



Summer Student Scholarship 2023



Call for Submission of Applications

KEY DATES

Scholarship Announcement	16th January 2023
Informal Enquiries	16th January – 22nd February 2023
Deadline for submission of applications	22nd February 2023 13.00 (local Irish time)
Interviews (may be via Zoom)	April 2023
Scholarship Start Date	June 2023

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 Breakthrough Cancer Research (Breakthrough). Breakthrough's 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 Breakthrough Cancer Research Summer Student Scholarship is an initiative to facilitate the partnership of students and research teams, and to foster the education of the next generation of cancer research leaders. Funding will be provided for four individual Scholarships, each to the value of €2,500, for a period of six to ten weeks. The scholarships are to take place at any eligible University in Ireland currently engaged in cancer research. The call is open to researchers in Clinical, Biological, Epidemiological, Public Health or Allied health fields. Proposals must fulfil our research priorities, be patient-focused, with the ultimate aims of improving cancer care and increasing survival.

2. Scholarship Details

2.1 About Breakthrough Cancer Research

Breakthrough Cancer Research is an Irish Cancer Research Charity, that provides financial support for exceptional research into cancer, leading to more effective treatments, improved care and improved survival rates for patients in Ireland and around the world. To this end, we work closely with clinicians in practice all over Ireland to ensure our research is targeted at finding new options for poor prognosis and currently incurable cancers. Our focus is on:

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

This Summer Scholarship programme will further promote and drive more patient focused cancer research within Ireland, through education of the next generation of cancer researchers.

- 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

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 Breakthrough Cancer Research Summer Student Scholarship call must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The Summer Student Scholarship is for students who have completed the 3rd or 4th year of their degree by June 2023.
- Successful applicants will be expected to have a first or upper second class honours average.
- Applications will not be accepted from persons currently registered as PhD students.
- Applicants must fulfil the English Language requirements of the relevant host University.
- Each potential Supervisor can support one student application only.

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 Breakthrough Cancer Research Summer Student Scholarship has a maximum value of **€2,500** in direct costs for a period of **six to ten weeks (June to September 2023)**.

The budget requested should include a student stipend for the postgraduate student and costs for their consumables.

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. Applicants must provide a completed application form, a completed supervisor form and completed academic reference forms by the advertised closing date.
- Completed applications will be assessed by a panel of reviewers.
- The applications will be assessed under four main headings, which reflect the main sections of the application process.
- Scores are allocated as follows:
 1. Academic Qualifications (max. 25 points)
 2. Personal Statement (max. 25 points)
 3. Research Proposal (max. 25 points)
 4. Alignment with Breakthrough Strategy and Potential Impact on Cancer (max. 25 points)
- Shortlisting of applicants will be undertaken by the panel of reviewers.
- All shortlisted candidates will be interviewed.
- The Interview will include a short (3 min) lay presentation by the applicant on their proposed research project, followed by questions from the panel.

Breakthrough 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 Enquiries

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

3.2 Submission

Completed applications must be submitted on our Grant Management System by the **22nd of February 2023, 13.00 (local Irish time)**.

3.3 Short Listing

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

3.4 Budget

The costs eligible for the Breakthrough Cancer Research Summer Student Scholarship are those costs that can, uniquely and unambiguously, be associated with the proposed research programme. Applicants must give details of all relevant costs, including the student stipend, materials and consumables and travel. Please 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 **€2,500** in direct costs for a period of six to ten weeks.

- **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.

- **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's 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**

Travel costs for journeys directly related to the progress of the research programme may be requested as a direct cost on the research grant.

3.7 Declaration

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

3.8 Deadlines

Completed applications must be submitted on our Grant Management System by the **22nd of February 2023, 13.00 (local Irish time)**. 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 an end of term reporting requirement for this scholarship, signed by the student and their supervisor.

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

5. Further information

Informal enquiries should be made to research@breakcancer.ie