

Your Application for SMART Marine Institute Research Vessel Bursaries

Bursary opportunities and the online application form can be found here:

[SMART Marine Institute Research Bursaries 2023 | SMART \(smartseaschool.com\)](https://www.smartseaschool.com)

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SMART Marine Institute Research Vessel Bursaries are unrivalled opportunities to gain offshore experience, learn, network and be mentored by established marine scientists and researchers.

Bursaries are paid €95/diem and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is recognised by enrolling in and completed the accredited postgraduate module *Marine Research Vessel Data Collection and Surveying*.

Most of the application form is self-explanatory. This document offers advice on the evaluated elements of the application process.

Personal Statement

Question 9 of the application form: *Please outline how you would benefit from participating in your preferred survey or surveys.*

This is your opportunity to present your motivation for joining a survey and relate that to the aims of the survey. Articulate what you want to learn on the survey and how that learning will help you develop as a marine scientist. You can cite skills that are survey specific, and skills that are practiced on most surveys. A specific example might be that you would like to learn to ID demersal fish species, an example for all surveys might be CTD operations. Read the survey reports to identify the skills you want to learn.

Survey personnel are a community. Joining a survey is an opportunity to learn from, be mentored by and network with a community of individuals who are experts in their fields. That should be part of your motivation to join the survey. It's certainly a major opportunity.

What can you bring to the survey? Learners are integrated into the survey work programme and make an important contribution to achieving the survey aims. It's an active role so think about how your experience has prepared you for it. You don't have the depth of experience the scientific crew has but you have a degree, a masters degree or are studying for a PhD. Reflect on modules, projects, field trips and work experiences and relate these to the survey/surveys you are applying for. Not everything is relatable but there are aspects of your experience that are.

Surveys achieve their goals because the people on the vessel understand their roles and how to execute them. A research vessel is a confined space that demands professional conduct from all the people aboard to complete the survey tasks. RV professional conduct is respecting other's personal space, being courteous and being available. Learner testimony indicates that the bursary experience is a fantastic learning and networking experience. What life experience do you have that will allow to take advantage of this opportunity?

You can write about all these things in your personal statement. Doing it well is a reflective exercise that makes a strong impression on evaluators and gives you a template that can be adapted to other applications. There are always other applications!

If your application is successful you will be asked to enrol in the accredited module, *Marine Research Vessel Data Collection and Surveying*. Completing the module recognises the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) you achieved. The module learning objectives can be a guide to writing your personal statement. These are:

1. Critically evaluate the rationale for offshore research in the context of policy and advice formulation.
2. Demonstrate a comprehensive and transferrable overview of the research vessel operations and their applications to multidisciplinary offshore marine research.
3. Articulate an in depth understanding of the survey components, their interrelationships and integration within the overall survey plan.
4. Practice the interpersonal skills for professional conduct on board research vessels.
5. Demonstrate expertise in data acquisition and analysis and reporting relevant to the specific survey.

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Surveys fall into four categories, groundfish (IAMS and IGFS), acoustic (WESPAS & CSHAS) and UWTV surveys. They are all fisheries surveys but operations on each are distinctive. If you're interest extends to all there is nothing to stop you submitting a separate application for each.

How many words?

Aim for 300 words or three paragraphs. The challenge is to be concise and comprehensive.

Curriculum Vitae

There are a lot of resources on how to structure CVs. Ensure yours is well structured and that the information is clearly and concisely presented. Your CV should support your personal statement. Or another way of putting that is that your personal statement is an opportunity to contextualise the achievements catalogued in your CV.

It's essential that your CV presents your academic achievements and work experience. If you have completed modules, assignments and projects that relate to the work of the survey itemise them in your CV. Likewise for work placements that formed part of your education and for work experience you undertook outside of your education.

