



GMIT

INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA NA GAILLIMHE-MAIGH EO
GALWAY-MAYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

2017 Call for Applications and Guidelines:

GMIT Research and Innovation Strategic Endowment (RISE)



Allergan™

Allergan/GMIT Innovation Awards



**Ireland Smart Ageing Exchange/
GMIT Innovation Award**

Issued by the GMIT Research Office

Please read these guidelines carefully prior to application

2017 Call for Applications and Guidelines
GMIT RISE Scholarships; Allergan/GMIT and ISAX/GMIT Innovation Awards

1. Purpose

Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology undertakes innovative, applied research to develop the education of our students and to enhance the economic, social and cultural life of our region. GMIT's programme of Research and Innovation Strategic Endowments (RISE) and collaborative industry awards aims to extend research capacity beyond the Institute's established strength in Marine and Freshwater Research, and in Medical Engineering Technologies. The 2017 scholarship programme will achieve these goals by stimulating and enhancing cooperation with industry, agencies and non-governmental groups outside GMIT. The Scholarships provide opportunities to excellent students, nationally and internationally, to work with GMIT's leading and aspiring researchers. Investment in RISE and co-investment in collaborative industry awards are key elements of GMIT's strategy to grow research excellence and impact, and to further enhance our dynamic research environment.

2. Scholarship available in 2017

GMIT's 2017 scholarship call invites postgraduate research degree proposals that will commence in the 2017/2018 academic year. The 2017 programme will support Master's degree scholarships in three categories.

2.1. Research and Innovation Strategic Endowment (RISE) Scholarships

GMIT's 2017 RISE programme will support Master's degrees by research in any discipline where GMIT has Programme Approval or Delegated Awarding Authority from Quality and Qualifications Ireland:

- Humanities and Creative Arts, including:
 - Heritage Studies,
 - Tourism,
 - History of Arts, and,
 - Religious Studies;
- Mechanical Engineering;
- Environmental Engineering;
- Science and Computing, including all areas aligned to GMIT's programme expertise, i.e.:
 - Applied Biology and Biopharmaceutical Science;
 - Chemical and Pharmaceutical Science;
 - Forensic Science and Analysis;
 - Medical Science;
 - Physics and Instrumentation;
 - Public Health Nutrition;
 - Sport and Exercise Science;
 - Information Technology (incl.: Computing & Digital Media; Software Development; Computing in Software Development; &, Web Technologies & Programming);
 - Aquatic Science (incl. Applied Freshwater and Marine Biology).

Up to six Research and Innovation Strategic Endowment (RISE) Scholarships will be awarded in 2017. Successful applicants will receive:

- A student stipend (usually tax-exempt) valued at €18,000 paid over 18 months ¹;
- A waiver of postgraduate registration fees ²;
- Limited support for travel and consumables (€1,800 in total).

Awardees will be required to deliver 2 hours/week in teaching support, tutorial, and/or demonstrating duties.

¹ Stipend instalments of €1000 per month will be paid for a maximum of 18 months, and used to fund the living costs of the postgraduate research student.

² Fee waivers will be partial for non-EU candidates. See the General Conditions of the Awards for details.

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2.2. Allergan/GMIT Innovation Awards

The 2017 Allergan/GMIT Innovation Awards will support Masters degrees by research on specific topics, i.e.:

- Topic 1: Development of a family of eye phantoms to accelerate the design process of ophthalmic medical devices and assist ophthalmic surgery; and/or,
- Topic 2: The utilization of 3D Mass Spectral Imaging (MSI) to investigate the interactions of pharmaceutical products in dementia/Alzheimer sufferers; and/or,
- Topic 3: Enhancing absorption of peptide drugs via the buccal route of administration; using the TR146 cell culture model.

Details on each of these topics are available from the potential project supervisors: Topic 1: Dr Patrick Delassus (Patrick.Delassus@gmit.ie); Dr Philip White (Philip.White@gmit.ie); Topic 3: Dr Sheila Faherty (Sheila.Faherty@gmit.ie).

Allergan/GMIT Innovation Award Scholars will register under GMIT's Delegated Awarding Authority in:

- Mechanical Engineering (Topic 1); or,
- Science and Computing (Topics 2 & 3), within areas aligned to GMIT's expertise in:
 - Applied Biology and Biopharmaceutical Science;
 - Chemical and Pharmaceutical Science; or,
 - Medical Science.

Up to two Allergan/GMIT Innovation Awards will be made in 2017. Successful applicants will receive:

- A student stipend (usually tax-exempt) valued at €24,000 paid over 24 months³;
- A travel and consumables budget totalling €3,300 over 24 months;
- A waiver of postgraduate registration fees⁴;

Awardees will be required to deliver 2 hours/week in teaching support, tutorial, and/or demonstrating duties.

