

MIC Departmental Assistantship and Postgraduate Research Merit Awards AY2025/6

Frequently Asked Questions

Note: This document will be updated next in April 2025.

Questions are grouped under the following headings:

1. Eligibility
2. Application process
3. Conditions of award

1. Eligibility

Can I apply for a Departmental Assistantship or MIC Postgraduate Research Merit Award if I do not yet know the final results of my bachelor's or master's degree?

Yes, you can apply, but any offer of an award will be conditional on the required class of degree being obtained.

Can I apply for an MIC Postgraduate Research Merit Award if I am currently an MIC Postgraduate Research Student?

Yes, all current or prospective postgraduate research students (PGRS) may apply for any or all of the three awards, but the Award can only be taken up by a PGRS once they are registered as such in MIC. In addition, PGRS may only avail of a maximum of three years' funding within their normal duration of programme if a doctoral student or two years' funding if a Master's research student.

Can I apply for the MIC Doctoral Award if I hold a 2.1 Honours undergraduate degree?

Eligible applicants may be new or existing postgraduate researchers (PGRs) who hold a 1st class Honours undergraduate degree or a 2.1 Honours Master's degree or a Master's degree by research and thesis. Applicants with a 2.1 Honours undergraduate degree only, and without a Master's degree as described, are ineligible to apply for this award.

Am I eligible to apply for a Departmental Assistantship?

Heads of Department are the source of information on how the Departmental Assistantship competition for AY2025/6 will be run in your department of interest.

Please note that students on the Professional Doctorate in Educational and Child Psychology programme are eligible to apply for MIC Postgraduate Research Merit Awards, but not Departmental Assistantships.

Are non-EU students eligible to apply for a Departmental Assistantship or MIC Postgraduate Research Merit Award?

Yes. However, please note that international Awardees will not be able to receive scholarship payments until they have arrived in Ireland, set up an Irish bank account, and applied for a Public Personal Service (PPS) number.

2. Application process

Must the applicant be accepted for / registered in a postgraduate research programme at MIC before applying for a Departmental Assistantship or MIC Postgraduate Research Merit Award?

No. Prospective postgraduate research students (PGRS) may apply for any or all of the three awards or the Departmental Assistantship, but the Award can only be taken up by a PGRS once they are accepted and registered as such in MIC.

What is the deadline and application procedure for the Departmental Assistantship?

Heads of Department are the source of information on how the Departmental Assistantship competition for AY2025/6 will be run in your department of interest. Please contact them as soon as possible.

Will the RGSO contact referees on my behalf?

No. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their chosen referees supply an academic letter of reference to the RGSO by the deadline of April 25th, 2025. Referees may send these directly to the RGSO or via the candidate. Please note again that the RGS will ***not*** contact referees for on behalf of applicants.

Can I apply for all three MIC Postgraduate Research Merit Awards?

Yes, eligible applicants are encouraged to apply for all three MIC Postgraduate Research Merit Awards.

When will I hear the outcomes of the MIC Postgraduate Research Merit Awards competition?

Successful applicants will be notified in early June 2025, with unsuccessful applicants being notified by the end of that month.

If I am offered a MIC Departmental Assistantship or Postgraduate Research Merit Award, can I defer taking up my offer?

No. It is not possible under any circumstances to defer taking up an award beyond the academic year for which it is offered. You may, of course, apply in subsequent years for these awards again, but previous success will be no guarantee of success in another future competition.