Science we hope serves the societies that fund it, but the practice of science isn't just about universities and institutes. Citizen or community-based science initiatives are maybe just as important. Being able to cite involvement with these demonstrates a commitment to the marine beyond your choice of degree programme and this can set your CV and application apart. Its understood that working your way through university may not allow the time to volunteer with Coast Watch or Sea Search for example, but your university probably has marine or environmental societies that work to the same goals. Extra-curricular activities are an important element of CVs when they indicate dedication and skills beyond the confines of your academic programme.

Letter or recommendation

This is uploaded on the application form and the last element in the combined PDF. The person who writes this ideally is your champion and their letter will strongly endorse your motivation, skills, and experience. Moreover, they should also testify to the personal qualities which mark you as well placed to make an important contribution to the survey goals. This is the part of the application you have the least control over and yet in some ways it's the most important because it underpins your personal statement and CV so getting the right person is paramount. So, who is the best person? I would say somebody who wants to see you succeed because they have seen your potential and have worked with you in supervising a research project, thesis, or has direct experience of your abilities in fieldwork. The point here is someone who has direct experience of you and sees your potential.

Previous seagoing experience

Previous seagoing experience is not a prerequisite, but it does help us to gauge the candidate's level of offshore experience and engagement with the marine environment. If you have been on RV surveys before, including Celtic Voyager training surveys, input it here. Also sailing, powerboat, or even ferries. Let us know.

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Necessary Certification

Medical

An ENG-11 Medical Certificate (ENG 2 from UK) is required for all scientific crew on Irish research vessels. These are valid for two years from date of issue. Annex A is a list of medical practices in Ireland approved for ENG 11 certification.

Personal Survival Techniques Certification (PST)

A certificate of proficiency in Personal Survival Techniques (PST) under the STCW 78/95 convention is mandatory for scientific crew on Irish Research vessels. Certificates are valid for five years from date of issue. Approved¹ PST training centres for obtaining the a PST certificate of proficiency are:

1. The National Maritime College of Ireland in Cork [Personal Survival Techniques \(PST\) STCW-95 - National Maritime College of Ireland \(nmci.ie\)](#)
2. Seamanship Centre run courses every month at Ballyshannon. [The Seamanship Centre \(stcwdirect.com\)](#)
3. National Fisheries College of Ireland (Donegal), GREENCASTLE, CO DONEGAL
+353 74 9381068 maria.mccarron@bim.ie [BIM - STCW Personal Survival Techniques](#)
4. National Fisheries College of Ireland (Cork), CASTLETOWNBERE, CO CORK
+353 (0)27 71230 della.osullivan@bim.ie [BIM - STCW Personal Survival Techniques](#)

Please note PST courses take a full day to complete and course availability is limited.

Evaluation and shortlisting

The application form and the attached CV and Letter of Recommendation are collated in a single PDF. Applications are then assessed equally on the statement of motivation, CV and letter of recommendation. Applications from the highest scoring candidates are then forwarded to the survey chief scientists. If they agree with the assessment, the applicant or applicants are invited to the survey.

What if you haven't been shortlisted?

It's a competitive process so it goes without saying that most applicants are not forwarded to the Chief Scientist. If you haven't been offered a place on the survey, seek feedback on your application and apply again.

Other reasons for not being shortlisted

Ideally chief scientists want to complete survey staffing at least a month before embarkation. Because of this, applications that include valid Personal Survival Techniques (PST) and ENG 11 medical certification are weighted above those without. ENG 11's can be arranged at relatively short notice PST less so.

¹ [Maritime Education Training and Certification Ireland | Seafarer > Seafarer > Training Courses and Medical Fitness Certificates > Basic Training Personal Survival Techniques \(seafarers.ie\)](#)

If I keep applying will I eventually succeed?

Keep applying. Persistence pays. Ask for feedback and use that to tune your next application. Commitment and persistence are the most important factors in driving your marine science career.

Any other advice

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Don't leave getting your letter of recommendation to the last minute. Letters of recommendation are important documents so give your supervisor every chance to do their best for you. Also, if for some reason they are unavailable you need to find out early so you have time to find another sponsor.

Save your application materials in a dedicated folder. Write and hone text responses in a word document and copy and paste into the box. These are materials you can recycle and repurpose.

