



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil



**Science, Technology, Research & Innovation for the
Environment (STRIVE) Programme 2007 – 2013**

**Terms & Conditions for the support of Grant Awards of
EPA STRIVE & Climate Change Research Programme
Doctoral Scholarships
October 2011**

**The EPA STRIVE Programme is funded by the Irish Government
under the National Development Plan 2007-2013**

This document sets out the Terms and Conditions for support of Grant Awards of Science, Technology, Research & Innovation for the Environment (STRIVE) and Climate Change Research Programme, Doctoral Scholarships.

Applicants should read the following carefully and also consult the other documentation provided (e.g. Guide for Grantees, Technical Description, Guide for Applicants etc..).

All documentation referred to in the following is available from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website (www.epa.ie).

Terms and Conditions for support of Grant Awards of STRIVE Doctoral Scholarships

1. Funding is provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the Grantee. The term 'Grantee' is defined as the third level institute which will host the student carrying out the research under the Scholarship.
2. Where the EPA commences funding a project, it undertakes to continue to provide funding in accordance with the proposed schedule of funding set out in the Memorandum of Agreement.
3. The Research Grant may be, reduced, suspended, terminated or revoked by the EPA, in whole or in part, in any of the following circumstances:
 - (a) If the EPA is dissatisfied with the performance of the student, it may at its absolute discretion decline to continue funding the project;
 - (b) when the Supervisor / Grantee has materially failed to comply with the Grant Conditions;
 - (c) when the Supervisor
 - (i) is convicted of any criminal offence involving dishonesty;
 - (ii) severs his/her connection with the Grantee;
 - (iii) in the reasonable opinion of the EPA, relinquishes active direction of the Research Project; or
 - (iv) does not initiate the Research Grant actively within the same calendar year as the award.
 - (d) If the money which the EPA receives from the State to enable it to provide funding to projects (including this project) is discontinued or reduced, the EPA may cease funding the project; and in particular, if it is so reduced, the EPA may elect not to continue funding this project, even if it continues to fund other projects.
 - (e) Normally, action to reduce, suspend, terminate or revoke a Research Grant will be taken only after the EPA has been informed of any deficiency on the part of the Grantee, Supervisor or Student and given an opportunity to correct it; but the EPA may immediately suspend or terminate the Research Grant without notice when it reasonably believes that such action is required to protect the interest of the EPA, the Research Programme or the Research Grant.
 - (f) No costs incurred during the suspension period or after the effective date of the termination will be eligible except in circumstances where no fault attaches to the Grantee and, in the opinion of the EPA, the Grantee could not reasonably avoid or eliminate such costs, or which were otherwise authorised by the suspension or termination notice, provided such costs would otherwise be eligible under the Grant Conditions.
 - (g) when the EPA has other reasonable cause.

4. Effects of termination
 - 4.1 Should the doctoral scholarship be terminated under any circumstances, all unspent monies at the date of the termination must be reimbursed to the EPA.
 - 4.2 Within 30 days of the termination date, the Grantee shall furnish a report containing such information as would be contained in the Final Report together with an itemised accounting of costs incurred prior to the termination date. Final eligible costs under the termination settlement will be in accordance with the Grant Conditions, including this article, giving due consideration to the progress of the Research Project. In no event will the total of the Research Grant payment under a terminated award exceed the Research Grant amount.
 - 4.3 Where the Research Grant is terminated or revoked by the EPA, the Grantee shall repay to the EPA such sums as the EPA may demand in respect of the Research Grant (which sums shall include, without limitation, advance payments) and, if the Research Grant is reduced, the Grantee shall repay to the EPA the amount by which the Research Grant has been reduced. In either case, repayment shall be made within 60 days of the date of the notice of termination and in default of payment within 60 days such sums may be recoverable by the EPA from the Grantee as a simple contract debt and shall carry interest at the rate of 10% per annum accruing from the date on which the relevant sums were originally paid by the EPA to the Grantee.
 - 4.4 The Grantee shall repay to the EPA within 60 days any part of the Research Grant which remains unspent at the end of the Term
5. The Grantee must notify and agree with the EPA any significant changes that occur with respect to the research project (e.g. budget reallocations, changes to project direction, variance from the original proposal etc.)
6. The STRIVE Programme shall be the **sole source of funding** for the project, unless agreed in advance with the EPA.
7. The Grantee must ensure that adequate facilities are available for the research proposed. Overheads will not be funded by the EPA as part of the doctoral scholarship awards.
8. Scholarships should begin within the same calendar year as the award.
9. Scholarships are non-transferrable unless agreed in advance with the EPA.
10. The student should be engaged on the scholarship on a full-time basis, though it will be acceptable for the student to undertake demonstration work which is relevant to the research areas and which does not exceed six hours a week. Students may take annual leave on terms laid down by the Grantee.
11. Annual reporting
 - 11.1 The Grantee is required to provide the EPA with an annual Technical Progress Report as well as an annual Cost Statement by the 1st October of each year. These will ONLY be accepted via the EPA Grant Application & Project Management Portal (<http://epa.smartsimple.ie>). If the Grant Award funds have been exhausted, yet the project is not complete, a Technical Progress Report will still be required until the project is technically and financially complete.
12. Completion of the project
 - 12.1 The project is considered complete when a hard-bound copy of the thesis (and associated paperwork) has been submitted to and signed off by the EPA.

- 12.2 Grantees are expected to upload all relevant datasets to the SaferData website <http://erc.epa.ie/safer/> upon completion of the project. Descriptions of the datasets (using the metadata provided) will be made available publicly, while access to the datasets will be restricted to the data originators & EPA staff for a period up to 12 months after the publication date of the project report. Upon expiry of that period, datasets will be made publicly available. Any variation from this clause must be fully justified and agreed in writing with the EPA in advance of retention being released.
13. Participation/Attendance at the EPA STRIVE Doctoral Scholarship Seminar (when held) is **mandatory** throughout the duration of the project. These seminars are organised annually by the EPA (usually in October/November).
 14. The student is expected to publish the results of their research in appropriate peer reviewed journals. Electronic copies of publications should be provided to the EPA through the on-line management portal.
 15. The Final Cost Statement for the project and the End of Project Questionnaire must be submitted within 3 months of the agreed project completion date. These are ONLY to be submitted using the EPA Grant Application & Project Management Portal available at: <http://epa.smartsimple.ie>.
 16. The EPA and Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) support should be acknowledged in the publication of any results and reference should be made to funding provided by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2007-2013. Details of the correct use of logos etc. are available from the EPA on request. Reference must be made to the support given to the project from the EPA STRIVE Research programme in any publications arising from the project.
 17. Payments will be made annually by the STRIVE programme to the Grantee following the certification of financial and technical progress reports referred to above.
 18. The student is required to achieve a level of expertise in statistical and experimental methods appropriate to a Ph.D. It is the responsibility, therefore, of the Grantee that the student attends and passes such courses as are available to them.
 19. The Grantee is expected to provide high quality academic supervision for the duration of the scholarship.
 20. Authorisation for any deviation to the agreed work programme or the terms and conditions must be sought from the EPA in writing.
 21. Grantees who do not comply with these requirements will be deemed ineligible to apply for future STRIVE research grants.
 22. Please note that costs such as sick pay, redundancy pay, maternity pay and other similar social costs which may or may not arise in the grant period are specifically identified as ineligible costs under current STRIVE funding guidelines.

For more detailed information on reporting requirement, project management and submission of final reports, datasets and end-of-project questionnaires please refer to the *Guide for Grantees*.