



Musgrave

Cancer Research PhD Scholarship

*In Partnership with*

Breakthrough Cancer Research

## Call for Submission of Applications

### KEY DATES

Scholarship announcement	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
Informal inquiries deadline	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Submission of applications deadline	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023 13:00 (Irish time)
Submission of references deadline	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 13.00 (Irish time)
Interviews (Zoom may be used)	End of May/early June 2023
Scholarship commences	September/October 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 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 partnership to fund world class cancer research in Ireland, while educating the next generation of cancer research leaders. Funding for two **3 or 4 year PhD Scholarships** will be provided, to take place at any University in Ireland currently engaged in cancer research. The Scholarships are open to researchers in Clinical, Biological, Epidemiological or Public Health fields, as long as they are patient focused and with the ultimate aim of improving cancer care and increasing survival. Applications will be limited to those focused on pancreatic, oesophageal, ovarian, lung, brain, liver or gastric cancer only.

## 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 improved 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 (see our [strategy and priorities](#))
- 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 (see [our current and recently funded research projects](#))

Breakthrough Cancer Research is grateful and proud to have been the main beneficiary of the (staff led) **Musgrave Triathlon** for a number of years and, since 2018, the two organisations have partnered to use donated funds for a PhD scholarship. Applicants from anywhere in Ireland are 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 and 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 the 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*.

## 2.2 Scholarship Details

The Musgrave Cancer Research Scholarship is for students starting their PhD in September/October 2023 and is fully funded for **three or four years**, with a stipend of up to €18,500 p.a. plus fees and up to €15,000 in consumables p.a., 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 applicants to the Musgrave Cancer Research Scholarship call must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- 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.
- If you are successful in obtaining either full or partial funding for your PhD, from Breakthrough or any other funding body, during this application and review process, you are not eligible for this Scholarship.
- You must inform Breakthrough if you are successful in securing funding for your PhD from another funding body.
- 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 in** direct costs for a period of **three or four 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 Application process

- Applications must be submitted on our [Grant Management system](#)

## 2.7 Proposal Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

- Applications will not be assessed if they are incomplete. On the Grant Management system you must submit (i) a completed application form and (ii) a completed Supervisor form (and Co-Supervisor form, where applicable) by the submission deadline of the **1<sup>st</sup> of March 2023, 13.00 (Irish time)** and (iii) two completed Academic Reference forms by the submission deadline of the **8<sup>th</sup> of March 2023, 13.00 (Irish time)**.
- Completed applications will be assessed by a panel of peer reviewers.
- The panel will consist of at least three reviewers with (i) experience of similar review processes and (ii) backgrounds relevant 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 followed by questions from the panel.

**Breakthrough and Musgrave reserve 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 (8<sup>th</sup> of December 2022) and the deadline for informal inquiries (24<sup>th</sup> of February 2023) you can contact the office at [research@breakcancer.ie](mailto:research@breakcancer.ie) for more information.

### 3.2 Submission

Completed applications must be submitted by the **1<sup>st</sup> of March 2023, 13:00 (Irish Time)** and completed academic references must be submitted by the **8<sup>th</sup> of March 2023, 13.00 (Irish time)** on the Grant Management system.

### 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 fees and stipend, equipment, materials and consumables and travel. 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 or four years.

- **Equipment**

As Scholarship applicants will have access to laboratory space and standard equipment within their host university, it is not expected that they 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](#). The applicant must understand acceptance of these terms and conditions will be required before funding is provided.

### 3.8 Deadlines

Applicants must submit their application on the Grant Management system by the **1<sup>st</sup> of March 2023, 13:00 (Irish Time)**. **Applications cannot be submitted after this deadline**. Applicants must submit their academic references on the Grant Management system by the **8<sup>th</sup> of March 2023, 13.00 (Irish time)**.

## **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](mailto:research@breakcancer.ie)