

**IRISH AID FELLOWSHIP
TRAINING PROGRAMME
APPLICATION FORM**

 www.irishaid.ie

2019 ENTRY

IRISH AID

The Government of Ireland's official programme of assistance to developing countries, Irish Aid, is managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The programme focuses on the fight against poverty and hunger in some of the world's least developed countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Ireland works in partnership with governments and communities in their attempts to alleviate poverty through helping them meet basic needs and through strengthening their capacity to help themselves.

IRISH AID FELLOWSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME (IAFTP)

The IAFTP is part of Irish Aid's broad programme of support for capacity building by addressing capacity deficits that hinder the attainment of long-term development goals.

Applications are sought from organisations working in priority areas for the Irish Aid programme in-country as well as from individuals in organisations of strategic relevance to the work of the mission in that country. All applications are managed through the Embassy network.

Fellowships are generally targeted at mid-career professionals. Applications are accepted for study at master's degree level, in Ireland. Study at postgraduate diploma level may also be considered on an exceptional basis.

As part of the IAFTP, Irish Aid also offers a number of named fellowships: the Courtney fellowship for Burundi, the Casement fellowship in Nigeria, the Sean McBride fellowship in Namibia and the Frank Ferguson fellowship for Zambian engineering graduates. Each of these named fellowships has a separate application form. Please visit <https://www.irishaidfellowships.ie/strands> and select the relevant programme. Different eligibility requirements may apply.

IRISH COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Irish Council for International Students (ICOS) – www.internationalstudents.ie – provides support for the management and administration of the IAFTP. 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.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the IAFTP, applicants must:

- be a citizen of one of the following countries: Cambodia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Palestine, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia or Zimbabwe.
- be resident in that country.
- have achieved the necessary academic standard to be accepted onto a Master's degree course in a higher education institution in Ireland (an undergraduate degree at equivalent to pass level is not sufficient).
- be able to demonstrate a strong commitment to the development of their home country.
- have identified and selected two relevant courses from the Irish Aid Directory of Eligible Postgraduate Courses, available at www.irishaidfellowships.ie.
- be applying to commence a new qualification and not be seeking funding for a course they have already commenced or which will begin before fellowship awards have been notified.
- be able to take up the fellowship in the academic year 2019/2020.

To be eligible for study in Ireland, applicants must be able to demonstrate their skills in academic English with an appropriate score on a recognised test (IELTS 6.5 or higher). See below for further information.

Do not include this page when submitting your application. Please retain for your reference.

An applicant will not be considered further in either of the following circumstances:

- They already hold a master’s qualification.
- They have applied for the IAFTP on two or more previous occasions without being awarded a fellowship. (Cases where an applicant withdrew from the process previously may be considered if there were exceptional or unforeseen circumstances for withdrawal in that instance).
- They are currently working, or it is anticipated that they will work in the future, at our embassies or at headquarters. Those personnel who have worked with any of our embassies/missions in the past must allow a full year before becoming eligible to apply for a fellowship.

In addition to the above, some additional eligibility requirements apply in some countries as follows:

Eligibility requirement	Countries where this requirement applies
Applications by invitation only	Cambodia, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Myanmar, Namibia, Palestine, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
Minimum of 2 years’ work experience following undergraduate studies	Cambodia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia.
IELTS certificate must be submitted at time of application (before November 30, 2018)	Ethiopia.

All successful applicants will be required to sign a commitment to return to their home country within 14 days of completing their studies in Ireland.

The closing date for receipt of applications to the Embassy of Ireland in participating countries is **30 November 2018**.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications with unanswered questions or missing documentation will be deemed incomplete and will not be considered for a fellowship. Therefore, it is essential that you:

- fill out all required sections in this application form.
- include two recent passport-size photographs.
- include all relevant supporting documents and complete the checklist in Section 8.
- sign the application declaration in Section 9.

Your application will be photocopied. Pages should NOT be stapled together. Please do not use spiral or any other binding. Please print the completed application form in single-sided format only, and all accompanying documents must also be in single-sided format only.

SELECTION OF COURSE CHOICES

You must select courses from the Irish Aid Directory of Eligible Postgraduate Courses available for download at www.irishaidfellowships.ie with due regard to the courses being offered in your country. Some participating countries restrict the courses on offer to parts of the directory which are aligned with their priorities. Courses

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should be listed according to first and second preference and are an important consideration in the review of applications.

