



Ollscoil na hÉireann  
National University of Ireland

## NUI Dr Mary L Thornton Scholarship and Prize in Education 2021

### Regulations and Procedures

The National University of Ireland is pleased to invite applications for the Dr Mary L Thornton Scholarship and Prize in Education, offered for competition in 2021. The Scholarship and Prize will be awarded on the basis of a common competition. The Dr Mary L Thornton Scholarship and Prize in Education are offered biennially and are funded by a bequest from the late Dr Thornton.

#### 1. NUI Dr Mary L Thornton Scholarship and Prize in Education

- 1.1. The purpose of the Scholarship and Prize is to encourage postgraduate research in the field of Education in a constituent university, recognised college or a college linked with a constituent university of NUI. Through the Scholarship and Prize, NUI particularly encourages research related to Irish higher education and accordingly, preference will be given to applications in this area. However, applications will be accepted in relation to projects in any area of educational research.
- 1.2. The value of the Scholarship is €6,000 and the value of the Prize is €1,000.

#### 2. Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1. Candidates must have been accepted, or have applied for admission, to a research degree at doctoral level in the field of Education in a constituent university or recognised college or college linked with a constituent university of NUI.
- 2.2. Candidates who previously submitted an application for this Scholarship and were unsuccessful may only re-apply on one further occasion.

#### 3. Application Procedure

Application forms are available to download at [www.nui.ie/awards](http://www.nui.ie/awards) and must be submitted with the following documentation:

- 3.1. **Research Proposal:** Candidates are required to submit a proposal concerning the research they propose to undertake during the tenure of the Scholarship.

- (i) The Research Proposal should give details of:
    - the proposed topic, nature and scope of the research;
    - the proposed methodology of the research;
    - the relevance and importance of the study;
    - a preliminary literature review;
    - where the research will be carried out, and other investigators involved in the research, where relevant;
    - the proposed duration of the research.
  - (ii) The research proposal should be max. 3000 words. Word counts are exclusive of captions, references and bibliography.
  - (iii) The research proposal must be anonymous. The candidate's name must not be included in the title, headers or footers; it can be included in references and the bibliography in reference to publications and other materials created by the candidate.
- 3.2. Abstract of Research Proposal:** Candidates are required to submit a short abstract of the research proposal (max. 200 words). The abstract must be anonymous. The candidate's name must not be included in the title, headers or footers.
- 3.3. Curriculum Vitae (CV):** to include academic and other relevant achievements to date.
- 3.4. Certified Academic Transcripts:** electronic/scanned copies to be submitted for each degree and diploma awarded.
- 3.5. Reports of two Academic Referees:** a specific NUI confidential academic reference form (available at [www.nui.ie/awards](http://www.nui.ie/awards)) is to be completed by the referee(s) and emailed directly to [awards@nui.ie](mailto:awards@nui.ie). It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that the references are submitted to NUI by their referees by the closing date. If references are not submitted by the closing date, a candidate's application may be deemed ineligible for consideration.

#### 4. Selection Process

- 4.1.** The NUI Registrar and designated NUI staff will administer the competition for the Scholarship and Prize.
- 4.2.** A shortlisting process may be adopted, in which case shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend for interview.
- 4.3.** Where a shortlisting process is adopted, two independent subject specialists will assess the research proposal of each candidate. The reports of the subject specialists will be made available to the NUI Registrar and will inform the decision on the shortlisting of candidates for interview.
- 4.4.** Where there is a divergence of 20 - 29 marks based on the reports of two independent subject specialists, the application will be referred to the NUI Registrar for consideration. Where the diverging score is greater than 30 marks a third subject specialist will be appointed. Where a third subject specialist cannot be appointed<sup>1</sup> in good time, then the application will be referred to the NUI Registrar for consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> In some cases where the proposed research is focused on a niche area or interdisciplinary in nature it may not be possible to source a third expert. In other exceptional cases where there may be a significant delay in returning a report and hence

- 4.5. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by a Selection Panel to be appointed by NUI.
- 4.6. The Selection Panel will consist of the Heads of the Departments/Schools in Education, or their representatives, from each of the constituent universities and will be chaired by an independent specialist outside of the NUI federal system. Additional experts may be invited by NUI to sit on a Panel, if required.
- 4.7. The full application and subject specialist reports (where a shortlisting process is adopted) for each shortlisted candidate will be made available to the Selection Panel in advance of the interviews.
- 4.8. Following the interviews, the Selection Panel will finalise its recommendations to the NUI Registrar on the awarding of the Scholarship and Prize. The NUI Registrar will inform the successful candidates in writing of the Senate's decision regarding the awarding of the Scholarship and Prize.
- 4.9. Candidates whose applications are unsuccessful will be informed of the outcome in writing and offered feedback on the assessment of their application (where applicable).
- 4.10. The decision of the Senate on the awarding of the Scholarship and Prize will be final.
- 4.11. The candidates awarded the Scholarship and Prize will be required to present one copy of their completed research to the National University of Ireland.
- 4.12. NUI has an Appeals Process in place to guarantee that the University has acted fairly and reasonably, and followed the appropriate steps in its selection process. Further details can be found at [www.nui.ie/awards](http://www.nui.ie/awards).

## 5. Lodgement of Documents

- 5.1. All applications and associated documentation must be submitted by email to [awards@nui.ie](mailto:awards@nui.ie). The email should state the NUI Award being applied for, i.e. Dr Mary L Thornton Scholarship and Prize in Education.
- 5.2. Candidates should ensure the electronic documents included in their application (as per section 3) are:
  - i. saved as separate files
  - ii. compressed into a folder (max. size 20MB)
- 5.3. The closing date for receipt of the full application is **Friday, 9 April 2021**.

## 6. Data Protection

The National University of Ireland is committed to a policy of protecting the rights and privacy of individuals in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1988, the Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003 and the European General Data Protection Regulation (as per the Data Protection Act, 2018). Personal data supplied by candidates as part of the application process will be shared with independent subject specialists and with selection panel members. Personal data is retained by NUI for a maximum period of five years for successful candidates and three years for unsuccessful candidates. Further information is available in NUI's Data Protection policy, accessible at: [www.nui.ie/about/pdf/data\\_protection/NUI\\_Data\\_Protection\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.nui.ie/about/pdf/data_protection/NUI_Data_Protection_Policy.pdf)

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insufficient time to appoint a third subject specialist, the application will automatically be referred to the NUI Registrar for consideration.