



Graduate Scholarships: Ad Astra Studentship Award

Terms and Conditions, 2024 Starting Cohort

1. The overall aim of the UCD Ad Astra Studentship Award (granted under the Ad Astra Fellowship of James O'Mahony) is to attract applicants of the highest academic standards to participate in the UCD School of Economics (SoE) MLitt/PhD programme or the UCD School of Population Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (SPHPSS) PhD programme and provide them with the training, experience, and mentorship necessary to their professional development. Successful applicants should be full-time MLitt/PhD students who will be expected to be available to study and research on campus during academic terms.
2. Ad Astra Studentship Awards will comprise a tax-free annual stipend of €22,000 payable in twelve equal monthly instalments plus a remission of the fee of the programme to which they are registered. The candidate will not be liable for the Student Centre Levy.
3. The applications are open to any new or continuing PhD students to the PhD in Economics and any graduate student from SPHPSS.
4. The Award will be awarded for up to 4 years, with annual reviews of progress. Continuation of the Studentship Award is contingent on satisfactory progress, to be determined by either school's PhD Studies Committee. The Studentship Award will terminate on any student's withdrawal from their programme.
5. To progress from the MLitt to the PhD phase, students placed within the SoE need to pass each of the six PhD modules (Microeconomics I & II, Macroeconomics I & II, Econometrics I & II) and achieve a grade point average of at least 3.4 across these modules. If the grades from the first term of the MLitt are such that an average of 3.4 overall is not attainable, the scholarship will be terminated after the first term. If at the end of the MLitt phase the student does not fulfil the requirements to progress to the PhD phase, the scholarship will be terminated at the end of the academic year of the MLitt phase.
6. Awarded students will be required to provide a general progress report on research and teaching at the conclusion of each academic year.
7. Applications will be accepted from suitably qualified applicants regardless of nationality or residence. Applicants, however, must make their own visa/consular arrangements to ensure that they are eligible to reside in Ireland for the duration of their studies. Applicants are **STRONGLY** advised to make any visa application as early as possible because this process may be time consuming and failure to obtain a visa in time for the commencement of the academic year will likely necessitate cancellation of the award. Applicants must also provide evidence of the capacity to teach at graduate level through the medium of English.
8. In order to be considered, applicants placed within the SoE must complete the appropriate application form, and must also have completed an application for admission to MLitt programme of the UCD School of Economics (W115). They must include the relevant supporting materials. A provisional offer of a Studentship Award may be subject to specified conditions, which will be stated in the admissions letter. Applicants wishing to be placed within the SPHPSS will need to accord with the school's procedures.
9. Successful applicants must be present at UCD by the start of the Autumn semester 2024.
10. Once studentship awards are issued, students must indicate acceptance in writing or by email within the time period specified in the acceptance letter. It is the student's responsibility to formally accept the award offer, a non-response will be considered as declining the offer. Offers will be conditional on verification of original transcripts.
11. Either school's PhD Studies Committee will review applications and make its recommendations on selection to the Head of School.

12. Applications will be evaluated and ranked by the Selection Board according to the following criteria:
 - Academic excellence (transcripts, previous research experience, etc.);
 - The academic testament of referees;
 - Quality and clarity of the research proposal;
 - Fit with the research strengths of the School;
 - Teaching potential (past teaching experience, English proficiency, etc.);
 - Availability of other funding to applicant (such as Irish Research Council awards).
13. The award is made on the basis of full-time engagement by the PhD student. Students should not take on other duties or work that will negatively impact their ability to commit to their research programme, other than demonstratorships or teaching assistantships which form part of their professional development.
14. Studentship Awards will be awarded only to those who are full-time students and who will engage full-time in coursework and research during the period of the Award. Applicants who wish to combine the Studentship Award with additional academic-year employment beyond the duties mentioned above must request permission in writing from the Selection Board. Applicants with additional academic-year employment who fail to request and obtain permission may face termination of the Award.
15. Continuation is conditional on annual progress reports to be reviewed by the either school's PhD Studies Committee and passing the Transfer Assessment as part of the structured PhD programme.
16. All Doctoral Ad Astra Studentship Award students are welcomed as part of the UCD research community and as such are expected to participate fully in the scholarly life of the School, inclusive of research seminars, conferences and other scholarly events.
17. Should a scholar be unable for any reason (including medical reasons) to pursue his/her studies in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the Studentship Award, he/she must inform the School (via his/her supervisor) within two weeks of such a situation coming to his/her attention. However, given the basis on which Studentship Awards are awarded, UCD reserves the right to withdraw, suspend, reallocate or seek reimbursement of all or part of the Studentship Award.
18. These Studentship Awards are held subject to these Terms and Conditions. If any of the above are breached by a Studentship Award holder, UCD School of Economics or School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science reserves the right to suspend or terminate the Studentship Award and/or will require the Scholar to reimburse UCD SoE/SPHPSS for such payments as have already been made.
19. Successful applicants may be required to sign a form of consent under the Data Protection Act 1988 in relation to data records concerning their registration status and academic record as well as the handling of student and other data.
20. Studentship Award holders must be available to assist in the promotion of graduate studies at UCD recruitment events and within associated activities at School, College, and University levels.
21. It is not permissible to hold this studentship alongside an external award for the same student. However, the recipient of the Studentship Award is encouraged to apply for the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme by the Irish Research Council (IRC). If they secure an IRC or equivalent individual award, the studentship can be replaced by a top-up stipend of €5K and a top-up (if necessary) to the appropriate level of consumables costs.
22. If a recipient receives funding from outside the School or the Studentship Award, this information has to be disclosed to the Graduate Director. The School and grant holder reserve the right to reduce the Studentship Award amount if a student receives funding from elsewhere.
23. All publicity, including public lectures, publications, print materials and press releases, television and radio advertisements, websites, film, video and audio recordings associated with or arising from the research undertaken by a Scholar while in receipt of a Scholarship must contain acknowledgment of funding received.
24. UCD SoE and SPHPSS reserve the right to revise the Terms and Conditions of this scheme at any time.
25. Scholarship holders will be subject to the general regulations, policies, and codes of practice of the university, and the specific regulations, policies and codes of practice governing graduate studies and research, as may be amended from time to time by the university.