

Breakthrough Cancer Research Summer Student Scholarship

FAQs

What is a Breakthrough Cancer Research Summer Student Scholarship?

The Breakthrough Cancer Research Summer Student Scholarship is a fund to support **four - six** BSc students to complete a cancer research project over the summer of 2023. We are looking for high-achieving, dynamic individuals, with drive and passion for cancer patient care and survival-focused research.

How long is the funding for?

The Scholarship funding is for six to ten weeks.

How much funding can I apply for?

The Summer Student Scholarship Award has a maximum value of €2,500 in direct costs for a period of six to ten weeks.

Where can I hold the Summer Scholarship?

The Summer Student Scholarship can be held at any University in the Republic of Ireland currently engaged in cancer research.

What should my research proposal be about?

This call is open to researchers in Clinical, Biological, Epidemiological, or Public Health fields. Your application must be focused on pancreatic, oesophageal, ovarian, lung, brain, liver or gastric cancer only. The proposal must be patient-focused, with the ultimate aim of improving cancer care and increasing survival, in keeping with Breakthrough's research priorities.

Am I eligible?

- You can only apply if you have completed the 3rd or 4th year of your degree by June 2023.
- You are expected to have a first or upper second class honours average.
- If you are registered for a PhD or are in receipt of funding to carry out a PhD, you are not eligible to apply.
- If English is not your native language, please ensure you fulfil the English Language requirements of your host University.
- Each proposed Supervisor can support one student application only.

When should my Summer Scholarship start?

The Summer Student Scholarship will run from June to September 2023.

How do I apply?

Applications for funding are submitted using our online Grant Management (GM) system. To begin your application, you must create an account on this system.

When is the application deadline?

The deadline is the 22nd of February 2023 at 13.00, Irish time. Please note, submission of your application on the GM system may take some time. Please ensure you leave enough time to meet the deadline. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

Who else is involved in completing my application?

You, the Applicant, along with your Supervisor and Academic Referee, who are defined as 'Contributors' on the GM system. We recommend that you give your Contributors at least three weeks' notice to complete their sections of the form, along with sending them reminder emails when necessary, to avoid missing the submission deadline.

What steps do I have to take to complete the application form?

The Summer Student Scholarship application form has sections for you, your Supervisor and Academic Referee to complete.

- You must complete the Applicant Details section, the Project Details section, the Budget section and the Applicant Declaration section.
- Once the form is complete, submit it by clicking on VALIDATE AND SEND, found at the end of the Summary screen.
- You will receive an email which contains a link to the Supervisor and Academic Referee section of the form. Following this link will enable you to invite your Supervisors and Academic Referee to complete their sections of your application form (as detailed below).
- You will receive an email letting you know that your Supervisors and Academic Referee have submitted their sections.
- You must then finalise the submission of their sections by clicking on VALIDATE AND SEND, found at the end of the Summary screen.

How do I invite Contributors to add to my full application?

Please carefully follow these instructions on how to invite your Supervisor and Academic Referee to complete their sections of the form.

1. Click on the relevant INVITE A CONTRIBUTOR button; e.g. to invite a Referee, go to the Referee section and click on the INVITE A CONTRIBUTOR button.
2. You will then be brought to another screen where you enter the Referee's email address. You then click the green INVITE THIS CONTRIBUTOR button. This will automatically send an email to your Academic Referee, with a link to their part of your form.

How do my Contributors know they have been invited to complete the application form?

1. Your Supervisor and Academic Referee will receive an email with a link to the relevant part of your application form, which may arrive in their Spam folder. If this does happen, they must move the email to their Inbox in order to access the link to the form.
2. Your Contributors must then set up an account on our GM system, using the same email address you entered for them in the application form.

What sections of the form am I restricted from seeing?

Your Supervisor and Academic Referee are 'Restricted Contributors'. This means you cannot click into their sections of the form. However, you will receive an email when your Supervisor and Academic Referee have completed their sections of the form.