Applicants wishing to be considered for more than one Allergan/GMIT Innovation award topic must submit separate complete applications for each topic.

Applicants to the Allergan/GMIT Innovation Awards will not automatically be eligible for consideration for RISE Scholarships. Applicants wishing to also be considered for a RISE Scholarship must submit a separate complete application to the RISE programme.

2.3. Ireland Smart Ageing Exchange/GMIT Innovation Award

The 2017 Ireland Smart Ageing Exchange (ISAX)/GMIT Innovation Awards will support a Masters degree by research on a specific topic:

- Clinical Validation of METS, an Evidence Based Metabolic Health Platform for the Clinical Management of Obesity & Associated Metabolic Disorders in Ageing Adults.

Details on this topic are available from GMIT's Head of Department of Natural Sciences, Dr Lisa Ryan (lisa.ryan@gmit.ie).

³ Stipend instalments of €1000 per month will be paid for a maximum of 24 months, and used to fund the living costs of the postgraduate research student.

⁴ Fee waivers will be partial for non-EU candidates. See the General Conditions of the Awards for details.

⁵ Stipend instalments of €1000 per month will be paid for a maximum of 23 months, and used to fund the living costs of the postgraduate research student.

⁶ Fee waivers will be partial for non-EU candidates. See the General Conditions of the Awards for details.

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The Ireland Smart Ageing Exchange/GMIT Innovation Award Scholar will register under GMIT's Delegated Awarding Authority in Science and Computing (specifically within GMIT's expertise in Public Health Nutrition).

One Ireland Smart Ageing Exchange/GMIT Innovation Award will be made in 2017. The successful applicant will receive:

- A student stipend (usually tax-exempt) valued at €23,000 paid over 23 months ⁵;
- A travel and consumables budget totalling €1,800 over 24 months;
- A waiver of postgraduate registration fees ⁶;

Awardees will be required to deliver 2 hours/week in teaching support, tutorial, and/or demonstrating duties.

Applicants to the Ireland Smart Ageing Exchange/GMIT Innovation Award will not be automatically eligible for consideration for RISE Scholarships. Applicants wishing to be considered for a RISE Scholarship must submit a separate complete application to the RISE programme.

⁵Stipend instalments of €1000 per month will be paid for a maximum of 23 months, and used to fund the living costs of the postgraduate research student.

⁶Fee waivers will be partial for non-EU candidates. See the General Conditions of the Awards for details.

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3. Eligibility and Scope

- Support will be provided only to students that register in GMIT to pursue Masters degrees by research;
- Student candidates must have previously graduated, or be due to graduate in 2017, in a discipline relevant to the proposed research;
- The prerequisite academic qualification is a first or second class honours degree or qualifications and experience considered by the Institute as equivalent to this standard.
- All qualified student candidates, including EU and non-EU candidates, may apply;
- GMIT staff must be involved as primary supervisors, and may also be co-supervisors;
- Applications should be developed in partnership between the proposed supervisory panel, the student candidate, and external partners in industry, agencies or civil society.
- Preference will be given to proposals that deliver additional supports, and enhanced networking experiences for the student. Such enhancements could be achieved by:
 - Co-supervision by partners in industry, public sector/agencies, or civil society;
 - Co-supervision from a partner institution in the West North West Regional Cluster or Connacht Ulster Alliance (i.e.: NUIG, IT Sligo, Letterkenny IT);
 - Period(s) of professional practice/internship with external partner(s);
 - Provision of other supports by academic and external partners (e.g.: ancillary funding; access to data, facilities, expertise, etc.);
 - Capacity to convert/subvent/extend the scholarship with funding from other sources (e.g.: Enterprise Ireland Feasibility Studies, Innovation Vouchers, and Innovation Partnerships; Irish Research Council postgraduate awards);
 - Utilisation of collaborative funding to supplement the scholarships and/or fund fees, equipment, travel or consumables not provided by the RISE award.
- RISE applications involving industrial/agency, public sector or third sector partners will be encouraged to co-brand the Scholarship.
 - As, for example, the: “Museum of Country Life GMIT Scholarship”; “Information Technology Association of Galway GMIT Scholarship”; “Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland GMIT Scholarship”; “Irish Hotels Federation GMIT Scholarship”).

Applicants may consult with the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation regarding the suitability of potential external partners by e-mailing researchoffice@gmit.ie.

