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1. CÚRAM MedDevDoc Programme

1.1 About MedDevDoc

Discover MedDevDoc, where medical research meets industry innovation. Our program at CÚRAM, SFI Research Centre for Medical Devices, trains 25 doctoral students to bridge the gap between academic discovery and real-world needs in medical technology.

We focus on diverse areas:

- Biomaterials and Drug Delivery Devices
- MedTech AI, Machine Learning, Medical Imaging and Soft Robotics
- Immuno Engineering
- Biomaterial and drug delivery devices as applied to neurodegenerative applicants
- Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine

Through a comprehensive four-year program, we equip our students with the skills to drive innovation in Ireland and Europe's thriving MedTech landscape. Partnered with ten prestigious academic institutions and supported by industry leaders, our students benefit from a rich learning environment combining academic rigour and real-world experience.

1.2 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Studentships

MedDevDoc is proud to be a part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), a flagship funding program by the European Commission under Horizon Europe. Named after the renowned Polish French scientist and double Nobel laureate Marie Skłodowska-Curie, MSCA provides unparalleled research training, career development, and knowledge exchange opportunities.

Through MSCA, our program offers a platform for collaboration and growth across borders and sectors, fostering connections between academia and industry. MSCA Fellowships are globally recognised as a symbol of research excellence, opening doors to exciting international opportunities for our participants (grant agreement No: 10112664).

2. Studentship Details

MedDevDoc welcomes applicants from diverse backgrounds, regardless of gender, nationality, or educational history. Our recruitment efforts are broad, reaching potential candidates through various channels.

We specifically target MSc. students worldwide who are passionate about Regenerative Medicine, Medical Devices (including Biomaterials and Drug Delivery), and MedTech AI. Applicants must be open to international mobility to ensure compliance with the MSCA mobility rule.

Our globally focused dissemination strategy uses international media platforms and conducts communications exclusively in English. This approach ensures that our program reaches and attracts a diverse pool of talented individuals from across the globe.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Applications need to meet three criteria: eligibility of applicants, applications, and secondments.

3.1 Eligibility of Applicants

- MedDevDoc encourages applications from candidates holding a 1st class or a 2:1 honour first degree, with or expecting to obtain a Master's in disciplines such as Biomaterials, Biomedical



Engineering, Tissue Engineering, Cell Biology, Biology, Biochemistry, or related fields. We welcome applicants of all genders and nationalities who do not currently hold a doctoral degree. Medical Doctors are also encouraged to apply, provided they demonstrate an understanding of the clinical or life sciences research process.

- For applicants whose first language is not English, proficiency in English is required. We accept English language qualifications taken within two years before the application, such as IELTS, Cambridge C1 Advanced, Cambridge C2 Advanced, TOEFL iBT/TOEFL iBT Home Edition, Pearson PTE, and Duolingo.
- All applicants must adhere to the MSCA mobility rule (Table 1).

3.2 Eligibility Requirements for the Application

applicants are required to upload the following documents:

Part A: Administrative Information

- Administrative details of the applicant
- Preferred Primary Academic Supervisor
- Project Proposal Title
- Potential Secondment Host (if applicable)

Part B: Project Summary

Project Summary (Title page+4 pages description + an appendix page) including:

- First page: title page
- Background:1/4 page (0.25)
- Aim and Objective:2 pages
- Implementation:1/2 page (0.5)
- Career Development: 1/2 page (0.5)
- Appendix:1page
- Extra space: 3/4 page (0.45), which you could use for each part that needs more

Motivation Letter (maximum 1 page) describing:

- Motivation to participate in MedDevDoc
- Ambitions and goals for the five years beyond the PhD

Curriculum Vitae (maximum 3 pages)

- Academic and research achievements of the applicant

English Language Qualification

All passport pages

3.3 Eligibility of Project Proposals

- Project proposals must fall within the research areas outlined by CÚRAM within the expansive domain of Medical Device Research and Development.
- All submissions must be in English and comprehensive.
- Consideration of the gender dimension in the research project is mandatory.
- Applications must be submitted online to the University of Galway via <http://meddevdoc.com> before the specified call deadline.
- Each submission must include a fully completed ethics section as outlined in the application form.
- Proposals must adhere to the ethical regulations of the host organisation and the European Union Horizon Europe research program.



