

All Ireland Scholarship Scheme 2017

Guidance Notes

1. Introduction

The All Ireland Scholarship Scheme will provide **twenty-five Scholarships** to the top-performing students in receipt of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), who reside in Northern Ireland, and attend a grant aided post primary school or further education college in Northern Ireland.

Subject to the conditions set out in this document, Scholarships awarded will be renewed annually and continue until the completion of the undergraduate course chosen. In the event that a student is undertaking a paid work placement as part of their undergraduate course, the scholarship payments may be withheld for that year. Students must inform Department for the Economy (DfE) in writing if they intend to undertake a placement.

The All Ireland Scholarship Trust (The Trust), which was established by JP McManus, will provide funding for the provision of these Scholarships. The Scholarship scheme will continue to operate while the All Ireland Scholarship Trust Fund remains in place.

2. Number of Scholarships

The **twenty five scholarships** will be awarded across two categories:

- **Nineteen Scholarships will be awarded to the top 'A' Level students from grant aided Post Primary Schools.** In order to meet the requirements of the All Ireland Scholarships Trust a minimum of two of these Scholarships will be awarded in each county of Northern Ireland, based on the home address of the student. (See Section 3a and 4a for more details)
- **Six Scholarships will be awarded to the top Level 3 Extended Diploma students from Further Education Colleges.** (See Section 3b and 4b for more details)

3. Eligibility Criteria

(a) Students from grant aided post primary Schools must:

- Have completed a **minimum of three 'A' Levels** by the summer of 2017. (A levels offered by any awarding body will be accepted and this must be the first time that students have achieved overall grades in these A level subjects);
- Be **in receipt of the EMA** at the time of application; and
- Have been **conditionally accepted onto a full-time undergraduate degree course** in the United Kingdom, or the Republic of Ireland, in the academic year 2017/18. The Scholarship may be deferred for one academic year and for that period only, with prior written permission of the Trust and the academic institution. The Scholarship will, however, remain a 2017 Scholarship.

(b) Students from further education colleges must:

- Have completed a **Level 3 Extended Diploma in the summer of 2017**;
- **Be in receipt of the EMA** at the time of application; and
- Have been **conditionally accepted onto a full-time undergraduate degree course** in the United Kingdom, or the Republic of Ireland, in the academic years 2017/18. The Scholarship may be deferred for one academic year and for that period only, with prior written permission of the Trust and the academic institution. The Scholarship will, however, remain a 2017 scholarship.

4. Application and Selection Process

Details of the Scholarships and downloadable application forms will be available from NI Direct (www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/all-ireland-scholarships) and on the Council for the

Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) and Colleges Northern Ireland (Colleges NI) websites from 24 March 2017.

Section 4a: Students from grant aided post primary schools

Application forms from students at grant aided post primary schools must be fully completed and either:

- Posted to AIS (QOS), Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), 29 Clarendon Road, Clarendon Dock, Belfast BT1 3BG *or*
- Emailed to ais@ccea.org.uk

To arrive **on or before the closing date of Friday 23 June 2017.**

Please note that the following **will not** be considered:

- Application forms submitted after the closing date of 23 June 2017
- Application forms which are not fully completed
- Applications submitted on forms from previous years.

In addition, as awarding organisations issue A Level results directly to schools and a centralised results list is not published, students from grant aided post primary schools will be required to provide CCEA with a **photocopy** of their **Candidate Statement of Results** and a completed **Confirmation of A Level Results form**, which is also available to download from the websites mentioned above. These must be returned to CCEA **on or before 25 August 2017.**

Please do **not** send original Candidate Statement of Results.

Late applications will not be considered and failure to provide CCEA with the completed Confirmation of A Level Results form and a photocopy of the

Candidate Statement of Results will result in the application being withdrawn.

In early August DfE will email each post primary school applicant, who has provided an email address on their nomination form, with a reminder to provide CCEA with the Confirmation of A Level Results form accompanied by a **photocopy** of their Candidate Statement of Results.

Re-marks

Re-marks will be taken into account. Students applying for re-marks must indicate this clearly on their Confirmation of A Level Results form and should ensure that they submit this along with a photocopy of their Candidate Statement of Results on or before the closing date of 29 August 2017, even if they have not received the results of re-mark(s) by then. Students should apply for any re-marks as soon as possible after they receive their A level results using Priority Service 2. The results of Priority Service 2 re-marks should be known by 31 August 2017, and these results should be sent immediately to CCEA to arrive with CCEA **no later than 1 September 2017**.

If seeking a re-mark on receipt of results pupils are strongly advised to submit the application for a re-mark as soon as possible.

CCEA will determine the academic performance (based on the average percentage uniform mark across a student's best three A level subjects) of those students who applied for the Scholarship and will provide a ranked list of all applicants to the Department for the Economy (DfE). DfE will identify students eligible for receipt of the Scholarship based upon the selection criteria. DfE will then notify those in contention for the Scholarship by the end of September 2017.

