

**Education and Health Sciences (EHS) Equality & Diversity Committee EU PhD Fee Waiver Competition**

**June 2021**

1. **Introduction:**

The Faculty of Education and Health Sciences (EHS) Equality & Diversity Committee invites applications for a PhD fee waiver through the EHS sPhD programme\*. The proposed project must address **the theme of Equality & Diversity** and should contribute to one or more of the following EHS priority research areas:

* Optimising Health
* Physical Activity and Human Performance
* Professional Practice & Education
* Social Inclusion

The Award will be made on a competitive basis by the EHS Equality & Diversity Committee in support of a new full-time doctoral student (i.e., beginning year 1 of study) to the EHS sPhD programme\* who has no significant source of funding for fees.

*\*Given that the sPhD model is becoming the default model of PhD study, fee waiver will be prioritized for sPhD candidates.*

**2. Eligibility:**

EHS fee waivers are allocated for one academic year, and will be renewed for up to three more years, subject to satisfactory academic progress being reported. In addition, students are required to attempt to secure other external sources of funding. Applications for postgraduate funding should be made to the Irish Research Council (IRC) but may also be made to other funding bodies. It should also be noted that EHS fee waivers do not cover applicants’ continuance fees and students are liable for these fees. In addition, applicants may be asked to present a 10-minute synopsis ‘Where you are at now?’ at the annual UL Research Week.

**3. Fee Waiver Application process:**

The application process is primarily based on the requirements of the annual IRC postgraduate competition with an additional component targeting the Equality & Diversity research theme and the EHS Research Priorities (named above). We expect that all applicants to the EHS competition will also apply to the IRC competition or similar. To avoid unnecessary duplication of effort, the EHS competition will involve completing an adapted version of the IRC application form.

Interested applicants are invited to submit an application by **5pm on** **Monday the 5th of July 2021** to [**aoife.neary@ul.ie**](mailto:aoife.neary@ul.ie) comprising the following documents:

1) Completed adapted version of the IRC application form (Appendix 1)

2) Description of how the proposed project fits with Equality & Diversity Theme and EHS Research Priorities (max 300 words, see Appendix 2 and 3)

3) One academic reference (this should not be provided by a potential supervisor)

4) Completed UL EU Fee Waiver Application form (Appendix 4)

**4. Fee Waiver Selection process:**

Applications will be assessed and scored by members of the EHS Equality & Diversity Committee under the selection criteria identified below. Further guidance is given in Appendix 5. After applications are scored, the EHS Equality & Diversity Committee members involved will meet and agree on a short list. The EHS Equality & Diversity Committee reserves the right to interview shortlisted applicants. Following this, the Committee will discuss the applications and agree the award of the fee waiver.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Evaluation Criteria** | **Weighting** |
| 1) Capability of the applicant | 30% |
| 2) Quality of research proposal | 30% |
| 3) Fit with Equality & Diversity Theme | 20% |
| 4) Fit with EHS Research Priorities | 10% |
| 5) Training and career development plan | 10% |

**5. Fee Waiver Renewal:**

The reporting mechanism for the renewal of a fee waiver requires (1) record of PGR9 form receipt from the Student Academic Administration office (SAA), and (2) evidence of attempting to secure other sources of funding. Documentary evidence confirming satisfactory academic progress and detailing efforts to gain alternative funding must be received by the Co-Chair of the EHS Equality & Diversity Committee before the anniversary of the award start date**,** so that renewal of the fee waiver can be considered. The PhD candidate will be responsible for submitting the required documentary evidence.

A reserve list of fee waiver awardees will be activated in the event that anyone awarded a fee waiver fails to accept the award within the stipulated time (to be determined).

**Appendix 1:**

**ADAPTED VERSION OF IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL PG APPLICATION FORM**

|  |
| --- |
| ***Project Title:***  ***Max 100 words*** |

1. **Applicant Details**

1.1

|  |
| --- |
| ***Title:***  Mr.  Mrs.  Ms. |

1.2

|  |
| --- |
| ***First Name:*** |

1.3

|  |
| --- |
| ***Last Name:*** |

1.4

|  |
| --- |
| ***Contact Address:*** |

1.5

|  |
| --- |
| ***Contact Number:*** |

1.6

|  |
| --- |
| ***Email Address:*** |

**3. Referee Details**

* *You must associate one referee with your application, not your named Academic Supervisor in the previous section.*