- Candidates who already hold a Master’s degree by research, or students currently in receipt of postgraduate research funding and registered as postgraduate research students are ineligible.
- Eligible ancillary expenditure includes:
 - Materials, Consumables;
 - Cost of small items of equipment;
 - Directly relevant travel.

All ancillary expenses must be justified within the application. Proposals that offset these costs through utilisation of external supports will be favoured in the evaluation.

- Expenses that occur outside the Scholarship period are ineligible.

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4. Method of Application / Closing Date

Applications for all awards must include the following information:

- Personal Details;
- Academic Qualifications, Transcripts and Results;
- Demonstration of Proficiency in the English language (if applicable);
- A Personal statement detailing the candidate's experience and ambition;
- Details of the proposed co-supervisory panel;
- A supporting statement by the principal academic supervisor;
- Signed endorsement of the candidate and co-supervisors.

Applications for RISE Scholarships must also include:

- A Project Proposal.

Applications must be submitted on the relevant application form provided.

Application forms must be completed in a font size \geq 11 point, digitally signed, and emailed as a single Word or PDF file containing all elements by:

9am (GMT) Tuesday 6th June 2017 to researchoffice@gmit.ie

Applications received after the closing deadline will not be evaluated.

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5. Assessment

Assessment Panel:

A gender-balanced assessment panel will comprise:

- The GMIT Vice President for Research and Innovation (Chair);
- Two co-opted academic staff active in research (1 GMIT, 1 external);
- Two co-opted external non-academic members.

Evaluation:

Incomplete proposal submissions will not be evaluated. Proposal submissions which exceed the specified page limits will not be evaluated. The specified page limits exclude required appendices: i.e.: Academic transcripts, Proof of English language proficiency, and Co-supervisor CVs (CVs should be brief).

RISE Scholarship applications will be evaluated under four criteria:

i.	Academic Qualifications	(Maximum 15 marks)
	H1.1	11-15 Marks
	H2.1	6-10 Marks
	H2.2 ⁷	0-5 Marks
ii.	Personal Statement	(Maximum 35 marks)
	Experience to date	5 Marks
	Ambitions	10 Marks
	Presentation and Interview ⁸	20 Marks
iii.	Project Proposal	(Maximum 25 marks)
iv.	Supervisor's report	(Maximum 25 marks)
		(Maximum 100 marks)

Allergan/GMIT and ISAX/GMIT Innovation Award applications will be evaluated under three criteria:

i.	Academic Qualifications	(Maximum 15 marks)
	H1.1	11-15 Marks
	H2.1	6-10 Marks
	H2.2 ⁹	0-5 Marks
ii.	Personal Statement	(Maximum 35 marks)
	Experience to date	5 Marks
	Ambitions	10 Marks
	Presentation and Interview ¹⁰	20 Marks
iii.	Supervisor's report	(Maximum 25 marks)
		(Maximum 75 marks)

⁷ Minimum Postgraduate Entry Requirement is a Level 8 Honours Degree, Class 2, Grade 2.

⁸ Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed and asked to present on their research topic. It is likely that interviews will take place in the week commencing Monday 19th June 2017.

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General Conditions of the Awards