3.4 Eligibility Requirements for the Intersectoral Secondment

- Non-academic secondments are mandatory for all candidates. During the application process, applicants can nominate up to three potential secondment organisations and justify their compatibility with their project.
- The total duration of each secondment is six months

Table1: Mobility Requirement

Mobility Requirement	Fellowships are open to candidates of any nationality who have not resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Ireland for more than 12 months in the three years immediately before the call deadline. *
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* The following periods are not considered: a) compulsory national service; b) time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention; c) short stays (such as holidays), i.e., the researcher did not reside or did not have their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country during that period.

4. Selection Process

4.1 Different Stages of the Selection Process

The selection process will be in 2 stages:

- Stage 1: Selection based on the submitted application.
- Stage 2: Selection based on an interview; the discussion will consist of a 15-minute slide presentation, with applicants describing their previous scientific work, followed by 10 minutes (either in person or via an agreed virtual method).

Table 2: Evaluation criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Weightings
Stage1	50%
Stage2	50%

4.2 Evaluation Criteria

4.2.1 Research Proposal

Each application will undergo evaluation based on the criteria specified in Table 3. Reviewers will assess proposals according to sub-criteria that aid in determining the quality of each submission. To ensure impartial evaluation, reviewers will assess applications aligned with their areas of expertise. Applicant names will be anonymised to mitigate any potential unconscious bias.



Table 3: Award criteria and sub-criteria

		Excellence (max score 5; 1 per criterion)	Competences (max score 5; 1 per criterion)	Motivation (max score 5; 1 per criterion)
Stage 1				
	Project summary	1. Quality/ pertinence of the research project 2. Scientific soundness of project objectives and methodology	1. Comprehension of new material and subject matter 2. Planning and organising skills	1. Ambition and innovation of project objectives 2. Impact of described project
	Motivation letter	3. Quality of communication skills	3. Excellent level of English	3. Motivation, evaluated by candidates' fit with MedDevDoc
	CV	4. Quality of scientific training 5. Project management skills	4. Academic qualifications 5. Ability to work independently and as a part of a team	4. Curiosity to learn something new 5. Self-motivated, evaluated by extracurricular activities

Scores from 0 to 5 indicate the following concerning the criterion under examination:

- 0) The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 1) Poor. The criterion needs to be addressed more, or serious inherent weaknesses exist.
- 2) Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant areas for improvement.
- 3) Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but some areas for improvement are present.
- 4) Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a few drawbacks exist.
- 5) Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any imperfections are minor.

4.2.1 Interview

The interview process will be conducted in English in person or via a teleconferencing facility facilitated by an interview panel. The candidate and the Interview Panel will collaboratively agree on a suitable time for the interview.

The interview serves as an assessment of the candidate's oral presentation skills and motivation. Each candidate will be evaluated based on the award criteria outlined in Table 4. Each criterion will be scored according to its assigned weighting, which aligns with the proposal scoring system.

During the interview, candidates must deliver a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation titled. This presentation should be in alignment with the research proposal and fellowship opportunity.

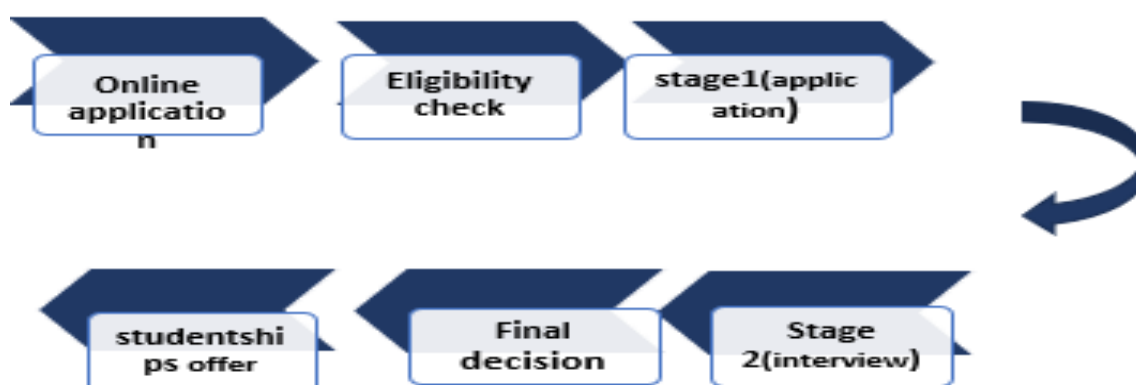
Following the presentation, there will be a 30-minute question-and-answer session, as detailed in