**Referee**

3.1

|  |
| --- |
| ***Organisation/Institution:*** |

3.2

|  |
| --- |
| ***Referee Name:*** |

3.3

|  |
| --- |
| ***Position:*** |

3.4

|  |
| --- |
| ***Email Address:*** |

1. **Academic Qualifications**
   1. **Undergraduate Qualifications – Bachelor’s Degree or Equivalent**

4.1.1

|  |
| --- |
| ***Institution Name:*** |

4.1.2

|  |
| --- |
| ***Country:*** |

4.1.3

|  |
| --- |
| ***Year registered from: Year registered to:*** |

4.1.4

|  |
| --- |
| ***Qualification Type & Name:*** |

4.1.5

|  |
| --- |
| ***Grade:*** |

4.1.6

|  |
| --- |
| ***Additional Information:***  ***(e.g. Project Title, Area of Study, etc.) Max 200 words*** |

* 1. **Postgraduate Qualifications**

**Master’s Degree Details (Taught or Research)**

4.2.1

|  |
| --- |
| ***Type:***    ***Taught***    ***Research*** |

4.2.2

|  |
| --- |
| ***Institution Name:*** |

4.2.3

|  |
| --- |
| ***Country:*** |

4.2.4

|  |
| --- |
| ***Date registered from: Date registered to:*** |

4.2.5

|  |
| --- |
| ***Qualification Type & Name:*** |

4.2.6

|  |
| --- |
| ***Grade:*** |

4.2.7

|  |
| --- |
| ***Additional Information:***  ***(e.g. Project Title, Area of Study, etc.) Max 200 words*** |

**Other Education**

4.3

|  |
| --- |
| ***Please include any additional information relevant to your academic background (e.g. training courses, please provide name, location and dates etc.).***  ***Max 200 words*** |

**Research Achievements**

4.4

|  |
| --- |
| *Please provide any additional information regarding your research achievements (e.g. publications to date, research awards achieved, creation of data sets & databases, conference papers, patents, excavations, public broadcasts, stage performances, creative writing (such as novels, poetry), creative productions, exhibitions, etc.)*  ***Max 250 words*** |

**Work Experience**

4.5

|  |
| --- |
| *Please include details of any relevant work experience (including voluntary work) to date. This should include employer names, job titles, nature of duties and responsibilities, as well as duration of employment.*  ***Max 200 words*** |

1. **Proposed Research**

5.1

|  |
| --- |
| ***Project Title:*** |

5.2

|  |
| --- |
| ***Keywords describing proposed research:***  ***(<5 words, <10 if interdisciplinary)*** |

5.3

|  |
| --- |
| ***Abstract.*** *Please bear in mind this could be read by non-specialists, as well as peers, and should be written to communicate with them effectively:*  ***Max 200 words*** |

5.4

|  |
| --- |
| ***Description of topic*** *to include, for example, aims, objectives and central research questions****:***  ***Max 200 words*** |

5.5

|  |
| --- |
| ***Methodology,*** *to include, for example, investigative and analytic methods and theoretical frameworks:*  ***Max 200 words*** |

5.6

|  |
| --- |
| ***Research Schedule*** *to include, for example, a schedule for the completion of tasks/phases of the project and efficient management and performance of research****:***  ***Max 200 words*** |

5.7

|  |
| --- |
| ***Description of the relationship of the project to existing research.*** *Suggest how the project will make a new contribution to knowledge. Do not provide bibliographical lists or footnotes here:*  ***Max 200 words*** |

5.8

|  |
| --- |
| ***Description of any specialist knowledge/data required to undertake the project*** *(e.g. language competence, technical skills, use of specialist software, etc.). Describe plans for acquiring this knowledge/data if it is not already in place. Describe how data required for this project will be / has been accessed*:  ***Max 200 words*** |

5.9

|  |
| --- |
| ***Please outline your reasons for choosing (i) the proposed Higher Education Institution, (ii)the proposed Academic Supervisor and (iii) the proposed Enterprise Partner and Enterprise Mentor (if relevant) for the project.***  ***Max 200 words*** |

