DIGIWIND

Annex 1 - TUS Open call 2
guidelines for applicants

TUS OPEN CALL #2
GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

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Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/ Abbreviation	Title
TUS	Technological University of the Shannon
OC	Open Call
ECTS	European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System
HEI	Higher Education Institutes
RPL	Recognition of Prior Learning

1. Introduction

This document sets out the guidelines for participation in the TUS second open call for proposals of the DigiWind programme a European initiative funded under the under Digital Europe Programme, Grant Agreement number: 101122836, Call identifier: DIGITAL-2022-SKILLS-03 – Specialised education programmes in key capacity areas.

In addition to this document, applicants are invited to become familiar with the DigiWind Website and the additional documentation available.

1.1 About the DigiWind project

DigiWind is a programme designed to equip Europe's top talent with the advanced digital skills needed to drive innovation in wind and energy systems. Through fee waivers and/or scholarships (customised in each Open Call conditions), DigiWind aims to lower the barriers to high-quality education, enabling highly qualified learners to access learning experiences at European Higher Education Institutes (HEIs).

The programme provides financial support for tuition, ensuring that individuals can participate in the Specialized Education Programs (SEPs) offered by DigiWind's partners. DigiWind offers a dynamic and flexible learning environment, with Masters of Science (M.Sc). and master courses available both in-person and/or through online/hybrid formats (customised in each Open Call conditions).

By connecting learners with educational opportunities in the wind energy and digital sectors, DigiWind fosters an ecosystem for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and career development. This initiative aims to build a skilled workforce ready to lead Europe's green transition and shape the future of renewable energy.

1.2 The DigiWind team

DigiWind brings together a consortium of five world-leading Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the area of wind and energy systems (Technical University of Denmark, Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Technological University Shannon and Gdansk University of Technology), two SMEs (Whiffle and Cadpeople) at the intersection of digital technologies and renewable energy, a Large Enterprise (Irish Manufacturing Research Ltd.) in digital skills and education using augmented reality and virtual reality to scale up the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and competences, and an experienced SME, representing a global community to drive impactful communication, dissemination, and exploitation (F6S Network Ireland Limited). To discover more about the team behind DigiWind visit the partners section on our website.

1.3 About Technical University of the Shannon: Your future University

The Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) is a multi-campus university in Ireland's Midwest and Midlands regions, established on October 1, 2021, through the merger of the Athlone Institute of Technology and the Limerick Institute of Technology. It's a Designated Awarding Body (DAB) with the authority to award degrees from Level 6 to 10 (PhD) of the Irish National Framework of Qualifications. TUS has a strong focus on regional development through education, research, and collaboration with industry. With over 14,000 students and 1,400 staff across its six campuses, TUS aims to meet the evolving needs of society and industry through applied learning and innovation

The DigiWind Master's Scholarship Offer

The DigiWind TUS Open Call #2 is for a partial scholarship to complete a master's by Research in an area relevant to the digitalisation of Wind and Energy Systems.

Successful applicants will be eligible for a **partial stipend of €1,000 per month**, for **eighteen (18) months**, or up until the end of the DigiWind project in December 2027. It is envisaged that up to **five scholarships** will be awarded. Successful applicants will also be eligible for a fee waiver, which is covered by TUS and is not financed by the EU FSTP grant. Students will be based at the TUS Campus in Limerick, Ireland studying in-person with access to online classes.

OFFER OVERVIEW

- **What you get:** Partial Master's by Research Scholarship
- **Focus area:** Digitalization of Wind and Energy Systems
- **The financial package:** €18,000 partial stipend scholarship
- **Key details:** 5 spots available requiring mandatory in-person availability in Limerick
- **Application period:** 19 December 2025 to 5 March 2026 (17:00 CET).

What you will achieve: Program objectives

- A **recognized master's qualification** based on advanced, completed research.
- **Real-world experience** by working on industry-based projects and collaborating with companies where relevant.
- Essential skills for your future career, broken down into three areas:
  - **Subject Expertise:** Deepening your specific field knowledge.
  - **Research Skills:** Learning how to conduct high-quality research.
  - **Employability Skills:** Boosting your personal and professional abilities.
- A foundation for **technical and scientific excellence**, with opportunities to publish your work. This can also prepare you for potential future **PhD studies**.

