



NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowships offered in 2021

FAQs (ver1_181220)

The full regulations governing the two NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowships offered in 2021 are available to download from the NUI website: www.nui.ie/awards.

Further queries can be directed to: awards@nui.ie

1. How many NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowships will be offered in 2021?

Two (2) NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowships will be offered in 2021:

- (i) **NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Sciences and Engineering**
and
- (ii) **NUI Dr Éamon De Valera Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Mathematical Sciences**

2. Can I submit an application for both NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowships on offer in 2021?

No. Applications will only be accepted for one of the NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowships.

3. If my research proposal is multi-disciplinary / inter-disciplinary in nature, combining an area of Mathematical Sciences with other discipline area(s) listed in the branches of the Sciences and/or Engineering, which NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowship should I apply for?

Where the research is focused strongly in any area of the Mathematical Sciences, it is recommended that you apply for the [NUI Dr Éamon De Valera Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Mathematical Sciences](#) as a Selection Panel with specific expertise in this area will be appointed to shortlist candidates for interview.

4. If successful, where will I be based for the Post-Doctoral Fellowship?

Candidates awarded an NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowship must take up their research in

- [A constituent university of the NUI, or a college linked to one of the constituent universities, located in Ireland.](#)
- [A recognised college of the NUI.](#)

5. How do I know if I am a holder of a degree of the National University of Ireland?

You may be an NUI graduate and eligible to apply if you completed a bachelors, masters, or doctoral degree in one of the following:

- NUI constituent university, i.e. UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, Maynooth University.
- NUI recognised college, i.e. RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Institute of Public Administration (IPA).

- Other NUI member institutions, i.e. Burren College of Art; NCAD; St. Angela's College, Sligo; Shannon College of Hotel Management; Institute of Banking; Irish Management Institute (IMI).
- Former NUI member institutions, details of which are available at www.nui.ie/elections/docs/institutions.pdf

6. Who can apply for the NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowships?

Candidates who are graduates of doctoral status (awarded no earlier than 1 January 2016) and whose doctorates are in a related discipline area in either the Sciences, Engineering or Mathematical Sciences respectively.

7. Does NUI have specific criteria in place regarding the eligibility of candidates for the NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowships based on nationality or residency?

No. The Regulations and Procedures for this competition do not outline any nationality or residency criteria. However as with all employment in the state, non-EU candidates will have to take account of and satisfy the immigration and related visa requirements in the Republic of Ireland.

8. Is there any allowance given beyond the five-year cut-off point of 1 January 2016 for the award of the doctoral degree?

An extension to the five-year period following the awarding of the doctoral degree will be considered on the basis of eligible post-PhD career breaks. Career breaks include maternity leave, paternity leave, adoption leave, parental leave, prolonged sick leave and carer's leave. Documentary evidence must be submitted to support the claim and only career breaks of up to 5 years will be considered.

9. Is part-time work undertaken intermittently post-PhD taken into consideration as part of the five-year period for documented career breaks?

No. Eligible career breaks include maternity leave, paternity leave, adoption leave, parental leave, prolonged sick leave and carer's leave.

10. My viva is due to take place after the closing date. Am I eligible to apply?

No. Applications will be accepted from candidates who have yet to graduate but can confirm that they have fulfilled all the formal requirements for the awarding of the doctoral degree by the closing date for the competition (Tuesday, 9 February 2021).

11. Can I apply if I am currently working fulltime in a higher education institution, but only on a temporary or fixed term contract?

Yes. Where a candidate is employed on a temporary contract at the time of application, they are considered eligible to apply. However, if they are successful in the competition, NUI will require evidence that the contract will be completed before the NUI fellowship can be confirmed.

12. Can I apply again for an NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowship if I applied on a previous occasion?

Applications will be accepted from interested candidates on no more than 2 occasions and within a timeframe of no greater than 5 years (i.e. 1 January 2016) or up to a maximum of 10

years where documentary evidence is submitted in support of eligible post-PhD career breaks. See point 8 above.

13. If I apply and then decide to withdraw from the competition for an NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowship, does my application count as one attempt?

Applications will be accepted from interested candidates on no more than 2 occasions. If the application proceeds to the independent evaluation stage, then this will be considered as 1 attempt.

14. Does my proposed research need to be focused on specific themes or certain areas?

No. NUI welcomes applications from all eligible candidates in all research areas within the broad definitions of the Sciences, Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. NUI does not designate preferred thematic research areas for either of the Post-Doctoral Fellowships on offer in 2021.

15. There are 8 points listed for inclusion in the research proposal (section 5.1). Do I need to include these in the order they are listed?

No. While these points should be addressed in your research proposal, the layout of the proposal is up to you.

16. What are considered 'research outputs'?

Research outputs are considered as including, but not limited to, publications to date, research awards achieved, creation of data sets, databases and software, conference papers presented, patents granted, excavations, public broadcasts, and exhibitions.

17. If successful, what will be the start date for the NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowship?

A start date is usually decided by mutual agreement between the successful candidate, the NUI Registrar and the relevant Head of School and the Research Office in the institution where the candidate will be based.

18. Will I receive an acknowledgement of my application?

Yes. All candidates can expect an acknowledgement of their application within one week following the closing date of the competition. The NUI Awards Team will update candidates on the status of their applications as they proceed through the different stages of the competition.

19. Will a shortlisting process be applied?

Yes. Please refer to section 6 of the Regulations and Procedures document for full details of the selection process.

20. When will the interviews take place?

It is expected that the interviews for shortlisted candidates will take place in late May or early June 2021. However, NUI reserves the right to alter the timeframe if required.

21. Will NUI provide feedback on my application?

Yes. Feedback on your application can be provided at the end of the competition.

22. Will NUI contact me formally regarding the outcome of my application in the NUI Post-Doctoral Fellowship competition?

Yes. All candidates will be contacted formally regarding the outcome of their application.