



Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann Royal Irish Academy

Eoin O'Mahony Bursary in Irish History

Notes for Applicants

Overview

Applications are invited for the Eoin O'Mahony Bursary in Irish History. The bursary fund, which was established in memory of the genealogist and newspaper columnist Eoin O'Mahony, is open to candidates engaged in historical research on subjects of Irish interest. The grant provides support for the direct costs of consulting sources which are not available in Ireland.

The bursary fund, which was established in memory of the genealogist and newspaper columnist Eoin O'Mahony, is open to candidates engaged in historical research on subjects of Irish interest, including family history projects, particularly those associated with the 'Wild Geese'.

- We are seeking applications from researchers across all career stages.
- There is no requirement for an applicant to be a University Graduate however applicants must demonstrate that their research is likely to constitute a significant and scholarly contribution to historical knowledge.
- The grant is open to candidates engaged in historical research on subjects of Irish interest

The deadline for the receipt of applications is **23:55 (GMT) on Wednesday, 12 October 2016**

Please note: only one Eoin O'Mahony Bursary award may be held, or applied for, at any one time, and an application cannot be accepted if the applicant has a report outstanding on a previous Eoin O'Mahony Bursary award.

Application Information

How to apply

Applicants must complete the online application form by **23:55 (GMT) on Wednesday, 12 October 2016**

Section A: Applicant details

- All correspondence will be sent **only** to the named individual at the address specified on the form.
- Brief summary of academic career: If applicable, please give a **brief** summary of your academic career, listing previous appointments
- Relevant achievements: This space should be used to detail any relevant achievements or academic training (including dates and name(s) of degrees) that would demonstrate to the panel your ability to conduct the research you are proposing.
- List any other professional qualifications and distinctions

Section B: Research Proposal

Assessors will evaluate the proposal on the basis of:

- academic merit, taking into account its originality, its relationship to, and the volume of, research already in the field
- scholarly importance of the research proposed
- suitability of the methodology
- feasibility of the research
- presentation
- intended outcomes

Assessors will evaluate the ability of the applicant to undertake the proposed research. The primary assessment of quality will be based on the specific research objective of the proposal, and whether the methodology and research outlined are likely to lead to successful achievement of the objective.

In preparing the outline of the research proposal please:

- clearly specify the context, and research objectives of the proposed study
- describe the methodology to be used
- set out a realistic research programme, describing the activities that will take place, and explaining how they will contribute to the achievement of the research objectives

Applicants are advised that failure to provide adequate detail on the research proposal may seriously disadvantage their application. The proposal must:

- provide an account of their research which is complete of itself, and not rely on special prior knowledge on the part of assessors
- identify the primary product of the research
- show value for money

Points to note:

In assessing value for money, the assessors may take into account the intended outcome as compared with the amount of money sought, although it is fully appreciated that some modes of research are more expensive than others and proposals will not be discriminated against on these grounds.

The Academy attaches importance to the dissemination of research, and assessors will take into account how far the plans for publication or other dissemination have been developed.

Section C: Travel Proposal Details

It is essential that applicants clearly state the reasons why funds are needed. For example, it is not sufficient to state that the applicant will visit a particular archive. Adequate details must be provided of sources to be consulted, and the length of visit must be clearly justified. The applicant should briefly explain why alternative access to material, such as microfilm/digital copy, is not appropriate.

Grants are intended only for the planning and conduct of primary research. They are not available to cover the costs of spending time at another institution for purposes such as the writing up of primary research. All applications must clearly itemise the research to be undertaken at any location.

List the institutions to be visited:

It is possible to seek funding for visits to more than one country or to make more than one visit to a partner in a year. You must provide a clear rationale for any such proposal. The scheme is operated on an all-island basis. Travel on the island of Ireland is not eligible for funding. Travel from Northern Ireland to Great Britain or travel from the Republic of Ireland to Great Britain is allowed.

Section D: Duration of Visit

Please state the start and end dates of the current proposal. An estimate is sufficient, but evidence of forward planning will be viewed favourably.