Program Requirements

Language

English is the official language for the DigiWind TUS Open Call programme. **Proposals and/or documentation submitted in any other language will not be considered.** English will also stand as the official language for the duration of the programme.

2. The TUS Scholarships Opportunities

2.1 Masters of Science (MSc) in Electrical Power Systems (By Research) - 120 ECTS

About

The Master in Electrical Power Systems is a practice-based professional award for experienced employees in all sectors of electrical engineering and related technologies. The programme focuses on the challenges and benefits of applying advanced technologies to drive deployment, operation, capacity and growth of the electrical grid system.

The programme addresses a number of related, inter and multidisciplinary areas, and their application in a range of domains, including:

- ISCED 0713 Electricity and Energy
- ISCED 07 Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction
- ISCED 061 Information and Communication Technologies
- ISCED 0714 Electronics and Automation

Duration of the Master – 2 years (24 months)

Duration of stipend – 18 months or up until the end of DigiWind project December 2027.

Industry relevance

The Irish and European industrial electrical sector faces a significant and growing skills gap, driven by the need to advance the electrical grid for sustainability and digitalisation, with a high demand for engineers proficient in smart grids, control systems, power transmission/distribution, and renewable energy integration. To address this, this Master in Electrical Power Systems by Research provides professionals with the specialized knowledge in power generation, transmission, and the complex management of modern electrical grids and energy storage, directly equipping graduates to design, operate, and maintain efficient, reliable systems required for the region's ambitious decarbonization and electrification goals.

Objectives

This programme takes a research-led approach to support professionals in the transition to advanced Electrical Power System Engineers, ensuring the continuous professional development of industry leaders and the continued growth, prosperity and sustainability of the industrial Electrical sector.

Most of the credits and learning outcomes are work-based, underpinned by a training programme of masterclasses and research supports, delivered through bootcamps, workshops, and on-line tutorials, and supported by guest lecturers and site-visits.

Outcome and ECTS

The masterclasses (Technical Specialisation Modules) provide an expert-level appraisal of relevant technologies, tools and techniques so that the Learner can assess current trends, engage with specialist professionals, and identify the potential benefits of Electrical Power Systems and embracing digital tools and techniques.

Specialist Modules:

- Electrical Power Systems (5 ECTS)
- Smart Grid Control Systems (5 ECTS)
- Simulation & Fault Analysis (5 ECTS)
- Energy Integration & Storage (5 ECTS)

The completion of the applied research project and research management modules brings significant advances in terms of professional and personal development, critical thinking, communication skills and confidence to present proposals and results. The necessary research and transversal skills (communications, research management) will be delivered through online, self-directed modules with regular workshops.

2.2 Masters of Science (MSc) in Wind Energy Systems (By Research) - 120 ECTS

About

The Master's in Wind Energy Systems is a practice-based professional award for experienced employees in all sectors of electrical engineering and related technologies. The programme focuses on the challenges and benefits of applying advanced technologies to drive deployment, operation, capacity and growth of the Wind and Energy system.

The programme addresses a number of related, inter and multidisciplinary areas, and their application in a range of domains, including:

- ISCED 0713 Electricity and Energy
- ISCED 07 Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction
- ISCED 061 Information and Communication Technologies
- ISCED 0714 Electronics and Automation

Duration of the Master – 2 years (24 months)

Duration of stipend – 18 months or up until the end of DigiWind project December 2027.

Industry Relevance

The Irish and European Wind Energy sector faces a critical skills deficit in the areas of wind farm development, operations, maintenance, and smart grid integration, necessitated by ambitious decarbonization goals and the rapid advancement of renewable energy technologies. Companies urgently require highly skilled engineers proficient in control systems, power transmission, and data analytics to design and manage complex wind turbine and sustainable power systems. A Master's in Wind Energy Systems directly addresses this gap by equipping professionals with specialized knowledge in wind turbine technologies, electrical generation, and grid integration, thereby ensuring that graduates can operate and maintain the efficient and reliable systems necessary to meet Ireland's and Europe's future energy demands and sustainability targets.