PLEASE NOTE, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS THE APPLICANT TO ENSURE:

- the application form is completed and submitted by the closing date of the 22nd of February 2023 at 13.00, Irish time.
- the Supervisor's part of the form and the reference are completed and submitted by the 2nd of March 2023 at 13.00, Irish time.

What does the asterisk next to some questions mean?

An asterisk beside some sections of the form means that they are mandatory and must be answered. Any mandatory sections which have been missed will be highlighted on the Summary screen. You will not be able to submit the application until these are completed.

How do I add an extra row to answer certain questions?

For some sections, you may need to add an extra row(s) to enable you to submit all of your information for review. To do this, please click the green button found below the answer. For example, to add another row to your Publication list, click the 'ADD ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS' button.

How do I delete an extra row from the answer to certain questions?

To delete a row, click on the 'X' to the right of the row.

How do I move between screens in the application?

You can move between different sections by clicking on the section-name in the panel on the left side of the screen. You can also click the NEXT SCREEN button at the end of each section.

Can I save my application and come back to it later?

Yes, you can by clicking on the SAVE AND EXIT button, found at the bottom of each screen.

What is a Supervisor?

Your **Supervisor** is responsible for guiding your studies and providing you with continuous support throughout each stage of your Summer Student Scholarship research project. Your Supervisor should (i) have experience in supervising students, (ii) be an expert in your subject area, (iii) hold regular supervisory meetings with you, (iv) provide feedback on your work and progress and (iv) offer advice and support throughout your research project.

Who can be a Supervisor?

Potential Supervisors must:

- Meet the eligibility criteria to be a primary supervisor, as set by the Applicant's proposed host Irish University
- Have applied for external funding (for PhD students or generally) in the previous two years
- Have a record of successful postgraduate supervision or be in the process of supervising and/or have availed of training on research supervision

What information does my Supervisor have to provide?

Your Supervisor must provide:

1. Their contact details
2. The number of PhD students they have supervised
3. Their five most relevant publications
4. Their five most relevant grants
5. An assessment of you, the applicant
6. Confirmation that the information they have provided is true and correct in the declaration section

What details should I provide on how I chose my Supervisor?

Your Supervisor will be a mentor, adviser and sources of support for you during your Summer Scholarship. As detailed above, your Supervisor should (i) have experience in supervising students, (ii) be an expert in your subject area, (iii) hold regular supervisory meetings with you, (iv) provide feedback on your work and progress and (iv) offer advice and support throughout your research project.

I do not have a plan for Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) in my research proposal; what should I do?

PPI is central to Breakthrough Cancer Research's activity, ensuring patient benefit is at the core of our efforts. We strongly encourage Researchers to include PPI in their research.

What should I include in my Impact Statement?

Impact statements should be written in lay, non-technical language, be as specific and comprehensive as possible and answer the following questions:

- Who will benefit from this research?
- How will they benefit from this research?

What costs are covered by the Scholarship?

- Student stipend
- Materials and consumables
- Travel
- Access charges may be sought for use of infrastructure where pre-approved access charge plans are in place (to be included in the Running Costs and Consumables section)

Can I request over-head costs?

No, over head-costs are not eligible for funding under this scheme.

What is the Summary Screen?

You will have two Summary Screens. The first Summary Screen brings together the answers to all sections of the application form, which you have completed. The Second Summary Screen brings

together the answers to all sections of the application form, which your Supervisor and Academic Referee have completed. Any mandatory questions not answered are highlighted on the Summary Screen.

How do I submit my full application once I have completed it?

Click on the VALIDATE AND SEND button, found at the end of the Summary screen. Please note, you will have two Summary screens – one for the part of the application form you completed (Part I) and one for the part of the application form your Supervisor and Referee completed (Part II). You must submit both parts of the form separately.

What happens after I submit my full application?

We review and content-check the applications we receive to ensure all the information necessary for your application to be reviewed has been provided. If we have any questions we will be in touch. Your application will be panel-reviewed and you will be informed of Breakthrough's decision in due course.

How do I know if my application was received?

You will receive a confirmation email upon receipt of your application; it can take up to ten minutes to arrive in your Inbox and may arrive in your Spam folder so please check both.