Postgraduate practicalities

– Application advice
– Funding

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POSTGRADUATE INFORMATION EVENT, GMIT

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Applications

• Postgraduate Applications Centre (PAC)  
  www.nuigalway.ie/pac

• Takes only 10 mins

• Apply early / on time

• “Complete” applications reviewed first

• Use all your (3) options ... €50 application fee
Supporting documents: “toot your own horn” 😊

• Check in advance what your programme may need:
  www.nuigalway.ie/postgrad/pac_supp_docs.html
  (You then either upload these to your PAC application or post them into PAC.)

• Personal statements, help available!
  www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/faq/statement.html
  & workshops
  Check with Careers Service, GMIT
Offers, deposit-requirement, & more info.

- Offer rounds, see P188 of prospectus
- Upcoming “official” review dates: 1 February, 1 April
- (But applications are being reviewed continually)
- Offers will continue to be made until courses are filled
- Non-refundable deposit: €500 (or €1,000)

www.nuigalway.ie/postgrad
Funding (Ireland, taught)

- Fees & maintenance
- Grants, progression
- Scholarships & bursaries
- Government initiatives
- Online resources
- Spread the cost ...
- Educational loans
Main sources

- Self-funded
- Grants
- Scholarships
- Research funding
- Sponsorship/employers
What do I have to budget for?

- **Course fee** = tuition + student levy (currently €224)
- **Maintenance costs** ... “€1K” p.m.
- “Rigours” of a PG course
Am I eligible for a grant?

N.B. Ultimately SUSI will let you know!

- Progression ... [www.nfq.ie](http://www.nfq.ie)

Moving up a level ... grant-eligible

- Ordinary Undergraduate Degree (NFQ Level 7)
- Honours Undergraduate Degree (L8) or Higher Diploma (L8)
- Postgraduate Diploma (NFQ Level 9) or Masters (NFQ Level 9)
- PhD/Doctorate (NFQ Level 10)
Detailed information ...

- www.studentfinance.ie

- SUSI
  Student Universal Support Ireland
  www.susi.ie
  https://www.grantsonline.ie

Will accept 2015 applications from **mid-April**
SUSI talk online to view

www.nuigalway.ie/postgraduate-open-day
How much will the grant cover?

• **Official statement:**

  “Student grants will be reduced by 3% from 1 January 2012.

  There will be **no maintenance payments** for new entrant postgraduate students, but over 2,000 students on the lowest incomes will have their fees paid (up to €6,270) and another 4,000 students will receive a fee contribution of €2,000.

  A Capital Assets Test will be introduced in 2013, allowing certain capital assets as well as income to be assessed as part of all grant applications.”

• Does not cover the student levy

• **Bottom line:** no maintenance, (for most) €2K contribution
Can I retain my benefits?

• Advice from our Fees Office:

“There are certain restrictions for job seekers allowances and back-to-education allowances. Students querying whether they can retain their benefits whilst availing of a grant should contact their local social welfare office to seek their advice.

Or visit www.welfare.ie (follow Learning & Upskilling link).”

• BTEA (Irish courses only): HDips and part-time Masters

Back to Education Section, Department of Social Protection
Tel: (071) 967 2616 | Locall: 1890 927 999
Scholarships and bursaries, NUI Galway

- Some are programme-specific

- Others, e.g., North/South, “Uversity”
  www.nuigalway.ie/courses/fees-and-funding/funding.html

- Rewarding excellence:
  €1,500 towards fees
  www.nuigalway.ie/postgraduate/scholarships
Government initiatives

- **Graduate skills conversion programme (ICT)**
  e.g., Info. Systems, SD&D, MBS E-Commerce
  P193 of taught prospectus or HEA website:
  [www.hea.ie/en/skills+funding](http://www.hea.ie/en/skills+funding)
  Last year €2,750 “half price fees”

Free part-time courses, incl. some P/G (SD&D, Data Analytics)
Allows you to retain your “social protection supports”
[www.springboardcourses.ie](http://www.springboardcourses.ie)
Other online resources

• Career Development Centre, NUI Galway
  www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/funding_ireland.html
  www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/fundingabroad.html

• postgradireland
  http://postgradireland.com/advice-and-funding

• Irish Research Council
  www.research.ie/funding-opportunities
Spreading the cost & loans

- Instalments
- Consider part-time
- Education loans—preferential interest rates, e.g., CU 6%

Education: investing in your future
Graduates who invest in postgraduate study not only enhance their learning but also increase their employability (Source: European Commission’s New Skills for New Jobs report). The more qualified you are, the greater the likelihood there is of you being employed and earning more.

Research shows that your earning power and career progression greatly increases as a postgraduate. (Source: Comparative Starting Salaries and Career Progression of Graduates).
Thanks for your attention.

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