



**RCSI** FACULTY OF  
NURSING & MIDWIFERY

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# PHD AND PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

RCSI UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES



Established in 1974, the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery RCSI (the Faculty) plays a pivotal role in leading and supporting the development of the nursing and midwifery professions nationally. We do this through the delivery of transformative learning experiences, impactful research in the areas of professional development and supporting the contribution of nurses and midwives to health, social care and societal well-being.

We believe that nurses and midwives are central to the achievement of national and global health targets (WHO 2020) and the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Nurses and midwives can do more to advance services and expand their practice, but to do so, they must be supported and invested in. The State of the World Nursing Report (WHO, 2020) identified that the shortage of nurses and midwives prepared to Doctorate level impacts on the ability of the professions to conduct the research needed to develop evidence informed practice.

I am delighted to announce that Faculty, in partnership with the School of Postgraduate Studies, are launching a PhD and Professional Doctorate Scholarship Award. This award will enable nurses and midwives to undertake research in areas that will inform and shape the future of healthcare provision and societal wellbeing.

The Award is open to all Fellows and Members of the Faculty. Each scholarship is to the maximum value of €12,000 per year for a maximum of five years full time study or pro-rata for up to seven years of part-time study. Applications from Fellows and Members with approved or pre-approved research project plans and potential supervisors are particularly welcome, as too are research projects addressing WHO health priorities or UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We look forward to reviewing your application and supporting your journey towards a doctoral degree.

*Dr Mary Boyd  
Dean, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery*



## PURPOSE OF THE PHD AND PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The purpose of the PhD and Professional Doctorate Scholarship Award is to:

- Promote high quality, innovative research in line with the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery RCSI strategic objectives
- Enhance the research competence and capacity of nurses and midwives
- Enhance the contribution of nursing and midwifery research to healthcare and societal well-being
- Contribute to the number of nurses and midwives educated to PhD and Professional Doctorate level within the professions
- Strengthen the link between the Faculty, RCSI Academic Schools, and the health service
- Co-develop research ideas with health service partners
- Produce high quality research outputs that impact nurses and midwives, patients and wider society

## ELIGIBILITY AND SCOPE

The PhD and Professional Doctorate Scholarship Award is open to all Fellows and Members of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery. Fellows and Members must be in good-standing at the time of their application, and if successful, must remain in good-standing for the duration of their scholarship. Only one application per Fellow / Member is permitted per PhD and Professional Doctorate Scholarship Award cycle and applicants who are unsuccessful in one year can reapply if desired during subsequent award cycles.

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Each application must provide evidence of an actual or potential research study that demonstrates:

- An evidence informed and needs based rationale for the research
- Relevance and alignment of the initiative with Ireland's current health policy and policies for nursing and midwifery, the Faculty's strategic goals, WHO health priorities and / or the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- How the research is being / will be conducted
- Potential impact of the research and contribution to knowledge / practice
- Information and preliminary costings on how the scholarship will be spent in the development / implementation of the research and dissemination of the findings
- Agreement to be supervised or co-supervised by the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery Executive team in addition to an academic supervisor from the chosen RCSI School
- Achievement of the RCSI English language requirements, where the applicants' first language is not English
- A publishing strategy to include information on target conferences and target journals to publish and disseminate findings

## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Continual funding will be dependent upon successful progression each year
- Supervisory arrangements must comply with RCSI Research Code of Practice and the Postgraduate Regulations. A member of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery Executive will form part of the supervisory panel for each award made in addition to an academic supervisor from the chosen RCSI School
- The Board of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery will review and consider offering the PhD and Professional Doctorate Scholarship Award on an annual basis depending on uptake, finances, and strategic priorities
- Successful applicants will be invited to display a poster outlining their proposed research at the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery Annual International Education and Research Conference in Year 1 and present findings from their PhD or Professional Doctorate in Year 2 and 3 of registration
- It is the responsibility of successful applicants to gain admission to their chosen programme of study within RCSI commencing in the following academic year
- PhD and Professional Doctorate Scholarships are awarded on the veracity of the information provided. The Faculty reserves the right to withhold payment of the award and to seek compensation for any funds provided if it is subsequently discovered that the information provided in the application form was false or misleading. The Faculty also reserves the right to withdraw funding in the event of a scholar securing a national scholarship

## PHD AND PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES WILL BE REQUIRED TO:

- Determine the cost of their chosen programme of study and to self-fund any deficit or additional years of study that fall outside of the annual funding allowance or years of funding. This includes applying separately to the Irish Research Council for further funding to cover the cost of the stipend in the case of full-time studies
- Consent to the use of their name, image, and details of their PhD or Professional Doctorate in Faculty publications and marketing material
- Furnish the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery with a copy of the annual progress report until completion of the research for Faculty oversight
- Showcase their research with the Faculty, particularly at the Faculty's Annual International Conference, Annual Report, Fellows, Members and Friends' Events and at other relevant fora. Applicants must commit to showcasing their research at a national conference within the first two years of study and an international conference within the first four years of study. Applicants must also commit to publishing papers in high-quality, peer reviewed journals
- Provide the Faculty with any requested receipt, invoice etc. for the purpose of disbursing the award
- Acknowledge the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery PhD and Professional Doctorate Scholarship Award and co-authorship of the Faculty in all outputs (such as presentations or publications) relating to the award
- Register as an alternatively funded scholar with the Structured Population Health, Policy, and Health-services Research Education (SPHeRE) programme

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Further details on the application process are available at  
<https://www.rcsi.com/dublin/about/faculty-of-nursing-and-midwifery>