Objectives

This programme takes a research-led approach to support professionals in the transition to advanced Wind Energy Systems Engineers, ensuring the continuous professional development of industry leaders and the continued growth, prosperity and sustainability of the industrial Electrical sector.

Most of the credits and learning outcomes are work-based, underpinned by a training programme of masterclasses and research supports, delivered through bootcamps, workshops, and on-line tutorials, and supported by guest lecturers and site-visits.

Outcome and ECTS

The masterclasses (Technical Specialisation Modules) provide an expert-level appraisal of relevant technologies, tools and techniques so that the Learner can assess current trends, engage with specialist professionals, and identify the potential benefits of Electrical Power Systems and embracing digital tools and techniques.

Specialist Modules:

- Wind Energy Systems (5 ECTS)
- Operations and Maintenance (5 ECTS)
- Smart Grid Control Systems (5 ECTS)
- Energy Integration & Storage (5 ECTS)

3. The Eligibility Check: Do you qualify for this opportunity?

Before you spend time on the application, you **must** meet these non-negotiable requirements.

Table 1. DigiWind TUS Open Call 2 - Requirements

Requirement	What You Need to Know
Academic/Professional Background	You must hold a bachelor's degree, master's degree, **or** be an industry professional who can directly contribute to renewable energy digitalisation.
Geographic Eligibility	You must be a passport holder from an **EU Member State** or one of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, EEA countries (Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein), Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, or Ukraine.
English Language	Certified evidence is mandatory unless you are a native speaker. You need an **IELTS score of 6.5** or a **TOEFL iBT score of 90** (with a minimum of 21 in writing and 19 in all other sections).
Application Submission	You must use the official **F6S online form** and submit it by the deadline.
Document Compliance	All required documents must be uploaded correctly.

Important Note: Only **one proposal** will be accepted per candidate.

3.1 Preparing your essential documents

Get these documents ready *now*—they are needed for the initial eligibility check.

A. Required for ALL Applicants

- **Curriculum Vitae (CV): Must** be submitted by all candidates.

B. For Academic Degree Holders

- **Degree Awards (Bachelor, master's or PhD)** Original or certified copies of your highest award.
- **Transcripts of Results** for your highest education degree.

C. For Industry Professionals (Alternative Path via RPL)

If your academic qualifications don't meet the standard entry (or you want to use your experience), you can apply through the **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** process.

- **Experiential Learning:** Documentation proving at least **five years of professional experience** in a relevant Wind and Energy Systems environment.
- **Technical Skills:** Your CV must clearly demonstrate knowledge of **software programming** and **statistical tools.**

4. Boosting your application and access routes

4.1 Student profile and preferred skills

Want to stand out? The review panel will be looking for candidates who fit the following profile and preferred skills:

Table 2. DigiWind TUS Open Call 2 - Student profile

Preferred candidate profile	Key skills and experience (Give preference)
Existing professionals in **technological, electrical, mechanical, scientific, or engineering** fields (or those migrating from associated disciplines).	**Electrical power systems, electrical controls, substation/grid operations,** and/or **wind turbine technology.**
Knowledge of **software programming** and **statistical tools.**	**Wind farm resource monitoring, modelling,** and **operations/maintenance.**
A **strong motivation** to pursue a career in Wind and Energy Systems.	**Commitment to Diversity:** We strongly encourage applications from under-represented groups (gender, age, background).

4.2 Alternative access routes (Recognition of Prior Learning - RPL)

Applicants from other degree disciplines who have a **minimum of five years of experiential learning** in an appropriate Wind and Energy Systems environment (with demonstrable knowledge of software programming and statistical tools) may also apply. Their admission will be determined by the TUS Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Process.