Use the available time to build the best application you can. A hastily assembled application submitted well ahead of time more often than not loses out to a well-crafted application submitted on the last day.

Pay attention to detail e.g., upload attachments in the format requested, PDF for CV and letter of recommendation. Make sure your personal details are correct and input dates of certificates correctly. All of this comes under the heading of not putting assessors to extra work.

There are also other schemes which you can redirect your application to. One of these is the Foreign Research Vessel observer scheme at the Marine Institute ([Foreign Vessel Observer Scheme | Marine Institute](#)).

Find out if your department or school has applied for shiptime and ask to be included. If you're very brave ask chief scientists from other universities if they have a place on their survey. Write them an email with the materials you've developed.

Network with researchers in your institute and look for opportunities to help them with field or lab work. This is part of demonstrating commitment and interest.

Persist!

Why bursaries?

Developing your experience and skills builds the capacity for the data collection and research needed for the responsible stewardship of the ocean. A strong application demonstrates that you are well placed to join the community of marine scientists charged with this fundamental obligation.

FAQs

This is a short FAQ piece so if you have any questions that you think should be on it please send them! John.Boyd@gmit.ie

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1. Who can apply?

A: Undergraduate, postgraduate students, early-stage post-docs and marine oriented practitioners seeking CPD. All applications are evaluated.

2. Do I have to be a current student or affiliated to a university?

A: Most applications come from current undergraduates, postgraduates, and recent graduates. By recent, within four years of graduation.

3. Do graduates or postgraduates have an advantage over undergraduates?

A: Final year undergraduates are treated as graduates and are awarded bursaries. 1st to 3rd years can and do apply but academic, placement and work experience often falls short. In any case if you think this is an important opportunity submit an application.

4. Do you have to be from Ireland to apply?

A: All applications are accepted. The vast majority of awards are to applications from HEIs in Ireland (north and south). UK applicants are also successful. European and further afield less so. Logistics are difficult to resolve with short run-in time to survey.

5. Is there a limit to how many applications I can submit?

A: You can apply as many times as you like within reason. Your last application is the one that's evaluated.

Annex A**List of Approved Doctors in Ireland**

Name	Address	Phone/Fax	Email
CORK			
Dr Brian Gallagher	Employment Health Advisors Ltd., Block B, Heritage Business Park, Mahon Industrial Estate, Blackrock, Cork.	Tel: 021 4536000 Fax: 021 4536016	brian@eha.ie
Dr Colin Gleeson	Bank Place Clinic, Castletownbere, Co. Cork	Tel: 027 70209 Fax: 027 70567	gleesonc@eircom.net
Dr Frank Matthews	The Medical Centre, Ballinlough Road, Co. Cork	Tel: 021 4293884 Fax: 021 4295474	fmatthews@eircom.net
Dr Jacqueline Glisson	The Surgery, North Road, Castletownbere, Co. Cork	Tel: 027 70848 Fax: 027 70853	
Dr. Jacques Bronkhurst	Medmark Ltd., 28 Penrose Wharf, Penrose Quay, Cork	Tel: 021 455 0455 Fax: 021 455 0454	jacques@medmark.ie
Dr John Murphy	Bridge House Surgery, Carrigaline, Co. Cork	Tel: 021 4372663 Fax: 021 4373672	
Dr Martin Hogan	Employment Health Advisors Ltd., Block B, Heritage Business Park, Mahon Industrial Estate, Blackrock, Cork.	Tel: 021 4536000 Fax: 021 4536016	
Dr. Matt Murphy	Marino Medical Centre, Bantry, Co. Cork	Tel: 027 50504 Fax: 027 51988	
Dr. Oriel Perrott	Clonakilty Medical Clinic, Larkin Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	Tel: 023 8833386 Fax: 023 8833096	orielperrott@gmail.com
Dr. Patrick Bailey	8 Cork Road, Skibbereen, Co. Cork	Tel: 028 51878 Fax: 028 51890	
Dr Vivian John Foley	Owenabue Medical Centre, Ballea Road, Carrigaline, Co. Cork	Tel: 021 4374997 Fax: 021 4834400	vivianjfoley@eircom.net

