

**IRISH AID IDEAS
PROGRAMME - STRAND II
EMPLOYER ENDORSEMENT
FORM**

 www.irishaid.ie

2016 ENTRY

IRISH AID

The government of Ireland's official programme of assistance to developing countries is managed by Irish Aid, a division within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The aid programme focuses on the fight against poverty and hunger in some of the world's least developed countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. The programme works in partnership with governments and communities in the developing world in their attempts to alleviate poverty through helping them meet basic needs and through strengthening their capacity to help themselves. It provides assistance to over 90 countries worldwide, including nine partner countries, where there is a commitment to long term strategic assistance.

IRISH AID IDEAS PROGRAMME: STRAND II

The Irish Aid IDEAS Programme is part of Irish Aid's broad programme of support to capacity building in developing countries. The Programme aims to address capacity deficits that hinder the attainment of long-term development goals in Vietnam through the training and development of key individuals, generally drawn from the public services.

The programme offers a number of study fellowship awards annually to candidates to further their education in Ireland at Masters' or post-graduate Diploma level.

Irish Aid invites applications from the staff of partner organisations working in collaboration with the Irish Aid programme in-country which includes government ministries, universities and research institutes. Only candidates nominated by an Irish Aid partner organisation (i.e. higher education institutions and officials at relevant government agencies) to participate in the IDEAS Strand II programme are eligible to apply.

Irish Aid particularly welcomes candidates from ethnic minorities, candidates living with a disability or candidates from disadvantaged groups in Vietnam.

Fellowship recipients are committed, on completion of their training, to return home to resume work and put their acquired skills into practice for the benefit of the wider community.

IRISH COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Irish Council for International Students (ICOS) – www.icosirl.ie – provides support for the management and administration of the Irish Aid IDEAS Programme, including handling applications on behalf of Irish Aid and providing various support services for fellowship holders. ICOS is an independent non-profit organisation that promotes best practice in relation to the recruitment, access and support of international students in Irish education.

EMPLOYER ENDORSEMENT

EMPLOYER REFERENCE LETTER

Please provide a reference letter, written on your organisation's official letter head and bearing an official stamp and signature of supervisor, which answers the following questions:*

- Why is your organisation nominating this candidate?
- What specific skills do you expect the nominee to gain from participation in the masters' degree programme?
- Describe how the nominee's newly acquired knowledge and skills will build capacity within your organisation.
- At the end of the study, will the nominee return to a position at least equivalent to the one he or she holds at present? If the nominee will have a new position in your organisation please name the position.

*** Only applications with this information in full will be considered.**

This section must also be completed (in English) and signed overleaf by the nominee's supervisor.

1. Endorsed by Department/Organisation:

Address (please include city and country):

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

2. Will the applicant be granted *study leave* and be able to return to a position at least equivalent to the current role at the end of his/her studies?

No

Yes

>> continues overleaf

EMPLOYER ENDORSEMENT (continued)

3. CAPACITY BUILDING

A. Please list courses of study chosen by your nominee:

B. How do the courses of study either a) fill gap in terms of skills available in your organisation or b) build on the existing strengths in your organisation?

C. Why has the organisation identified this nominee for future training?

D. How will your organisation support this nominee to build the capacity of the organisation on his/her return?

4. Name of authorising official:

Job Title:

Signature:

Date: / / (Day/Month/Year)

Official Stamp