5. The application process step by step

This section provides a detailed guideline of the application process. Please make sure you follow these steps carefully to submit a complete and eligible application.

Step 1: Get started

- Create your applicant account on the F6S platform.
- Familiarize yourself with the questions to fill by reviewing the Application Form. This document is for reference only; your application must be completed directly on the F6S platform.
- ***Important Tip:*** *We will also run two live webinars during the application period. Details will be announced on the DigiWind website, social media and F6S page, make sure you follow us!*

Step 2: Prepare your documents

- Gather all **mandatory documents** listed in Section 3.1 Preparing you essential documents, ensuring they are in **PDF format** with no printing restrictions.
- **Mandatory Uploads:** CV, Degree Awards (certified), Transcripts, and English Language Competency.
- **What you'll sign later (if successful):** A TUS Student / Supervisor Learner Agreement and a Declaration of Honour.

Step 3: Choose your master programme

- Within the F6S application form, you will be asked to choose a first option (preferred) programme and second option (if interested).

  The master offers are:

  1. Masters of Science (MSc) in Electrical Power Systems (By Research)

  2. Masters of Science (MSc) in Wind Energy Systems (By Research)

Step 4: Complete and submit your application

- Complete **all sections** of the online form
- **Thoroughly review** your entire application.
- Click **Submit** on the F6S platform by the official deadline (which is final!).
- ***Important Tip:*** *In case you miss a question or make a mistake you can contact F6S support to help you start a new application.*

6. Evaluation: timeline and next steps

6.1 The evaluation process

In figure 1. TUS Open Call 2 timeline (below) you'll find the key dates from application to eligibility check, selection, results announcement, enrolment and programme.

Figure 1. TUS Open Call 2 timeline

Note: While every effort will be made to adhere to these dates, they are indicative and may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances or operational needs. Any significant changes will be communicated via the DigiWind website

Submission of applications will be done **EXCLUSIVELY via F6S platform**. A full list of applicants will be drafted containing their basic information for statistical purposes (which will be also shared with the EC for transparency). Application submission will close on 5 March 2025. There will be no deadline extensions.

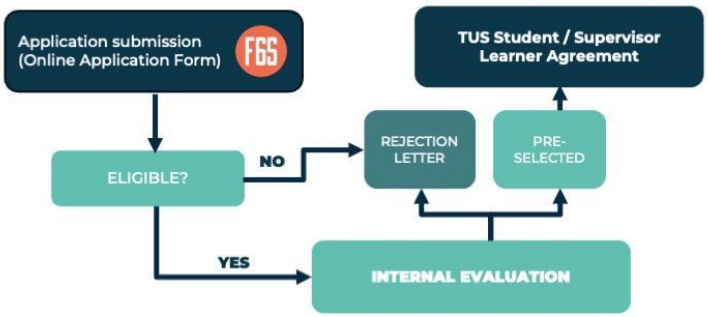

Figure 2. TUS Open Call - Evaluation overview

- **Eligibility Check:** Your application is first checked against the criteria detailed in **Section 3.** If your application is not eligible, you will be notified via email.
- **Internal Evaluation:** If your application is eligible, it will be reviewed by a panel of three Academics/Researchers from the IDEAM Research Institute at TUS.
- **Threshold:** You must score at least **70%** to be considered for a scholarship. If your application does not reach the threshold shown in section 6.3 below, you will be informed via email.

6.2 Eligibility checklist

Each application will be scanned against the list

Table 3. DigiWind TUS Open Call 2 - Eligibility checklist

Eligibility Criterion	Is it met? Yes/No (Y/N)	Reason for non-eligibility (if 'N')
1. Academic/Professional Background	[Y/N]	Insufficient academic qualification OR not an eligible industry professional.
2. Geographic Eligibility	[Y/N]	Not a passport holder from an eligible country.
3. English Language Competency	[Y/N]	Insufficient English language score OR no certified evidence provided.
4. Application Submission and completeness	[Y/N]	Incomplete/inadequately filled form OR not submitted on F6S platform.
5. Required Documentation		
5.1 CV provided.	[Y/N]	CV missing

5.2 Original or certified copy of Degree awards provided.	[Y/N]	Degree awards missing/not certified.
5.3 Transcript of results provided.	[Y/N]	Transcripts missing.