- The Institute may propose revisions to proposals. Applicants may also be requested to submit additional documentation in support of their scholarship application.
- This document should be read in conjunction with GMIT's Academic Codes of Practice and Conduct (available at www.gmit.ie/general/quality-assurance-framework). The general conditions of these Codes will apply to the scholarships. Application for a RISE Scholarship will indicate confirmation that the candidate has read and understood these documents.
- Projects should commence as soon as practicable following notification of scholarship support. Commencement will require successful application to enter GMIT's postgraduate register (including any required ethical approval). This is a separate process, and must be completed within three months of notification the scholarship award.
- Candidates must register as full-time students of the Institute, with regular attendance. Recipients will not become employees of the Institute.
- Scholarships may not be deferred or suspended, other than for eligible career breaks (i.e.: maternity leave, paternity leave, adoptive leave, prolonged sick leave, carer's leave). Provision of documented evidence of an eligible career break will be required if a deferral or suspension is requested.
- Should a Scholar be unable for any reason (including medical reasons) to pursue his/her project in accordance with these Conditions, the Scholar and Principal Academic Supervisor must as soon as possible, inform the GMIT Research Office. The Scholar must do this no later than two weeks of such a situation coming to her/his attention. The Institute reserves the right to withdraw or suspend the Scholarship in such circumstances.
- If the registration of the student is suspended for whatever reason, the scholarship and any other associated allowances, will be suspended for the same period (subject to GMIT's regulations and procedures).
- The Scholarship may be withdrawn if a research student is removed from the Institute following an instance of plagiarism, academic misconduct, or other misconduct. It may also be withdrawn if the research student's academic performance, or performance of other duties (as specified in the Codes of Practice and Conduct) are not satisfactory, as identified in the progress reporting process.
- The Institute recognises that for personal, professional or other reasons a Scholar may wish to terminate her/his Scholarship prematurely. This action should not be taken without prior consultation with the Institute.
- Where a Scholar intends to prematurely terminate the Scholarship, the Institute will require evidence of academic progress to the date of departure. In the event that the Institute deems the Scholar's progress inadequate, the Institute may pursue the Scholar for reimbursement of the amounts expended.
- If the student withdraws from their academic programme, their Scholarship will cease.
- The period of notice to terminate the Scholarship prematurely is one calendar month, in writing, by either side.
- The Institute reserves the right to suspend or terminate the Scholarship and/or require reimbursement by the recipients of the fund of some or all payments as have already been made to the Scholar if in the opinion of the Institute there has been a material breach of the Conditions of the Award.
- Interim and Final Progress Reports (setting out financial details, outcomes and milestones achieved) must be submitted within the schedule of the project identifying key indicators of value for research funding. It will be the responsibility of the Scholar to ensure that all progress reports are submitted on time. The timely submission of these reports is a condition of the continuation of the Scholarship.
- Co-supervisors participating in the scheme must accept all the normal duties and responsibilities associated with Research and Development contracts.
- Scholars and their academic supervisors will undertake training to support their research as specified by GMIT's Academic Council Research Sub-committee.
- Teaching support, tutoring, and/or demonstrating activities are a valuable addition to a research scholar's career, and critical to structuring and disseminating knowledge. RISE and Innovation Award scholars will undertake such duties for 2 hours per week, as agreed with their Head of Department. Payment for any such duties in excess of 2 hours per week will be at rates agreed by GMIT's Human Resources Department.

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- Principal supervisors and co-supervisors should make clear in project proposals if they plan to take leave of absence from the Institute for any period greater than one month during the course of the proposed research. In addition to public holidays, research students may take up to 4 weeks leave per year, at times agreed with their supervisory panel.
- All intellectual property arising from the research undertaken shall become the property of the Institute.
- All proposed publicity or publications arising from the research work must have the approval of the supervisors prior to publication. In addition, Innovation Award scholars must obtain the written approval of their industry co-sponsor (i.e. Allergan or ISAX, as relevant to their award) prior to any publicity or publication.
- All publicity, including public lectures, interviews, publications, online materials, press releases, television and radio appearances, websites, film, video and audio recordings associated with or arising from the research undertaken by the Scholar while in receipt of a RISE or Innovation Award Scholarship must acknowledge the funding received from the Institute. Print, online or visual publications must include the GMIT logo and those of any co-funders.
- Scholars must report on all publicity or achievements within their progress reports. Scholars must also notify the Institute in advance of their participation in any significant events, including receipt of an award, public dissemination of the Scholar's research, or media coverage of same. Advance notification should be made by emailing researchoffice@gmit.ie.
- Should a RISE or Innovation Award scholar be awarded an alternative stipend during the life of their scholarship, all or part of their scholarship may be withdrawn. Their scholarship may however be held in conjunction with other externally funded travel bursaries or equipment grants.
- Students will normally be responsible for preparing the graphics, typing, copying and binding of their own theses.
- Fee waivers will apply only to the fees normally charged for EU candidates. Non-EU candidates will thus remain liable for the difference between GMIT's international postgraduate fees and those usually charged for EU candidates (see GMIT's fee schedule for the fee values: www.gmit.ie/general/fees).
- Scholars who submit their thesis for examination before the specified end of the Scholarship term must inform the Institute of this and immediately cease drawing any remaining funds from their Scholarship fund.
- Candidates who do not submit their thesis for examination before the end of their Scholarship award period will be required to pay fees to continue their registration until they submit (see GMIT's fee schedule for the fee values: www.gmit.ie/general/fees).
- Tax issues that may arise from the Scholarship are of concern to the individual research student, and not the Institute. Candidates should refer to the Office of the Revenue Commissioners in order to confirm the tax exemption status of her/his Scholarship.
- While the Scholarship award is made to the individual Scholar, the Scholarship Fund will be administered through the appropriate offices within GMIT.
- These General Conditions will be governed by and construed in accordance with the Laws of Ireland and all parties will expressly and irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of the Irish Courts.
- The Institute reserves the right to revise the Terms and Conditions of the Scholarships. Any such revisions will be notified to RISE or Innovation Award scholars and their supervisory panels.