You should ensure that you hold the specified qualifications and academic grades required for the academic courses you intend applying for. These can be found in the Irish Aid Directory of Eligible Postgraduate Courses and on the relevant college website. It is your responsibility to ensure that your academic qualifications are of sufficient standard for your chosen course.

Please choose your courses carefully. You will not normally be permitted to revise your choices after submission, unless a programme does not run. Applicants are therefore advised to thoroughly research their course choices. The relevance of the course to an applicant's career development and to the overall strategic priorities of the mission will form part of the assessment criteria.

Courses must begin no earlier than July 2019.

Note: Masters degrees by research are not eligible for the programme.

SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

Completed applications should be submitted to the Embassy of Ireland in your country or nearest relevant Irish Embassy. Embassy contact details are available at www.irishaidfellowships.ie/contact.

SELECTION PROCESS

Selection Round 1 / English Testing

The Embassy will conduct an *initial* shortlisting of applicants. **Unless the applicant already holds a valid IELTS test result (required in advance for candidates from Ethiopia)**, applicants who meet the necessary criteria will be required to sit **an IELTS academic English test**. Tests are to be taken in January or February 2019. Arrangements, including payment of the test fee, will be organised by the Embassy of Ireland. (Applicants who already hold a suitable IELTS certificate should submit this with their application form).

TIP: You are advised to work through the practice materials at www.ielts.org and attend a preparation session, if available. You should note that even people who regularly speak English can find the test a challenge. **In a recent application year, approximately two-thirds of applicants tested did not get the necessary score to be considered further.**

Selection Round 2 / Course Applications

The Fellowship Selection Committee will meet in Ireland in early April 2019 to conduct a second shortlisting round of those applications put forward by embassies. Those individuals who will be progressing as candidates will be contacted by ICOS with information on applying for their chosen college course(s). Application fees for colleges in Ireland will be paid by ICOS *provided applications are made after notification from ICOS*. Application fees paid prior to notification by ICOS will not be reimbursed. Applicants are advised not to apply for courses in Ireland until such time as they are notified by ICOS to proceed, when full application guidance will be provided. At that stage, the applicant will be responsible for ensuring that they submit their application to the college, including all relevant supporting documentation, and for keeping ICOS updated with the progress of their application. Applicants should note that decisions on Irish university course places may not be made by institutions until late June 2019.

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Fellowship Awards

A provisional list of awards will be drawn up in June 2019. Only candidates who successfully gain a course place and provide documentation to ICOS confirming this will be eligible for a fellowship award. **No candidate is guaranteed an award, even if all fellowship criteria are met.**

If offered an Irish Aid fellowship, candidates will be required to:

- undergo a medical examination prior to confirmation of the fellowship award, and
- satisfy Irish immigration requirements.

Further Information

Information on the IAFTP, including the application process and the Irish Aid Directory of Suitable Postgraduate Courses, is available from the Embassy of Ireland in participating countries. General information on the Fellowship Training Programme can also be accessed from the Fellowship website - www.irishaidfellowships.ie. General information on studying in Ireland is available at www.internationalstudents.ie.

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Please attach two recent passport-size photographs of yourself here.

(Attach using glue not staples or tape. If your photos are together in a strip, you do not need to separate them)

Fellowship Training Programme – 2019 Application Form
Closing Date: 30 November 2018

This form is designed to be completed in Microsoft Word before being printed and signed

Your application will be photocopied. Pages should **NOT** be stapled together. Please do **not** use spiral or other binding. Use single-sided format for all forms and accompanying documents.

Additional application information is available at www.irishaidfellowships.ie

SECTION ONE: PERSONAL INFORMATION

1a. Please write your **full name** in the order it would appear in an official document. This must match the name recorded in your passport if you have one.

Full Name:

1b. Name that you are known by (i.e. your first name or given name):

2. Male Female

3. Date of Birth / / (Day / Month / Year)

4. Place of Birth

5. Nationality

6. **Please give an email address for an account which is checked regularly.** It is vital that you can be contacted by email regarding your application. If writing in an email address it should be clear and legible. If you use more than one email address you are asked to list a second email address below.