6.3 Evaluation criteria

All eligible candidates will be evaluated. Successful candidates must reach an evaluation threshold of 70%.

Table 4. DigiWind TUS Open Call 2 - Evaluation criteria

Weight	Criteria	Expert tip: Why these matter?
35%	**Relevant Experience** (Evidenced in the CV)	This is the highest-weighted section! Make sure your practical and technical experience are detailed on your CV.
25%	**Relevant Qualification(s)**	Ensure your qualifications to date are described in your CV and evidenced as requested.
25%	**Motivation to Undertake Research**	Your statement must clearly link your goals to the digitalization of Wind and Energy Systems.
15%	**Commitment to Diversity, Equality & Gender Balance**	A general measure of your awareness and commitment to the Digital Europe Programme's goals.

In the event of a tie between applicants with identical overall scores, the selection will be determined by sequentially applying the weighted criteria in order of importance: first by Relevant Experience (35%), then by Relevant Qualifications (25%), followed by Motivation to undertake research (25%) and finally by Commitment to Diversity, Equality, and Gender Balance (15%). If a tie remains, the selection committee may conduct a brief interview as a final tiebreaker.

6.4 Selection process

A ranked list of candidates will be prepared, and scholarships will be offered following the order of merit. Successful applicants must indicate their intention to take up the offer within 1 month.

Evaluation results will be compiled into an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), which will be sent out to applicants. Depending on the evaluation outcome (acceptance or rejection), applicants will receive via email:

Acceptance

- An Evaluation Summary Report (ESR).
- An acceptance letter with an invitation to the enrolment phase and following steps.

Rejection

- An Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) for eligible applications that reached the internal evaluation phase.
- A rejection letter to ineligible applications.

Note: *While all master's by research students will be admitted through the relevant Department, approval for admission will be subject to consideration by the relevant Faculty Research Committee which will make recommendations for acceptance or otherwise to the Graduate School for approval by Academic Council.*

Rules for the reserve list

Successful applicants are **ranked by their score**. If you qualify but we run out of immediate spots, you go onto a **six-month reserve list**. It is possible to receive an offer later if the opportunity arises.

6.5 Redress process

Applicants who are not satisfied with the evaluation of their application, may within 5 working days of the result being issued submit a written appeal, which will be reviewed by a panel, chaired by the TUS Dean of Graduate Studies, the Project representative from TUS and one external member. Appeals are typically not allowed for disagreements with the academic judgment (Score) or if the decision was based on the applicants misunderstanding of the application. Valid grounds for appealing a postgraduate scholarship decision generally focus on errors in the assessment process or claims of discrimination.

8. Programme enrolment

Once you accept the scholarship offer, these are the required procedures you must complete to formally begin your master's programme at TUS.

Academic Registration (Onboarding)

- You must formally complete the **TUS academic registration process.**
- Mandatory onboarding documents: You'll need to prepare a detailed registration form, two references (work or academic), and an Outline Research Proposal (GS1) in collaboration with your TUS Academic Supervisors.
- Your Master's registration is initially for two years and includes a formal progression review at the end of Year 1. According to current TUS regulations - TUS Postgraduate Research Regulations.
- Further information on Research Student Processes at TUS.

Student / Supervisor Agreement

- You will sign a formal agreement clarifying the roles and responsibilities between you and your supervisor(s), which also outlines rules for continued progress and termination.

Stipend Payment

- Your monthly **€1,000 stipend** will be paid directly into your bank account according to TUS rules and regulations.

9. General Information

9.1 Data protection

To process and evaluate applications, and manage project implementation, the DigiWind consortium will need to collect Personal and Industrial Data.

F6S Network Ireland Limited will act as Data Controller for data submitted through the F6S platform for these purposes. Please see our privacy policy here.