5.10

|  |
| --- |
| ***Please provide details of any proposed research trips of more than 4 weeks duration which you believe will be / has been necessary:***  ***Max 200 words*** |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. **Career Training and Development Plan**

|  |
| --- |
| ***This Career Training and Development Plan should outline the following:***   * *Provide a description of plans for the acquisition of new specialist knowledge and skills, and generic knowledge and skills e.g. where appropriate include a reference to the Description of Specialist Knowledge section above.* * *In terms of career aspirations, what do you expect to do upon completion of the postgraduate degree?* * *How will the postgraduate degree assist you in achieving your goals?* * *Detail how the postgraduate degree will enhance your career in non-academic sectors.*   ***Max 200 words*** |

1. **Personal Statement**

* *The personal statement provides an opportunity for the applicant to highlight additional information that has not been provided elsewhere in the application. The topics outlined in following bullet points should be addressed:*

7.1

|  |
| --- |
| * *Why do you / did you wish to pursue a higher degree by research?* * *Why have you proposed / did you propose this research topic?* * *Why are you particularly suited for this research field?* * *Discuss any additional aspects which you feel will provide a better picture of your capability, including personal skills, motivation, interests etc.*   ***Max 200 words*** |

1. **Ethical Statement**

8.1

|  |
| --- |
| ***Does the research proposal outlined in this submission require approval by the relevant University/Institutional Ethics committee?***  Yes  No |

8.2

|  |
| --- |
| ***Where ethical issues may arise in the research, applicants are required to furnish a written statement to the effect that full consideration has been given to the ethical implications of the research proposal.***  ***If ethical issues do not arise, please enter N/A below:***  ***Max 300 words*** |

1. **Sex-gender dimension**

9.1

|  |
| --- |
| ***Does your proposed research programme involve any of the following?***   1. ***Humans as the research focus*** 2. ***Animals as the research focus*** 3. ***Human samples and/or data*** 4. ***Humans involved as consumers, users, patients, or in trials*** 5. ***Research on animals, animal samples and/or data*** 6. ***Research outputs with implications for end users or consumers***     Yes  No |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| 9.2   |  | | --- | | ***If you have answered NO, please explain why there is no potential sex-gender dimension to be considered in your proposed research.***  ***If you have answered YES, indicate how potential sex-gender issues will be handled.***  ***(max 300 words)*** | |
|  |
|  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Appendix 2: Equality & Diversity Theme**

The aim of the EHS Equality & Diversity Committee is to “actively promote and implement within EHS a culture that eliminates discrimination, celebrates diversity, promotes equality of opportunity, protects human rights and nurtures respect for one and all and in which people are valued and motivated to excel and achieve their full potential in a collegial and supportive environment”.

The following are the equality grounds and topics areas as articulated in the UL Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Strategy (2019-2022):

**Equality grounds as articulated in the UL Equality & Human Rights Strategy:**

Gender, Gender Identity and Gender Expression; Age; Socio-economic status; civil status; disability; ethnicity; family status; ‘race’; ethnicity, family status; national identity; sexual orientation; membership of the travelling community; neurodiversity; religion.

**Topics areas as articulated in the UL Equality & Human Rights Strategy:**

Governance; leadership; staff experience; educational experience; research experience; campus development; events, clubs and societies; public relations, marketing and communications; technology; procurement and budgeting.

**Appendix 3: Education and Health Sciences Research Priorities**

The four priorities described below represent EHS research strengths and specialization and provide an overview of the core foci of EHS research.

**Optimising healthcare**: In the context of “making knowledge work”, the focus of this theme is on improving patient outcomes through continued innovation-driven, value added research. The is multi-faceted but can be described as: developing inventories of service provision through audit, assessment of access and engagement with stakeholders; interrogation of dedicated databases regarding population health and illness; developing analytical insight in asset utilisation, facility and patient management to deliver evidence-based advances in processes, technologies and devices; interdisciplinary evaluation of public health; and engagement with population health promotion. In addition, there is a clear emphasis on efficiently and effectively translating scientific discoveries into practical benefit for patients and, more broadly, for society. Designing and evaluating innovative evidence-based rehabilitation interventions is central to this theme. Rigorous methodological approaches are applied to programme design, implementation, evaluation and service delivery in order to optimise client outcomes. This theme includes the identification and prevention of risk factors; accurate diagnosis, assessment and treatment; and addressing the scope of client rehabilitation and management.