Email:

Alternate Email:

SECTION TWO: PROPOSED COURSE(S)

7. In this section, you should list the course title and academic institution for your first and second choice taught Masters courses. You are required to specify a particular course and academic institution in each case, not give a general course type.

You must select courses from the Irish Aid Directory of Eligible Postgraduate Courses available for download at www.irishaidfellowships.ie. Courses should be listed according to first and second preference and are an important consideration in the review of applications.

You should ensure that you hold the specified qualifications and academic grades required for the academic courses you intend applying for. These can be found in the Irish Aid Directory of Eligible Postgraduate Courses and on the relevant college website. It is your responsibility to ensure that your academic qualifications are of sufficient standard for your chosen course.

Please choose your courses carefully. You will not normally be permitted to revise your choices after submission, unless a programme does not run. Applicants are therefore advised to thoroughly research their course choices.

Courses must begin no earlier than July 2019.

Note: Masters degrees by research are not eligible for the programme.

First Course Choice

Name of Educational Institute:

Full title of Course:

Course Code : (if available - can be found on course website)

Course start date: / (Month/Year) Course Duration:

Second Course Choice

Name of Educational Institute:

Full title of Course:

Course Code: (if available - can be found on course website)

Course start date: / (Month/Year) Course Duration:

SECTION THREE: EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

8. You must provide a **certified** copy of the academic transcripts and completion certificate for each higher education qualification you have completed (see note in Section Eight regarding certified documents). Include a certified copy of the grade assessment schedule for each qualification.

Qualification	Educational Institution	Dates From – To (Month/Year)	Location	Final Grade Achieved

9. Please give details of any relevant professional qualifications awarded including dates, awarding body and type of award received.

10. Please give details of any educational or vocational training courses attended (other than those mentioned in Q8/9), including dates, training body and certification received, if applicable.

11. Have you previously received a higher education scholarship or award funded by any government or international organisation?

Yes No

If you answered Yes, write the name of the scholarship, the year(s) on scholarship and the name of the qualification or course undertaken.

i.

ii.

12. Have you ever previously applied for an Irish Aid Fellowship?

Yes No

If yes, please list year(s) in which you previously applied and if you were successful:

13. Have you applied, or are you intending to apply, for another scholarship at the same time as this application?

Yes No

If you answered Yes, provide the full name of the sponsor and the scholarship.

Sponsor:

Scholarship:

SECTION FOUR : EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

14. Please provide the following information in relation to your current employment:

Employing Organisation:

Address (please include city and country):

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

15. What type of organisation do you work for?

<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Community/Non-Government Organisation (NGO)
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Faith-based Organisation
<input type="checkbox"/> Other public sector organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> International NGO
<input type="checkbox"/> Multilateral Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state): _____

16. Date you started with this organisation: / / (Day/Month/Year)

Title of current post:

Date you started in this post: / / (Day/Month/Year)

List in chronological order the previous positions held in this organisation and dates (please provide month and year of commencement of position):

17. Briefly describe the work of your current employer:

18. Please provide details of your current responsibilities:

19. Please provide information, on your previous employment, if applicable.

Name of Organisation	Address	Dates From-To (Month and Year)	Location	Position Held Tasks and Responsibilities

SECTION FIVE: STATEMENT OF INTENT

Please complete this section paying careful attention to the suggested word count. Please note that the quality of your answers will be a key factor in how your application will be graded by the selection panel.

20. **The key achievements in my career to date** (approximately 400 words)

21. **Why I want to pursue my nominated course(s)** (approximately 400 words)

22. **How I will use my new skills and knowledge when I return** (approximately 200 words)

23. **How I believe my proposed study will contribute to future development in my country**
(approximately 200 words)

SECTION SIX : ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCY

24. Have you completed an **IELTS** (International English Language Testing System) academic test?*

No Yes

I have attached the **original copy** of my IELTS result to this application form.

Date of test: / / (Day/Month/Year)

Overall IELTS (academic stream) score:

Listening band: Reading band: Writing band: Speaking band:

* You will be required to demonstrate the Irish Aid FTP minimum IELTS English language proficiency level. This is an overall IELTS score of 6.5. No exceptions are made.

