



Irish Association for Russian, Central and East European Studies
An Cumann Éireannach um Staidéar ar an Rúis agus ar Thíortha
na hEorpa Láir agus Thoir

IARCEES Marcus Wheeler Bursary

In recognition of the widespread financial precarity of early career researchers and with the aim to grow the community of scholars of Central and Eastern Europe and Russia based on the island of Ireland, IARCEES has launched a support scheme to provide financial contributions to eligible research expenses - the **Marcus Wheeler Bursary**. The award is named after Marcus Wheeler, formerly a Professor of Slavonic Studies in QUB, a distinguished scholar, author of the Oxford Russian–English dictionary and a founding member of the IARCEES. The award is partially funded by a generous donation from lifelong association member Professor Ronald Hill. The Marcus Wheeler Bursary will contribute to the costs of any research-related activity within the geographic and thematic scope of the IARCEES: the study of the languages and cultures of the former Soviet Union and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Eligibility

Full-time or part-time graduate and post-graduate research students, post-doctoral researchers, scholars in precarious employment (contract of three years or less), or scholars without current academic affiliation who wish to remain research active, who are either based on the island of Ireland or are affiliated with an Irish research institution. Applicants do not need to be members of the Association at the time of the application. They will automatically become members for 2026 if they are offered an award.

Amount

Up to **three** bursaries of €500 will be awarded in the January 2026 call.

Eligible expenses

The bursary will be paid upfront based on the proposed expenses. Any unused amount will be returned to the Association. Any research-related expenses are eligible, including but not limited to:

- Travel (including visa) costs & accommodation expenses while travelling for research, fieldwork or dissemination of research results (conferences and workshops) in Ireland or abroad
- Conference registration costs (conference attendance without presenting is not eligible)
- Cost of access to research facilities (archives, libraries, etc.)
- Cost of copies of relevant materials
- Copyright costs for images for academic peer-reviewed publications
- Childcare or other care-related costs when necessary to facilitate research
- Cost of hardware or software essential to conduct research (e.g., recording devices for interviews)

Membership fees for professional associations are not eligible expenses.

Evaluation criteria

- Quality of the proposed research
- Value for money
- Impact on scholar's research activity/ career progression

How to apply

Applicants should fill in the form and provide supporting documentation (when necessary) by **20 January 2026**

Link to the form:

<https://forms.gle/ZSNWVkpNuTttwC4h8>

Decisions on funding will be made by a panel of association committee members. Panel's decision on funding or not is final. The recipients of the award will be informed of the outcome in late February 2026.

The bursary should be spent before **31 October 2026**. A short report of 300 words should be submitted to IARCEES by **30 November 2026** outlining how the award was used and how it contributed to the research/ career development efforts together with the proof of expenses.

For questions and queries, contact Dr Aneta Stepień, aneta.stepien@mu.ie