



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

The UI doctoral grants fund

The UI doctoral grants fund is a collection of funds specifically intended to support promising students in their doctoral studies at the University of Iceland, thereby strengthening the university as an international research institution and stimulating research-based postgraduate studies.

Doctoral grants will, as before, be allocated from the UI Research Fund and the Eimskip University Fund. This time, additional grants will also be available:

- Two grants for research in the fields of health and life sciences, information technology, and renewable energy, funded by the University of Iceland's [Science Parks](#), for up to three years.
- One grant from the [Icelandic Meteorological Office](#) for research in the institution's areas of expertise, focusing on natural hazards and climate change, for up to three years.
- One grant from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for research aligned with Iceland's priorities in [international development cooperation](#), to be conducted in Iceland's partner countries—Malawi, Uganda, or Sierra Leone—and/or other low-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, for up to three years. It is noted that a doctoral student cannot receive this scholarship if they are also receiving funding from GRÓ during the same period.

Students and academic staff who meet the requirements set by the UI doctoral grants fund's rules and the UI's standards and requirements for the quality of doctoral programs are eligible to apply for doctoral grants.

The deadline for applications is February 1st, 2026. Applications are to be submitted in Icelandic or English. Applicants select between three application routes:

- **Route A:** A Student who has already enrolled in a PhD programme can apply together with a supervisor.
- **Route B:** Supervisor, who is a UI academic employee and meets the previously mentioned requirements, applies without a student.
- **Route C:** Applicant, who has not yet begun their PhD studies at UI, can apply to the fund. An application for a UI PhD program, typically prepared in collaboration with the prospective supervisor, must be submitted to the relevant UI school along with the application for the UI PhD grant.
 - Students via route C are also requested to arrange for two experts to submit a letter of reference on the quality of the student's research and his/her ability to perform the proposed doctoral research. It is preferred that one of the reviewers is associated with the student's final project in his/her graduate studies. Letters of reference are to be emailed by reviewers in PDF format directly to rannsoknasjodir@hi.is before the application deadline.

Applications are to be submitted via an online application form provided by the UI Doctoral Grants Fund. [Click here](#) to access the application form, UI doctoral grants fund's rules, criteria for evaluation of applications, application form guidelines and more.

For further information, please contact the Division of Science and Innovation rannsoknasjodir@hi.is