to be adopted;
- Feasibility and credibility of the proposed research plan in the proposed time period;
- Originality and innovative nature;
- Dissemination plans.

Training and career development aspects of proposal, including:

- Clarity and quality of training and career development plan to acquire new knowledge and skills to achieve research and professional development aims;
- Evidence of real thought as to why research is to be undertaken and the impact of the proposed award on the applicant's career path.

Applicant: Capability of the applicant, including:

- Track record and research potential of the applicant;
- Personal Statement;
- Referees' reports;
- Match between applicant profile and research project;
- Potential for contribution to the School/Centre.