Please note that **entry to some courses may** require an overall IELTS score above 6.5 and/or a minimum score in specific bands. Applicants should always refer to the course information for further details.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to sit an IELTS English language test if they do not already hold a certificate at the required level or their certificate would be more than 24 months old at the time of beginning studies.

For additional information see p iii.

SECTION SEVEN: SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

25a. Do you have a passport? Yes No (Go to Q27)

b. Country issuing passport:

c. Date of expiry : / / * (Day/Month/Year)

* For study in Ireland, your passport should be valid for the duration of your study period.

d. If you hold a passport for another country or a diplomatic passport, please give details:

26. Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence? Yes No

If the answer is Yes, please provide details of the offence for which you were convicted, including the nature of the offence and the sentence received.

27. Please provide (a) a home mailing address (not a PO Box) where registered post can be delivered and signed for, and (b) a PO Box address if you have one.

a) Home Address (please include city and country):

b) PO Box Address, if applicable (please include city and country). Please indicate if you wish to use this address as your primary mailing address for correspondence purposes by ticking the box:

c) Contact phone numbers: (Please give at least two numbers if possible, e.g. work, mobile, landline)

Your main telephone number:

Other telephone number (1):

Other telephone number (2):

28. Name someone who can be contacted in an emergency.

Name:

Relationship to you (e.g. spouse, father, mother, sibling):

Home Address (please include city and country):

What telephone numbers can be used to contact them? (Please give at least two numbers if possible)

Main telephone number:

Other telephone number:

Does this person speak English? Yes No

Clearly write an email address for an account which they check regularly.

Email:

SECTION EIGHT: DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

All relevant documents listed below must be included with your application, **in the sequence shown**.

Supporting documents must be **certified true copies of original documents** with the official stamp and signature of a justice of the peace, solicitor, notary public, an official from an embassy of Ireland, or another authorised official. Photocopies of certified documents are *not acceptable* but a certified photocopy of a document with an original certification is acceptable. It is recommended that you obtain a minimum of **three** certified copies of all of your documents as you will need to provide certified copies for your course applications, as well as retain a copy for yourself. Where original documents are not in English, you must provide certified true copies of official English translations.

You should mark each box below with 'X' to indicate that the document is present. If you do not possess a particular document (e.g. birth certificate) you should explain in the notes section below.

You are advised to make electronic scans of all documents submitted with your application.

Essential

- A **certified** copy of the completion or graduation certificate for each higher education qualification that you have completed (**in English**).
- A **certified** copy of the academic transcript for all higher education qualifications and the grading schedule for each qualification (**in English**).
- Letters from your two academic referees with original signatures (Q21). **E-signatures are not accepted.**
- A **certified** copy of the identity page of your passport
- A reference letter from your employer on official letterhead, supporting your Irish Aid fellowship application for your proposed course of study. If you are not currently working, please provide a reference letter from a past employer, or another similar reference letter.

If applicable:

- A **certified** copy of your birth certificate (**in English**), only applicable where no passport is provided.
- A **certified** copy of official evidence of any name change (**in English**).
- An original IELTS academic English test certificate. Photocopies will not be accepted. Test results must be no more than 24 months old by the commencement of study.

Do not include copies of certificates from short courses or for non-degree level programmes.

NOTES ON DOCUMENTATION:

SECTION NINE: DECLARATION

I am in good health and if accepted for the Irish Aid Fellowship Training Programme will undertake the necessary medical examinations and provide the required medical certificates.

I give my permission for information and documents submitted as part of my application to be shared with:

- (i) the managing agency for Irish Aid Fellowships;
- (ii) the consultant for Irish Aid's fellowship selection process; and
- (iii) appropriate staff of my nominated Higher Education Institutions, as required, regarding any course applications and place offers;
- (iv) any other individuals, companies and/or organisations as necessary to make arrangements related to my participation in the Fellowship Programme.

When your application form is received, we create a record in your name, which contains much of the personal information you have supplied. This personal record is used solely in processing your candidature. Such information held is subject to the rights and obligations set out in the Data Protection Acts, 1988 and 2003.

I understand the purpose for which Irish Aid fellowships are awarded and the necessity to abide by the conditions specified.

I certify that all the information I have given is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:

Date: / / (Day/Month/Year)