Section E: External Support

If you have been granted other support or applied for other support in connection with the current proposal please provide details. The Academy has no objection to its grants being held in conjunction with awards from other bodies, provided that there is no duplication of expenditure.

Applicants should clarify why they need additional Academy funding. During the course of the assessment applicants are requested to keep the Academy informed of the outcomes of any other applications for funding. Failure to do so may jeopardise the application's prospects of success. In cases where simultaneous applications to the Academy and to another funding agency covering the same elements of a project are both successful, the applicant will be asked to choose which award to accept.

Section F: Previous RIA Awards/Fellowships

Please give details of any research grants you have received from the Academy within the last five years.

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Section G: Publications

Please provide a list all recent publications relevant to this application (to a maximum of six). The evaluation of a proposal may take into account the applicant's track record in terms of publication.

Section H: References

Please provide the names and contact details of two referees.

Section I: Costings

Applicants should prepare accurate costings for the proposed research expenses and should be particularly careful not to overestimate the resources required. Competition for funds can be intense, and proposals on the margin for award may have a greater chance of success if they are modestly costed. Costs should be clearly itemised and justified in terms of the research.

If the Academy is being asked to support only a proportion of the total costs, please list all the expenses connected with the research, as assessors will gauge the costs with reference to the scale of the whole project. Please indicate which costs are being sought from the Academy.

Travel costs should be fully itemised and the length of time for which subsistence is sought should be justified and in line with the guidelines as set out by the Department of Finance.

Subsistence Rates:

The Academy will offer no more than €2,000 per month for subsistence away from home. Maximum daily rates for shorter visits will be in line with the guidelines provided by the Department of Finance. For a full list of subsistence allowances abroad please see here: <http://circulars.gov.ie/pdf/circular/finance/2008/11.pdf>

Subsistence rates are to include food, accommodation and local daily travel. Applicants are asked to quote daily rates dependant on location as per the guidelines from the Department of Finance. No payments can be made to the principal investigator or co-investigator either for their own salary costs or for replacement teaching. Grants are cash-limited, and there is no scope for supplementation of an award. Failure to present costed budgets may invalidate your application.

Successful recipients must provide receipts for all vouched expenditure relating to the grant - this includes expenses incurred within the subsistence rates. The Academy does not pay per diem rates and will only cover expenses that are vouched by receipt.

Declaration

Please note that submitting the application form constitutes confirmation that the information provided is complete and accurate, and acceptance of all terms, conditions and notices contained in the Notes for Applicants. Subsequent discovery of any deliberate falsehood will automatically render the application null and void. If an award has been made, the Academy may require a full refund. It is the applicants' responsibility to ensure the application is received by the deadline date outlined above. Late applications will not be accepted. No exceptions will be made to this rule.

Outcome of application

Please note applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application approximately 10 weeks after the closing date. Results are issued by either email or letter, and cannot be given over the telephone. All queries must be addressed in writing. Academy staff cannot entertain any queries relating to the results of the scheme by telephone. Payment of an award may be withheld if there is an overdue report on any other grant awarded by the Academy to the applicant, pending submission of the relevant final report.

A full list of successful projects will be published on the Academy website.

Research Ethics

The Academy requires the research it funds be conducted in an ethical manner. It expects accurate reporting of findings and a commitment to enabling others to replicate results where possible; impartiality of researchers to the subject of the research; fair dealing in respect of other researchers and their intellectual property. Applicants should indicate whether their proposed research raises any special ethical issues.

All applicants must confirm that they:

- secured approval for the proposed research from their respective institutions Research Ethics Committee (or its equivalent)
- are aware of and signed up to their respective institutions Code of Good Research Practice

Independent researchers without access to formal ethical scrutiny and approval should briefly describe any special ethical issues, and explain how they will be addressed. Independent researchers should observe, where appropriate, the standards of research practice set out in guidelines published by scientific and learned societies, and other relevant professional bodies. All researchers should be aware of the legal requirements that regulate their work.