Table 4. The overall weightings for the Interview will constitute 50% of the evaluation process.

interview				
	Interview	1. Quality of communication skills 2. Good interpersonal skills 3. Analytical/ problem-solving skills	1. Creativity 2. Critical thinking 3. Excellent level of English	1. Motivation, enthusiasm, and knowledge of the project
	Oral presentation	4. Quality of the slide content and structure 5. Presentation skills	4. Ability to answer questions raised by expert reviewers 5. Excellent communication skills	2. Motivation, evaluated by candidates' knowledge of the research area

4.3 Selection Process



Application Process via Online Portal:

To apply for MedDevDoc, candidates must individually register through the "Apply Now" section on the MedDevDoc website. We encourage applicants to begin preparing their applications as early as possible.

Application Preparation:

- Identify the research area to match with a potential CÚRAM host supervisor.
- Complete online forms including personal details, project titles, summaries, and keywords.
- Fill out an ethics questionnaire and applicant declarations.
- Upload the following PDF documents: Academic CV, Motivation Letter, Research Proposal, and English language qualification.

Eligibility Check:

- All applications will undergo eligibility verification once the online application system is closed.
- Applicants will be promptly notified of the eligibility results and explanations for any ineligibility.

Evaluation Stage 1:

- Each eligible application will undergo external international peer review.

- Three independent experts comprising the Peer Review Panel will evaluate each proposal based on predefined criteria.

Evaluation Stage 2:

- Top-ranked candidates will progress to the next stage, which involves a competency interview conducted by an Interview Panel.
- A consultation will be scheduled within three weeks following the initial selection.

Final Decision:

- The MedDevDoc Steering Committee will make the final funding decision.
- This decision will be based on recommendations from the Peer-Review Panel, Interview Panel, and the relevance of candidates' applications

Studentship Offers

Human Resources will issue letters of offer to successful candidates based on the final funding decision of the Steering Committee. The Programme Manager will provide feedback to all applicants.

4.4 Redress Procedure

Candidates can request a redress procedure if they believe there were shortcomings in their proposal evaluation or eligibility checks. Requests must be submitted within 15 days of receiving feedback and emailed to meddevdoc@curamdevices.ie using the form on the MedDevDoc website. A Redress Committee will review the case, ensuring fairness and confidentiality. If successful, the applicant may undergo a second interview. Decisions by the Redress Committee are final.

5. Intellectual Property (IP) Rights

IP protection and exploitation are paramount in the MedDevDoc program. Intellectual property rights (IPR) adhere to MSCA guidelines and agreements between CÚRAM and its partners. Host organisations' internal policies and fellows' employment contracts govern IP, which is applicable during their stay at host and secondment organisations. Before secondments, host and secondment organisations must sign IP agreements facilitated by MedDevDoc supervisors and the Technology Transfer Office (TTO). Fellows are trained to identify, record, protect, and exploit IP, with inventorship considerations by contributory supervisors.

6. Employment Conditions

6.1 Contractual Arrangements

Successful candidates will receive a letter of offer from the host institute within four weeks of their interview. Upon acceptance, the University of Galway will contract with the relevant CÚRAM host organisation and then issue an employment contract to the candidate. The University of Galway acts as the Paymaster for all contracts. Contracts specify details such as the nature and duration of the studentship, salary, leave entitlements and intellectual property rights arrangements. Partnership agreements between host and secondment organisations cover secondments. Irish law protects students' rights, including equal treatment and protection against discrimination and disability.

6.2 Studentship Funding Breakdown

Med Dev Doc will recruit 25 doctoral fellows for a maximum of 4 years. Amounts provided for the benefit of the students are as follows:



Table 4: Estimated MedDevDoc budget

Cost categories	Amount (€/ month)
Living allowance	2,058
Mobility allowance*	517
Family allowance**	569

*: A mobility allowance is provided to cover expenses linked to the personal household and student relocation.

** : paid when the student has family obligations. The purpose of family is persons connected to the student: (i) by marriage; (ii) relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country where this relationship is formal; (iii) dependent children whom the student is maintaining.