Name	Address	Phone/Fax	Email
DONEGAL			
Dr. Brendan Woods	Killybegs Family Health Centre, Shore Road, Killybegs, Co. Donegal	Tel: 074 9741122 Fax: 074 9741133	
Dr. Charles Bourke	The Health Centre, Killybegs, Co. Donegal	Tel: 074 9731148 Fax: 074 9732167	drcbourke@eircom.net
Dr. Garrett Duffy	Health Centre, Glencrow, Moville, Co. Donegal	Tel: 074 9382049 Fax: 074 9382538	
Dr. John Bannon	Medical Centre, Dungloe, Co. Donegal	Tel: 074 9521099 Fax: 074 9521944	drpetersweeney@eircom.net
Dr. Paul Stewart	Effective Offshore, Unit 3, Ballyconnell Industrial Estate, Falcarragh, Co. Donegal	Tel: 074 9135999 Fax: 074 9136077	
Dr. Tony Delap	Bunbeg, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	Tel: 074 9532445 Fax: 0749532448	tonydelap@eircom.net
DUBLIN			
Dr. Colm Killeen	Mountjoy Family Practice, Bakers Yard, Portland Street North, Dublin 1	Tel: 01 8560040 Fax: 01 8560056	ckilleen@mountjoyfamilypractice.com
Dr. Dermot J Halpin	250 Swords Road, Santry Dublin 9	Tel: 01 8428970 Fax: 01 8378387	dihohms@indigo.ie
Dr. Donal Buckley	Fitzwilliam Medical Centre, 79 Fitzwilliam Lane, Dublin 2	Tel: 01 6785100 Fax: 01 6785300	info@fitzmedical.com
Dr. Jacqueline Furlong MacCarthy	The Meridian Clinic, Roselawn Shopping Centre, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15	Tel: 01 8208233 Fax: 01 8242111	info@meridianclinic.ie
Dr. Mark Wheeler	Edenmore Health Centre, Raheny, Dublin 5	Tel: 01 8480666 Fax: 01 8473903	

Name	Address	Phone/Fax	Email
Dr. Nicola Gilliland	Sutton Cross Surgery, Sutton, Dublin 13	Tel: 01 8326438 Fax: 01 8167677	suttoncrosssurgery@gmail.com
Dr. Patricia Holland	Medmark Ltd., 69 Lower Baggot Street, Baggot Street Bridge, Dublin 2	Tel: 01 6761493 Fax: 01 6614787	trish@themedics.com
Dr. Shirley Wong	Parliament St Medical Practice, 11 Parliament St, Dublin 2.	Tel: 01 6779112 Fax: 01 6779011	
Dr. Lynda Sisson	CHI, 10/11 Exchange Place, IFSC Dublin 1	Tel: 01 6701820 Fax: 01 6700617	info@chi.ie

Name	Address	Phone/Fax	Email
GALWAY			
Dr. Deirdre Sugrue	D'Alton House, D'Alton Drive, Salthill, Galway	Tel: 091 528667 Fax: 091 529747	deirdre@psychmed.iol.ie
Dr. Des Bluett	4 Centrepont, Liosban Business Park, Galway	Tel: 091 767449 Fax: 091 767440	casmed@eircom.net
Dr. Eddie Harty	Annaghvane Island, Bealadangan, Co. Galway	Tel: 091 572121 Fax: 091 551183	
Dr. Gregory Little	Crescent House Mews, St. Mary's Road, Galway	Tel: 091 582453	
Dr. John Lally	Galway City Medical Centre, 1 Ely Place, Sea Road, Galway	Tel: 091 584155	
Dr. John McCormack	Health Centre, Rosmuc, Connemara, Co. Galway	Tel: 091 574107 Fax: 091 574109	doctorjohn@eircom.net
Dr. Keiran Whyte	42 Father Griffin Road, Galway	Tel: 091 522011 Fax: 091 527714	

