



PhD Fellowship Award for Poverty Research 2008

Terms and Conditions

1. This scheme offers opportunities for suitably qualified applicants to pursue one of the following postgraduate degrees:
 - a doctoral degree by research
 - an integrated masters/doctoral programme leading to the award of a doctorate
2. The scheme supports research which is directly related to poverty and which might not normally be considered for funding by mainstream sources. Priority will be given to proposals which relate to the research priority themes of Combat Poverty. Specific research priorities under the 2008 call for proposals are:
 - Using EU SILC data to analyse and measure specific aspects of poverty, or the prevalence of poverty among social groups
 - Exploring the links between atypical/low-paid work and poverty
 - Exploring the links between educational disadvantage and poverty, particularly the role of investment in quality services and its impact, or the costs of education at primary and secondary level
 - Identifying and clarifying the role of new forms of rights-based 'activation' (e.g. active citizenship) to address poverty and related concerns
 - Exploring public perceptions of and attitudes to poverty in the current Irish economic and social context
 - Exploring the links between poverty and the social determinants of health, particularly in terms of poor health outcomes
 - Exploring the rural dimensions of poverty, especially to identify gaps in understanding and inform policy developments.
 - Proposals would also be welcome if they contribute to the evidence base and/or inform policy developments in relation to:
 - new and emerging forms of poverty, especially those relating to consumption

- policy and/or service delivery aspects of the developmental welfare state and life cycle approaches
 - and/or effectiveness of anti-poverty and social inclusion policies.
3. Applicants should be graduates of recognised universities or institutions of further education. While not essential, postgraduate work experience in areas related to the proposed research would be an advantage.
 4. Applicants must have a first or upper second class honours primary degree, or the equivalent. If examination results are not known at the time of application, Combat Poverty may make a provisional offer of a fellowship award on condition that the applicant's undergraduate degree result is a first or second class honours or equivalent.
 5. Those who already hold a doctoral degree, or who hope to attain a doctoral degree for a project other than one which might be presented to this scheme, are not eligible.
 6. Awards are open to students registered, or intending to register for a full-time PhD in a university or institution in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland (see paragraph 7). However, Combat Poverty may consider applications from persons intending to study abroad if the applicant states a clear rationale for doing so. It is a condition of funding that fellowship holders are engaged full-time in their studies unless work experience / practice is a built-in component of their doctoral degree.
 7. A recognised third-level institution must be within the meaning of Section One of the Higher Education Act, 1971 *and/or* be in receipt of public funding and be approved by the Minister for Education and Science for the purposes of the Free Fees Initiative.
 8. Applicants must apply to, and be accepted by a recognised third-level institution. If applicants are not registered they must be provisionally accepted by a head of department (or his/her authorised deputy) by 2nd August 2008 and be formally accepted by the relevant department by 1st October 2008.
 9. Applications will not be considered if they are incomplete or have been received after the advertised closing date.
 10. Applications must be approved jointly by Combat Poverty and the sponsoring university/institution. The fellowship will be administered, and the student supervised, within the university/institution.
 11. Applicants should complete and return the application form. They should include a non-returnable transcript of their academic record, appropriately stamped and endorsed by the relevant third-level institution.
 12. The applicant's supervisor or his/her deputy must endorse the application form and confirm the type of postgraduate degree that the candidate will pursue.

13. Applications will be assessed on the basis of their excellence, originality and potential. Each application will initially be assessed by an independent expert who has knowledge of the area covered by the proposal. This expert will not be from the applicant's institution. Each expert will be asked to give a numerical and qualitative evaluation of the application referred to them under the following headings:

- relevance to the research priority themes, policy developments and/or national policy priorities
- quality of research proposal in terms of the aims, objectives, research design and methodology
- contribution to the evidence-base on this topic
- contribution of the study to poverty and its alleviation in Ireland
- added-value in terms of thought leadership, policy advice, public understanding, teaching, etc
- capacity, professional and academic record of applicant
- suitability of the project for doctoral research (including feasibility of proposed timescale for completion and project planning)
- value-for-money

The judgements of the expert assessors will not constitute the final determination of an application. Their function will be to assist Combat Poverty to arrive at an overall judgement of the standard of an application.

Both the numerical and qualitative judgements of the expert assessors will be referred to a PhD Assessment Group comprising two Combat Poverty research staff and two external assessors. It will be the task of this group to rank the applications on the basis of the materials supplied, to arrive at an overall judgement of standard and to make final recommendations to the Board of the Combat Poverty Agency.