7. Student Training

7.1 Student Training Program

MedDevDoc is a complete research training and career development program with a broad range of activities and opportunities offered to the students. MedDevDoc will include an excellent training program divided into four skill areas:

- Basic Skills
- Scientific
- Industry
- Soft Skills

All students recruited to the MedDevDoc program will receive induction training and expect to participate in the mandatory training program for PhD students.

7.2 Supervision Arrangements

Each MedDevDoc student will have a Supervisory Team consisting of:

- A Primary Academic Supervisor from the MedDevDoc academic host.
- An interdisciplinary mentor with at least two years of postdoctoral experience from a CÚRAM academic partner.
- An intersectoral supervisor from the secondment host.

These supervisory teams adhere to MSCA Guidelines, ensuring comprehensive support for students. They facilitate access to necessary facilities, infrastructure, and training across host and secondment organisations.

8. Secondments

During the six-month secondment period at industrial partners, students will be supervised by a researcher within the respective company. This supervisor will guide students in accessing infrastructure and train them in relevant scientific methods. Additionally, students can participate in company meetings to enhance their understanding of various aspects, including company strategy, required development steps towards the market, and commercial aspects such as business model development, market studies, and competitor analyses. This exposure aims to maximise students' knowledge and experience during their secondment.



Table 5: Infrastructure and technical support available for Fellows in the host organisations

Institute	Location within	Equipment/facilities/technical support
 OLLScoil na Gaillimhe UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY	State-of-the-art 8,000 m ² Biomedical Sciences Building	State of art biomaterials synthesis and characterization facilities, Centre for Microscopy and Imaging, Stem cell manufacturing, preclinical and molecular biology suites, HRB Clinical Research Facility
 UCD DUBLIN	State-of-the-art UCD Science Centre	Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Sciences Centres of Synthesis and Chemical Biology and Nanomedicine School of Agriculture and Food Science facility
 RCSI	RCSI Research Institute	Drug Delivery Core Peptide and Organic Chemistry National Biophotonics Imaging Platform RCSI's Clinical Research Centre Polymer Chemistry facilities
 TUS Technological University of the Shannon Midlands Region Ollscoil TechnoEolaíochta na Sionnainne Lár na Sionnainne	Bioscience Research Institute	Materials Research Institute: Polymer Processing
 Trinity College Dublin Coláiste Tríonóide, Na h-Eoláirí Trinity College Dublin	Biomedical Engineering	Ongoing projects to develop a new class of regenerative implant to treat arthritic hips. 3D Bioprinting lab, novel tissue engineering, Trinity Biosciences Institute, testing machines, flow cytometry facility, qRT-PCR, microscopy suites, small and large animal facilities.
 UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH	Biomedical Engineering	Bernal Institute: Electron Microscopy (Titan S/TEM platform, FIB-SEM), Spectroscopy, X-Ray diffraction, FTIR, TOF SIMS, XPS, Automated Tape Placement, Crystallization research pilot, Microfluidics facilities (Particle-Image Velocimetry, Laser-Doppler Anemometry).
 TU DUBLIN Technological University of Dublin	Technical University Dublin (TUD)	Expertise in Regulatory affairs
 DCU Dublin City University	Medicinal Chemistry and School of Chemical Sciences	Nano Research Centre (NFR) for the design, development, and biological characterisation of hybrid biomaterials. National Centre for Sensor Research
 UCC University College Cork, Ireland Coláiste na hOileáirí, Corcaigh	School of Pharmacy and Biological Services Unit	School of Pharmacy Biological Services Unit UCC's Clinical Research Centre
 nibr National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training	National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training	Innovative glycoanalytical research with full technical support



9. Work Environment

The academic institutions within CÚRAM have robust administrative infrastructure and will oversee student hiring and support throughout the MedDevDoc program. Collaboration across departments ensures ample capacity for administrative activities. These partners offer excellent education, training, IP protection, exploitation, data management, and ethics infrastructure.

Partnership agreements with secondment organisations will ensure the provision of necessary equipment and resources for student work. Host and secondment organisations will provide required technical conditions, including office and laboratory space, with students having equal access rights. Office spaces will be equipped with standard facilities, and secondment organisations will offer similar technical conditions outlined in the partnership agreement.

