



Postgraduate Student



Are you eligible?

If you have not already done so, you should use our Eligibility Reckoner on our website (www.susi.ie) to give you an idea if you meet the criteria to receive Student Grant funding.

(The Eligibility Reckoner will give an indication only and does not guarantee your eligibility for a grant).

To be eligible for a grant you must qualify under the following criteria:

Nationality and Residency:

- You must be an Irish, EU, EEA or Swiss National or have specific leave to remain in the State; and
- You must be ordinarily resident in Ireland or the EU, EEA or Switzerland for 3 of the last 5 years. If you were resident outside the Irish State for this period but were resident in the EU, EEA or Switzerland you are deemed to be a tuition student. Tuition students are only eligible for the course fee portion of a grant. (See www.susi.ie for more information).

Course:

- You must be progressing in your education (increasing your NFQ level); and
- You must be attending an approved course in an approved institution. (See www.susi.ie for more information).

Previous Education and Progression – Postgraduate

Previous Education

SUSI may need to know your academic history to determine if you are eligible for a grant.

Progression

Higher Education	Level	Progression
Higher Education	Post Graduate Level 8	Higher Diploma
Higher Education	Post Graduate Level 9	Diploma
Higher Education	Level 9	Masters Degree
Higher Education	Level 10	PHD

You must be increasing your NFQ (National Framework of Qualifications, www.nfq.ie) level to be considered eligible for a grant.

You must be attending an approved course:

- that leads to a higher level of qualification than any you may already hold;
- that is at a higher level than any course you may have previously attended; and
- in which you are progressing from one year to the next and not repeating a year (save in exceptional circumstances).

However, you may be considered eligible for funding as a “second chance” student where you:

- have previously attended but not completed a course; and
- have had a 5-year break in studies since leaving that course.



Repeat/Equivalent Period of Study

If you are a student who is repeating a year on the same course then you are not eligible for a grant for that repeat year. However, if you previously started a higher education course but left prior to finishing, you may be eligible for a portion of a student grant once you have completed a repeat/equivalent period of study.

Postgraduate Students – Approved Institutions/Courses

Grant funding is available to students to pursue approved Postgraduate courses in approved institutions within the Irish State and in four approved institutions in Northern Ireland.

The approved institutions, and the approved courses available in Northern Ireland, are as follows:

- Queen’s University, Belfast – full-time Postgraduate courses of not less than one year duration;
- University of Ulster – full-time Postgraduate courses of not less than one year duration;
- St. Mary’s College of Education, Belfast – Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Irish Medium); and
- Stranmillis College, Belfast – Postgraduate Certificate in Education.

To be deemed an approved postgraduate course within the State, the course must meet the following criteria:

- be provided by an approved institution;
- be a full-time course of at least one year duration; and
- lead to a major education and training award, in line with the National Framework of Qualifications (nfq.ie) at Level 8 (Higher Diploma), Level 9 (Postgraduate Diploma), Level 9 (Masters) or Level 10 (Doctorate).

For a list of the approved institutions within the Irish State, as set out in the current year’s Student Support Regulations, wherein approved postgraduate courses are available please visit www.susi.ie and review the information available under the course link on the Postgraduate page.

The current Student Support Regulations also identify a number of specific postgraduate courses in other Higher Education Institutions that are approved for grant funding. Only the specified postgraduate courses in each such institution are eligible. Please visit www.susi.ie and review the information available under the course link on the Postgraduate page.

Income:

- Who is included in the calculation of your income for grant purposes depends on what **class of applicant** you are, dependent or independent. Please note that applicants who apply under the incorrect class will have their applications cancelled and will need to apply again;
- Your reckonable income (income calculated for grant purposes) must fall under the specified thresholds. This income will be a factor in determining what type of funding you could receive; and
- Applications are assessed with regard to gross household income from the previous year. (See www.susi.ie for more information).

Maximum periods of grant assistance available:

Funding is only available to students at Postgraduate level for a certain amount of years and depends on their previous education.

Category	Level	Maximum Period of Grant Assistance
Post Graduate	Level 8 Higher Diploma, Level 9 and Level 10	4 years maximum, taking account of all previous attendance and attainment at this level regardless of whether grant supported



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Visit www.susi.ie for more information.