

**Creative Sector PhD Fee Waiver Scheme**

**Purpose**

The College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies’ Creative Sector PhD Fee Waiver Scheme is available to individuals **currently employed** on a full- or part-time basis in the Irish creative sector or related industries and who wish to pursue **PhD studies on a part-time basis** at the University of Galway with the support of their employer. Applications are evaluated competitively, and it is anticipated that a maximum of 5 such waivers will be awarded by the College each year.

**Procedure**

Eligibility criteria will be advertised to prospective applicants planning to undertake part-time PhD studies at the University of Galway.

* The applicant or their employer is responsible for paying **€750 of the relevant fee per annum**; for successful applicants, the remainder of the part-time PhD programme fee will be waived by the College for a maximum duration of 6 years. Any additional fees incurred beyond this period (e.g. in the case of non-timely programme completion) must be paid by the applicant.
* Exceptionally, employers may elect to support an active member of their organisation who is not an employee, subject to the same conditions as employees. This provision will apply to individuals who are members of the organisation’s executive board or one of its committees, or to those who play substantive roles in the ongoing work of the organisation in a voluntary capacity.
* The applicant’s PhD proposal must have a **creative element or focus** and must demonstrably align with one or more of the College’s Signature Research Areas:

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| **Creativity, Culture, and Inclusion** | **Transnational Encounters and Global Legacies** | **Childhood, Youth, and Family** | **Human and Environmental Health** |
| Including:* Arts Practice
* Multilingual Communities
* Creative Technologies
* Policies and Practices for Inclusion
 | Including:* Cultural Heritage and Digital Humanities
* Irish Language and Culture
* Equalities and Social Justice
 | Including:* Lifecourse and Social Change
* Physical and Mental Health Advocacy
* Institutions and Democracy
 | Including:* Health and Well-being
* Climate Change and Marine Environments
* Sustainability Studies
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* Continuation of the partial fee waiver is conditional on the applicant meeting milestones set annually by their Graduate Research Committee (GRC).
* An annual report of all waivers granted under this scheme will be presented to the College Executive.
* The scheme will be reviewed every 5 years.

**How to Apply**

Supervisors may nominate their current or incoming part-time students to receive the Creative Sector PhD Fee Waiver. In the case of co-supervised projects, this application should be made by the primary supervisor. Supervisors are asked to submit the following application materials, preferably combined into a single pdf document:

1. The completed application form (attached).
2. A copy of the applicant’s PhD proposal.
3. A copy of the applicant’s CV.
4. A letter from the applicant’s employer detailing: 1) the nature and longevity of the applicant’s relationship with the employer; 2) the specific supports the employer will commit to providing (e.g., career development advice, flexible or reduced working hours, additional financial support, research dissemination assistance) to facilitate the student throughout the 6-year duration of the doctoral programme.

Applications to this scheme are due on or before **1 May** (for September entry) and **1 October** (for January entry) each year and must be submitted by email with the subject line ‘CreativeSectorFeeWaiver\_ApplicantSurname’ to **artspostgrad@universityofgalway.ie**.

**Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for the Creative Sector PhD Fee Waiver, applicants must meet the following criteria:

* Be currently employed in the Irish creative sector or related industries.
* Be supported by their employer to undertake part-time PhD studies.
* Meet the normal entry requirements for a PhD.
* Not have previously been granted a PhD in any field.
* Have received an offer of admission for a part-time PhD programme at the University of Galway under the direction of an eligible supervisor (or team of co-supervisors) in the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies.
* Have a PhD project proposal with a creative element or focus that convincingly aligns with one or more of the College’s Signature Research Areas.

**Approval Process**

* A committee consisting of relevant Vice Deans from the College and the Director of the Institute for Creativity will evaluate all Creative Sector PhD Fee Waiver applications.
* Successful applicants and/or their supervisors will be notified by College Office.
* It is strongly recommended that postgraduate students availing of this scheme have a GRC that includes one external member from their workplace or sector.



College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies

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*Application form to be completed and submitted by the PhD supervisor*

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| **Name of Student:** |  |
| **Student Nationality:** |  |
| **Student ID Number:** |  |
| **Student Email Contact:** |  |
| **Student Employer:***(Name and contact details)* |  |
| **Student’s Prior Academic Qualifications:***(Degrees and awarding body)* |  |
| **PhD Programme/Discipline:**  |  |
| **Case for Project Alignment with Signature Research Areas:** *(****Creativity, Culture, and Inclusion****, including**Arts Practice, Multilingual Communities, Creative Technologies, Policies and Practices for Inclusion;* ***Transnational Cultures and Global Legacies****, including Cultural Heritage and Digital Humanities, Irish Language and Culture, Equalities and Social Justice;* ***Childhood, Youth, and Family****, including Lifecourse and Social Change, Physical and Mental Health Advocacy, Institutions and Democracy;* ***Human and Environmental Health****, including Health and Well-being, Climate Change and Marine Environments, Sustainability Studies)* |  |
| **Name of Supervisor(s):** |  |
| **Supervisor(s) Email(s):** |  |
| **Date:** |  |