10. Human Resources

In 2013, the University of Galway earned the HR Excellence in Research Logo from the European Commission for its dedication to upholding the principles outlined in the European "Charter and Code" for Researchers. The MedDevDoc program will adhere to the HR and working condition principles outlined in the European Charter for Researchers and Code for the Recruitment of Students. This alignment ensures a focus on research freedom, ethics, professional responsibility and attitude, contractual and legal obligations, accountability, dissemination, outreach, public engagement, supervisory duties, and fostering excellent working environments for all recruited students.

11. Support Services

11.1 MedDevDoc Helpdesk

The MedDevDoc Programme Manager will run a support helpdesk for applicants throughout the program via email (meddevdoc@curamdevices.ie). Helpdesk support will include the provision of information on:

- the application
- eligibility criteria
- the submission procedure
- suitability of a research topic (whether it fits within the remit of CÚRAM)

The MedDevDoc Programme Manager will also facilitate technical support for any problems associated with the online application system.

11.2 EURAXESS Ireland

Applicants and students can avail of the EURAXESS Ireland office's services. EURAXESS.ie provides information on various issues and areas affecting researchers, including immigration, visas, employment law, healthcare, childcare, social services, and life in Ireland. Numerous administrative resources within NUIG will support the implementation of MedDevDoc, including the Research Office, International Affairs Office, Research HR, and Researcher Development Centre. The University of Galway will provide comprehensive support to all incoming fellows through these departments, including help with visas and migration, relocation, health insurance, banking, daycare, schooling, and family-related issues.

12. Data Protection

The personal data of applicants submitted as part of the application for the MedDevDoc studentship Programme will be processed only for the present call and the possible signing of the employment



contract with the host organisation. The processing of personal data will adhere to [the University of Galway's Data Protection Policy](#).

For information on the security and privacy of your data within the online application system, please refer to [Ex-Ordo's Participant Terms of Service and Privacy Policy](#)

13. Equal opportunities

13.1 Equal Opportunities Policy

An Irish University will employ all students so that Irish law will apply. Irish Universities are committed to the continued development of policies, procedures, and practices that comply with the Universities Act 1997, Equality Employment Acts 1998 and 2004, and the Equal Status Act 2000. Equality Employment Act 2004 prohibited discrimination in various employment-related areas. The prohibited grounds of discrimination are gender, marital status, family status, age, race, religious belief, disability, sexual orientation, and membership in the Traveller community. The University of Galway's Equal Opportunities policy is the basis of recruitment and selection, which provides that candidates will be selected based on meritocracy (quality and competency) and monitored by the Equality Commissioner.

13.2 Gender Equality

The MedDevDoc program aims to raise gender awareness and promote gender equality in research and innovation, which aligns with the gender equality strategy outlined in Horizon Europe. CÚRAM's view is that females and males are equally able to perform excellent research. Moreover, CÚRAM aims to consider and confront structural gender differences to fulfil its mission to support outstanding international researchers, irrespective of gender, nationality, age, marital and family status, religious belief, sexual orientation, or disability.

13.3 Students with Disabilities

MedDevDoc will welcome applications from candidates with disabilities. In compliance with the Equality Employment Acts 1998-2015 and the Disability Act 2005, MedDevDoc will provide services and facilities for students with disabilities. Where necessary, MedDevDoc will seek to access the MSCA Special Needs Allowance to support recruited students whose long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments would preclude their participation in MSCA without extra financial support. This allowance will allow us to support disabled applicants during recruitment (e.g., sign language interpretation at interviews) and throughout the implementation stages.

13.4 Career Restart

MedDevDoc aims to encourage students who have taken career breaks to apply to the program and resume/start their scientific careers. MedDevDoc career breaks will be considered in the eligibility criteria for MedDevDoc applicants, and evaluation criteria will acknowledge all relevant non-academic experience.

14. Useful Links

[The European Charter and Code for Researchers:](#)

Horizon Europe Programme Guidance '[How to complete your ethics self-assessment](#)':

Toolkit "[Gender in EU-funded research.](#)"



15. Contact Details

MedDevDoc Programme CÚRAM, SFI Research Centre for Medical Devices Biomedical Sciences, University of Galway, Ireland.

Programme Manager:

Email: meddevdoc@curamdevices.ie

Website: www.meddevdoc.eu