Dr. Sinead O'Beirn	Spiddal Medical Centre, Spiddal, Co. Galway	Tel: 091 5535135 Fax: 091 504921	
KERRY			
Dr. Conor Brosnan	Dingle Medical Centre, The Mall, Dingle, Co. Kerry	Tel: 066 9152225 Fax: 066 9152344	
Dr. David Buckley	The Ashe Street Clinic, 36 Ashe Street, Tralee, Co Kerry	Tel: 066 7125611 Fax: 066 7122626	info@asctralee.com
Dr. Peadar Ó Fionnaín	Clinic Cois Abhann, Dingle Co. Kerry	Tel: 066 9151465	www.cliniccoisabhann.com
KILDARE			
Dr. Deirdre Gleeson	3A Sycamore House, Millenium Park, Naas	Tel: 045 854022 Fax: 045 896470	deirdregleeson@medwise.ie

Name	Address	Phone/Fax	Email
LIMERICK			
Dr. Liam Holmes	Unit 26A, Whitethorns, Castletroy, Limerick	Tel: 061 330721	liamholmes@eircom.net
Dr. Michael F O'Flynn	The Surgery, 22 William Street, Limerick	Tel/Fax: 061 416533	
Dr. Eileen Cassidy	Arus Ide, Foynes, Co. Limerick	Tel: 069 65196 Fax: 069 65393	
Dr. David Madden	Medmark Occupational Healthcare, Standford Clinic, Steamboat Quay, Limerick	Tel: 061 444888 Fax: 061 444889	
LOUTH			
Dr. John Kennedy	Carrick Road Medical Centre, Lisnadara, Dundalk, Co. Louth.	Tel: 042 9320038 Fax: 042 9320947	carrickroadmedicalcentre@gmail.com
Dr. John McKeown	Carlingford Medical Centre, Trinity Close, Dundalk St., Carlingford, Co. Louth	Tel: 042 9373110 Fax: 042 9373048	john.mckewn@nepc.ie
MAYO			
Dr. Michael Brendan Molloy	Quay Street, Belmullet, Co. Mayo	Tel: 097 81156 Fax: 097 82215	
Dr. Oliver Whyte	The Surgery, Market Lane, Westport, Co. Mayo.	Tel: 098 27500 Fax: 098 27782	owhyte@eircom.net
Dr. Noreen Lineen-Curtis	Achill Sound Health Centre, Achill, Co. Mayo.	Tel: 098 45231 Fax: 09845968	
SLIGO			
Dr Domhnall Heraughty	The Mall Family Practice, Barrack Street, Sligo	Tel: 071 9142767 Fax: 071 9147748	

Name	Address	Phone/Fax	Email
TIPPERARY			
Dr Michael Carey	Suirside Medical Centre, The Gables, Old Waterford Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	Tel: 052 22963	
Dr Mike Quirke	Gladstone Street Surgery, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	Tel: 052 22894 Fax: 052 70776	drquirke@eircom.net
WATERFORD			
Dr M G Coleman	The Keogh Practice, Ballybricken, Waterford	Tel: 051 855411 Fax: 051 87380	awalsh@tkp.ie
WEXFORD			
Dr. Fiona Barry	St Joseph's, Waterloo Road, Wexford	Tel: 053 22524 Fax: 053 22779	
Dr. John Cox	Fethard-on-Sea, New Ross, Co. Wexford	Tel: 051 397111 Fax: 051 397532	
Dr. Kevin Byrne	Shanacloon, Duncannon, New Ross, Co. Wexford	Tel: 051 389215 Fax: 051 389247	
WICKLOW			
Dr. Anthony Bentley	Bradshaws Lane Surgery, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Tel: 0402 32418 Fax: 0402 33717	
Dr. Mary Belton	Townhall Clinic, 5 Market Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Tel: 01 2860625	Townhallclinicbray@hotmail.com
Dr. Robert Foster	The Harbour Surgery, 1C Evans Terrace, Harbour Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Tel: 0402 32617 Fax: 0402 24362	