**Physical activity & human performance:** EHS has a thriving research community in physical activity, food for health and health and in human performance. This includes the use of physical activity in order to improve health, of wellbeing, activity and participation across the life course. Research included in this theme examines the relationship between sedentary behaviour, physical activity, diet and health across the lifespan. Physical activity in people with musculoskeletal conditions, chronic pain, inflammatory arthritis, neurological conditions (for example Multiple Sclerosis, Stroke and Parkinson’s disease) is another important area of research, as well as human performance in sport, and the biomechanics, physiology and psychology of human performance. This theme includes the use of a range of technologies to screen, monitor, and inform users (therapists, researchers and clients) regarding levels of physical activity, and bio-psychosocial models are used to explain the correlates and determinants of physical activity in the different populations. This information underpins the design and evaluation of interventions and exercise programmes to optimise physical activity.

**Professional practice and education:** Professional practice and education underpin the faculty of Education and Health Sciences programmes and have critical relevance to the Education and Health sectors within Ireland and internationally. Teachers’ professional practice is typified by a commitment to catering for the needs of an increasing diverse group of learners, the utilisation of evidence-based pedagogies and professional collaboration with all education partners (both within the school and the wider community). Within this context there has been an increase in research focusing on innovations in teaching, learning and assessment and the broader professional context in which teachers work. This theme aims to further develop this understanding and explore its relevance to initial and continuing teacher education. The provision of health care is highly dependent on practitioners who provide the services, whether they are students or therapists, as well as the context within which these services are provided. There is an increase in research activity relating to the provision of such care, including the education of students and practitioners; the historical context of practice; clinical decision-making and the use of evidence based practice. The studies in this theme investigate issues related to professional practice - including learning in both classrooms and in health-care settings; exploring how students and practitioners make clinical decisions; and analysis of the wider influences on the development of health practice and professions. These studies are focussed on building sustainable healthcare provision through communities of practice.

**Social Inclusion:** Supporting equality (societal and health) across the life course involves promoting inclusion, participation and resilience within communities where positive health outcomes and access to services are compromised. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels. The Faculty of Education and Health Sciences has developed a strong multi-disciplinary theme on influences related to societal participation, in relation to lifestyle, community, health and education. There are thriving research groups involved in basic, applied and translational research on social issues, inclusion, collaboration, community relations and social change, with health and wellbeing at individual and social levels being key foci.

**Appendix 4: Research Postgraduate EU Fee Waiver Application Form**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Faculty: Education & Health Sciences

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Application checklist:**

1) Completed adapted version of the IRC application form (Appendix 1)

2) Description of how the proposed project fits with Equality & Diversity Theme and EHS Research Priorities (max 300 words, see Appendix 2 and 3)

3) One academic reference (this should not be provided by the potential supervisor)

4) Completed UL EU Fee Waiver Application form (Appendix 4)

**Completed applications should be submitted electronically to EHS E&D Committee Co-Chair** [**aoife.neary@ul.ie**](mailto:aoife.neary@ul.ie) **by 5pm on Monday the 5th of July 2021.**

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**EHS Faculty use only:**

Level of EU Fee Waiver \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Academic Year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Full or half award please specify)

Commencement date of the scholarship: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Approved By Dean of EHS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix 5:**

**Guidance on Evaluation Criteria**

**Capability of the applicant, including (30%):**

* + Track record and research potential of the applicant
  + Personal statement
  + Referee report
  + Match between applicant profile and the proposed research project.

**Quality of research proposal, including (30%):**

* + Clarity and coherence of proposed project
  + Quality and appropriateness of approach, including research methodology, and consideration of ethical and sex/gender issues and the limitations of the approach to be adopted
  + Feasibility and credibility of the proposed research plan in the proposed time period.
  + Originality and innovative nature
  + Dissemination plans

**Fit with Equality & Diversity theme, including (20%):**

* Suitability of the proposed research in addressing the theme of equality and diversity
* Contribution of proposed research towards addressing the theme of equality and diversity

**Fit with EHS research priorities (10%)**

* Relevance of the proposed research to EHS priority areas
* Contribution of proposed research to EHS priority areas

**Training and career development plan (10%)**

* + Clarity and quality of training and career development plan to acquire new knowledge and skills to achieve the research and professional development aims
  + Evidence of real thought as to why research is to be undertaken and the impact of the proposed award on the applicant’s career path.