Failure to provide CCEA with all the details requested on the Confirmation of A Level Results form and with a photocopy of the Candidate Statement of Results form will result in the application being withdrawn.

In order to satisfy the Trustees' requirement that a minimum of two Scholarships are awarded per county, the following process will be used:

- The two per county requirement will be met from the ranked list of applicants from the school sector based on the student's home address.
- The remaining Scholarships will be allocated to those next in this ranked list.

Section 4b: Students from further education colleges (FE colleges)

Application forms from students at further education colleges must be fully completed and either:

- Posted to Colleges Northern Ireland (Colleges NI), 39A Stockman's Way, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT9 7ET *or*
- Emailed to karen.lennon@collegesni.ac.uk

To arrive **on or before the closing date of Friday 23 June 2017.**

Please note that the following **will not** be considered:

- Application forms submitted after the closing date of 23 June 2017
- Application forms which are not fully completed
- Applications submitted on forms from previous years.

Copies of the official Level 3 Extended Diploma/Notification of Performance form must be sent to Colleges Northern Ireland by **Friday 25 August 2017**. Please **do not** send original result documentation.

Failure to provide Colleges Northern Ireland with the official Level 3 Extended Diploma/Notification of Performance form will result in the application being withdrawn.

Colleges Northern Ireland will establish a panel to rank in merit order the list of candidates that have applied for the Scholarship and successfully completed a Level 3 Extended Diploma in the summer of 2017.

In the result of a dead heat situation arising the following criteria will be applied. The applicants will be ranked according to – those students who obtained 18 Distinctions or more in their Level 3 Extended Diploma Modules and ranked according to those who had the highest Unit levels and Credit values.

Colleges Northern Ireland will provide DfE with the ranked list of candidates and will also confirm that those candidates are in receipt of an EMA. The top 6 performers from the FE sector will be identified from the ranked list.

All Applicants

DfE, on behalf of the Trust, will notify those applicants in contention for the Scholarship by the end of September 2017. Applicants will be asked to confirm, in writing, that he/she intends to enter a full-time undergraduate degree course in the United Kingdom, or the Republic of Ireland, in September/October 2017. Applicants who are intending to defer their university place must inform DfE and must also confirm that their chosen university has agreed to defer their place for the period of deferral.

They must also confirm that they allow all their relevant details to be given to the Trust. Failure to provide confirmation by the date specified in the letter will result in the applicant's name being withdrawn.

Unsuccessful candidates will not be notified. If you do not receive notification from DfE by the end of September 2017 stating that you are in contention for the Scholarship, your application has been unsuccessful.

5. Scholarship Offers

The Trust will contact applicants identified by DfE regarding a formal Scholarship offer. The successful candidates must accept the Scholarship offer within the timeframe specified, or the offer will be withdrawn. The right to withdraw an offer is maintained, where information given by the applicant is false, misleading or incomplete.

6. Conditions Attached to Scholarship Offers

Every applicant to whom a Scholarship is offered must fulfil the terms and conditions of the Scholarship, together with the entry requirements for the degree course.

Scholarship holders will be expected to fulfil the regulations stipulated by their institution and undergo all compulsory examinations as required for their undergraduate course.

It will not be permissible for a Scholarship holder to be in receipt of:

- (i) a scholarship awarded by another scholarship or trust
- (ii) any award paid by a public body or
- (iii) the equivalent in another EU member state.

The exclusions do not include the awards of scholarships, prizes or bursaries by the institution attended or any statutory support granted to an eligible student taking a designated higher education course under the Education (Student Support) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010.

It shall be a condition of the Scholarship that the candidate authorises the Department for The Economy to transfer any information regarding the award to the Trust and to transfer any personal information regarding the award to a database.

7. Value of Scholarship

The annual value of the Scholarship is £5,500 for academic year 2017/18.

8. Payment of Scholarship

The Scholarship holder will be paid the scholarship in three instalments during each academic year by electronic transfer directly into the student's account. The first instalment will be paid by the DfE when the student has provided DfE with proof of registration with the university or higher education institution. Further payments can only be made by DfE on provision of confirmation of continued attendance at university and DfE will advise the Scholarship holder of the required submission dates for this confirmation and of future payment dates.

9. Termination or Deferral of the Scholarship

The Scholarship shall be terminated if a student has abandoned his/her course or has been expelled from the course or relevant institution. A student shall be deemed to have abandoned the course if he/she is absent for a period of 60 days or more.

The Scholarship may not be paid in respect of a second period of attendance at the same course level. The Scholarship will however recommence upon successful progression into the next course year.

A Scholarship holder who wishes to, during the course of his/her studies, change course or faculty or defer his/her Scholarship for one academic year must obtain prior written approval of the Trust for that period. Where a student changes course, the Scholarship payments will be deferred until the student reaches the same level at which participation on the original course ceased.