A Data Protection Officer (DPO) has been appointed by F6S generally, to ensure compliance with data protection regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and that personal data is collected, processed, and stored in a secure manner.

The F6S platform's system design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).

Each applicant will accept the F6S terms to ensure compliance. Please refer to https://www.f6s.com/privacy-policy to review the F6S platform's privacy policy and data security policy.

Apart from the F6S platform, data will also be stored in the F6S Google Drive, and in the project repository on Group Office managed by the project coordinator DTU.

Note that the DigiWind consortium must retain generated data until five years after the balance of the DigiWind project is paid or longer if there are ongoing procedures (such as audits, investigations or litigation). In this case, the data must be kept until their conclusion.

9.2 Confidentiality

Selected applicants are required to maintain confidential any project data, documents, invoices and other materials (in any form) during the implementation of the activities and for 5 years after project completion.

This confidentiality period can be extended by agreement with the EC and the DigiWind consortium.

Information shared during the project, whether written or spoken, is only considered confidential if the DigiWind agrees and confirms it in writing within 15 days.
Confidential information must only be used for project implementation, unless otherwise agreed upon.

Any information shared during the application stage will be treated as confidential.

9.3 Origin of funds

Once an applicant has been selected for funding, they will be required to sign a dedicated TUS Postgraduate Research Student/Supervisor Learner Agreement with the Higher Education Authority (HEI). It is important to note that the funds attached to the Learner Agreement come directly from the funds of the Digital Europe Programme DigiWind project, which has been co-funded by the European Commission. Therefore, the funds remain the property of the EC until the payment of the balance, which is managed by the project partners in DigiWind via European Commission Grant Agreement Number 101122836.

The Learner Agreement represents a commitment from both the DigiWind project and the sub-grantees who will receive funding. The relationship between sub-grantees and the European Commission through the DigiWind project carries a set of obligations for the sub-grantees with the European Commission. These obligations will be outlined in the Learner Agreement, which the selected applicants will need to review and agree to.

It is the responsibility of the sub-grantees to ensure that they fulfil these obligations, and the DigiWind consortium partners will provide guidance and support as needed. All selected applicants should carefully review the terms of the agreement and ensure that they are able to meet their obligations to receive the funding and successfully carry out their programme.

9.4 European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a tool of the European Higher Education Area for making studies and courses more transparent. It helps students to move between countries and to have their academic qualifications and study periods abroad recognised.

For more information on ECTS please refer to the European Education Area website. The two master's programmes in this Open Call carry 120 ECTS each.

9.5 Visa requirements

Winning Applicants will be required to obtain a visa (if applicable) for their stay at TUS. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that the authorisations required (short or long-term stay visas and/or residence permits) are in order before the onboarding to the programme. Please read carefully the requirements for a visa at TUS here.

The DigiWind Programme will support the Applicant by providing a **support letter**, if required (only after the selection of the winners).

The DigiWind Programme shall have no responsibility and/or liability of any nature, for any reason whatsoever for Applicant's visa application. The Applicant has responsibility to determine the correct visa for the stay during the duration of the scholarship, pay all associated costs of any visa procedures, and respect any requirements applicable to nationality and other conditions.

9.6 Insurance

The selected Applicants are fully responsible to ensure that they have appropriate health insurance coverage during the duration of the scholarships.

9.7 Disclaimer

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this document, the DigiWind Consortium reserves the right to make updates to the Guidelines for Applicants. Any significant changes will be officially announced on the DigiWind website and clearly communicated to the Applicants.

10. Contacts

The DigiWind Consortium serves the following support:

- F6S Online Q&A: for any questions regarding submission and the Open Call itself - https://www.f6s.com/digiwind-tus-open-call-2/discuss
- F6S support team for any technical issue on the F6S platform - support@f6s.com
- TUS Open Call Documents – https://digiwind.org/open-calls/tus-open-call-2/

More information at: https://digiwind.org/open-calls/

For any other communication need, please contact the Help Desk: tus-opencall@digiwind.org