14. Each applicant will receive from Combat Poverty a report of the judgement of his/her application.

15. Fellowships will be awarded for periods of up to one, two or three years.

16. Fellowships will only be awarded to those who are full-time students and who will engage full-time in research during the period of the fellowship. The only exception to this condition of funding is if work experience / practice is a built-in component of their doctoral degree.

17. The award for successful applicants to this scheme will be €15,000 per annum plus fees (where applicable) for one to three years, subject to these terms and conditions, particularly paragraph 24. This will encompass a maintenance award and support for fieldwork/archival research.

18. Fellowship-holders ('Fellows') will not be permitted to undertake paid work unless this work pertains directly to their academic studies (e.g. tutorials or occasional lectures). Where this is to be the case, fellowship holders will be expected to inform Combat Poverty in writing.

The other exception to this condition is where work experience / practice is a built-in component of the Fellows doctoral degree. This must be made clear on the application form and/or in writing to Combat Poverty.

19. Fellowships may not be held or continued at an institution other than that specified in the application form, or held to provide funding for a project other than as set out in the application form.
20. Awards will normally commence at the start of the academic year and will be administered by the university/institution on a term basis.
21. Fellows may not alter the project for which funding has been awarded without prior written consent from the Combat Poverty Agency.
22. Where applicants are in receipt of other grants, awards or scholarships, Combat Poverty will take account of the same and will have the liberty to adjust the level of the fellowship award. Applicants must state if they are in receipt of other grants, awards or scholarships.
23. Should successful applicants apply for further funding to another source, they will state as part of that application, whether or not they are requested to do so, that they hold a Combat Poverty PhD Fellowship Award for Poverty Research.
24. Combat Poverty attaches considerable importance to procedures for monitoring and renewing its fellowships. Fellows will be required to submit written progress reports to Combat Poverty, under the following broad headings:
 - end of year 1: literature review and methodological framework
 - end of year 2: fieldwork and preliminary analyses
 - end of year 3: findings, conclusions and recommendations

These reports will be accompanied by a confidential and comprehensive evaluation from the supervisor on the progress of the research. It will be the responsibility of the Fellow to ensure that these reports are submitted on time. Any changes to the research over the course of the project must be notified to Combat Poverty within two weeks. Additional correspondence may be required on this or other aspects of the research.

25. The supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that Combat Poverty is informed if the Fellow is not giving sufficient time or effort to advance the project.
26. If, for any reason, the Fellow ceases the approved research before the expiry of the award, the Head of Research in Combat Poverty must be informed immediately. The award will terminate on the date the Fellow ceases the research and he/she may be required to refund Combat Poverty any money paid for a period subsequent to that date.
27. A relevant member of staff from Combat Poverty will be identified for each Fellow to provide ongoing advice and support over the fellowship period.

28. Fellows will be invited to be based in Combat Poverty for a period of four weeks during the fellowship period. This will provide an opportunity to develop research ideas in consultation with relevant members of staff and to link in with particular aspects of Combat Poverty's work. Fellows will also have access to Combat Poverty's library.
29. Fellows will be required to present their conceptual framework and outline their research plan at an initial in-house seminar after the first year of study. They are also required to present the findings of the research at a Combat Poverty research seminar or similar event.
30. Fellows will be required to prepare a working paper for Combat Poverty's research working paper series within six months of completing their doctorates. The working paper will comprise a summary of the work undertaken and outline the main findings and recommendations of the research. Upon completion of the working paper, Combat Poverty will pay an additional €1,000 to the Fellow. An article on the research (900 words) will be written for Combat Poverty's *Action on Poverty Today* magazine. A two-page abstract of the research will also be submitted. Additional publications may be requested. All publications must conform to the house style of Combat Poverty.
31. A copy of the thesis must be submitted to the Head of Research in Combat Poverty at the end of the fellowship period.
32. In the case of publication of an article or paper arising from the research work carried out during the fellowship period, acknowledgement must be made of funding received from Combat Poverty. The Poverty Research Initiative logo should be used, where appropriate. Copyright of the research will remain with the authors.
33. Fellowship funding will be subject to annual review by Combat Poverty.
34. The continuation or termination of the fellowship award will be at the discretion of Combat Poverty.
35. Combat Poverty will not be committed to the employment of any scholar on termination of the fellowship.
36. Combat Poverty PhD Fellowship Awards for Poverty Research are held subject to these terms and conditions.
37. Enquiries regarding clarification of any of these terms and conditions may be directed to Joanne Mulholland at 01 602 66 33 or by email to research@combatpoverty.ie.