



Thomas Preston Scholarship Guidelines.

The UCD School of Physics has worked with its alumni to create a fund to support research and scholarship in fundamental physics at the PhD level. The School currently has about 55 PhD students and is offering two scholarships in this call. The Thomas Preston PhD Scholarships support students and supervisors to undertake projects in fundamental, non-oriented Physics.

The value of the scholarship is €24,000 per year for 4 years *plus* fees. This includes €18,000 towards a student stipend, €6,000 towards research costs each year and full fees (EU or non-EU) through the School's fee scholarship system. The student will be expected to carry a teaching load each year in the school (currently, based on the allocation model in the school, the annual amount of teaching is 60 hours in lab with no grading, or 30 hours in lab with grading, or 20 hours in tutorial with grading). The scholarship will last for 4 years maximum. The students will be bound by the School of Physics Research Student Guidelines during their PhD. The PhD programme has three start dates, in early January, May or September each year.

Application process: A prospective student will approach a supervisor to discuss a project as described on the list available on the School website. It is advisable to do this at the earliest possible date. They will make the application together in consultation with their proposed supervisor, and each supervisor may be named on at most two applications, each for a different project. Each student should submit only one application. Applications will be made via the UCD online applications system and the evaluation of the assessment panel will be final. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Students should submit a CV, personal statement and research plan to include the headings listed below:

The evaluation will be strongly based on the student, their CV, their personal statement and their description of the proposed research project. The proposals and references will be written in a way that is gender neutral. The following criteria will be used by the judges to assess the applications:

1. 60% APPLICANT, including:

- Track record and research potential of the applicant

- Personal statement – why this project?
- Match between applicant's profile and the proposed research project
- 3 academic references
- Experience indicating ability to be an effective tutor/demonstrator

2. 20% PROJECT, including:

- Quality of the proposed research design and methodologies, feasibility of the proposed milestones, deliverables and contingency plans
- Consideration as to how the proposed research will advance beyond existing knowledge
- Plans for dissemination and knowledge exchange of the proposed research

3. 20% TRAINING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL, including:

- Clarity and quality of training and career development plan
- Capacity to acquire new knowledge and skills
- Evidence of thought as to how the scholarship would impact on the applicant's career path

Terms and conditions:

Aims:

The aim of the Thomas Preston PhD Scholarships is to support suitably-qualified doctoral candidates (2 in this call) intending to pursue full-time research in fundamental physics.

Duration:

The scholarship will last for 4 years maximum.

Host institution:

The students will be hosted in the UCD School of Physics, and their eligibility for the programme is as described in the School of Physics documentation. Students will be bound by the School of Physics Research Student Guidelines during their PhD.

See <http://www.ucd.ie/physics/study/graduatestudents/graduateschoolpolicy/>

Applicants:

Applicants will have a first-class or upper second-class honours degree in Physics or a branch of Physics by the time they take up the Scholarship. An MSc may also qualify a candidate for the Scholarship.

Applications must be made using the 2018 Thomas Preston Application Form, submitted as a single pdf, accompanied by transcripts of the degrees currently held by the applicants. Where the candidate has not completed their degree, they must submit a transcript detailing their academic performance to date and give an indication of their expected degree.

Scholarship structure:

The scholarship comprises the following:

1. A stipend of €18,000 per annum.
2. Full PhD fees at UCD, either EU or non-EU.
3. Direct research expenses of €6,000 per annum, to support the research project undertaken, subject to the agreement of their supervisor.

Expenses that occur outside the funding term are not eligible for support.

Location of Scholarship:

The scholars must be registered and primarily located in the UCD School of Physics. Travel as necessitated by the research project may not account for greater than 2 years in the 4 years of the scholarship.

Additional duties as part of the scholarship:

The scholar will be required to submit an annual progress report, within 2 months of the end of each year of the scholarship.

The scholar may be required to report in person to the annual meeting of the UCD Physics alumni, named as the "Physics50" series.

Intellectual property:

Intellectual property (IP) developed as part of the research conducted during the scholarship period will be subject to the UCD IP policies in place during the scholarship period.

Publication and dissemination of research:

Where possible, the scholars will publish in open-access journals and repositories.

Acknowledgement of Thomas Preston Scholarship support:

All proposed publications arising from the research project must have the approval of the academic supervisor prior to publication.

All publicity, including interviews, email signatures, letterheads, office signs, public lectures, publications, monographs, print materials, online materials, press releases, television and radio advertisements, websites, film, and video/audio recordings associated with or arising from the research undertaken by the scholar while in receipt of a Thomas Preston scholarship must contain acknowledgement of funding received from the Thomas Preston PhD Scholarship Fund.

Review of progress:

The scholar will be required to submit a comprehensive annual progress and financial report.

It will be the responsibility of the scholar to make sure that all progress reports are submitted on time. The timely submission of these reports is a condition of the continuation of the scholarship. Failure to supply these progress reports to the School of Physics will result in payment of the scholarship being suspended until such a time as they are received.

These reports must be accompanied by a confidential evaluation of the progress of the scholarship from the scholar and the academic supervisor.

Reports will be requested by the School of Physics and submitted by the scholar and academic supervisor through the online system.

Such reports, combined with other evidence of attainment such as formal institutional approval, are a condition of continuation of funding.

If the scholar submits an unsatisfactory progress report, the scholar will be asked to resubmit an amended report. The School of Physics reserves the right to convene a review committee to evaluate the scholarship in accordance with the deliverables outlined in the original proposal, including the research plan, proposed outputs and the training and career development plan.

Parental and Compassionate Leave Policy:

Scholars wishing to take parental or compassionate leave will be entitled to request in writing a suspension of their award for a period of up to one year. Once approved, the scholarship will be suspended for the period of leave requested and a new award end date will be calculated. The School of Physics must be informed, in writing, of the expected commencement date of parental leave at least four weeks in advance. Scholars should contact the Department of Social Protection directly to enquire if they are entitled to maternity benefits. No financial support is available from the School of Physics to the scholar whilst on parental or compassionate leave.

Termination of Scholarship:

Should a scholar be unable for any reason, including medical reasons, to pursue their project in accordance with these Terms and Conditions, the scholar and academic supervisor must inform the School of Physics. The scholar must do this no later than two weeks of such a situation coming to their attention, using the appropriate graduate school forms.

The School of Physics recognises that for personal, professional or other reasons a scholar may wish to terminate their scholarship prematurely. This action should not be taken without prior consultation with the School.

Where the scholar intends to prematurely terminate the scholarship, the School of Physics will require evidence of academic progress to the date of departure. In the event that the School of Physics deems the scholar's progress inadequate, the School of Physics may pursue the scholar for reimbursement of the amounts expended.

If the scholar terminates a scholarship, the School of Physics is not responsible for continuing to pay funds to the scholar.

The School of Physics reserves the right to suspend or terminate the scholarship if, in the opinion of the School of Physics, there has been a material breach of the Terms and Conditions as outlined in this document.

