

All Ireland Scholarship Scheme 2015

Guidance Notes

1. Introduction

The All Ireland Scholarship Scheme (Northern Ireland Awards) will provide twenty-five Scholarships per year to top-performing students in receipt of the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA), and who reside in Northern Ireland, and attend a grant aided Post Primary School or Further Education College in Northern Ireland. Subject to the conditions as 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 Employment and Learning (DEL) 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 these Scholarships. The Scholarship scheme will continue to operate while the All Ireland Scholarship Trust Fund remains in place.

2. Number of Scholarships

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 BTEC Extended Diploma students from Further Education Colleges.** (See Section 3b and 4b for more details).

3. Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility criteria for each category is as follows:

Section 3a: Students from grant aided Post Primary Schools must:

- Have completed a **minimum of three 'A' Levels** by the summer of 2015. (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 2015/16. 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 2015 Scholarship.

Section 3b: Students from Further Education Colleges must:

- Have completed a **BTEC Extended Diploma by the summer of 2015;**
- 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 2015/16. 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 2015 scholarship.

4. Identification and Selection

Details of the Scholarships and downloadable application forms will be available from www.nidirect.gov.uk/allirelandsscholarships and on the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL), Department of Education (DE), the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) and Colleges NI websites from 30 March 2014.

Section 4a: Students from grant aided Post Primary Schools

Application forms from students at grant aided post primary schools must be fully completed and posted to All Ireland Scholarships (QOS), Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), 29 Clarendon Road, Clarendon Dock, Belfast BT1 3BG. Application forms must be received on **or before the closing date of Friday 26 June 2015.**

Application forms sent via email **will not** be considered.

Application forms which are not fully completed **will not** be considered.

Applications submitted on forms from previous years **will not** be considered.

In addition, as awarding bodies 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 28 August 2015.**

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 DEL 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 **28 August 2015**, 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 29 August, and these results should be sent immediately to CCEA to arrive with CCEA **no later than 31 August 2015**

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 Employment and Learning (DEL). DEL will identify students eligible for receipt of the Scholarship based upon the selection criteria. DEL will then notify those in contention for the Scholarship by the end of September 2015.

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.

Section 4b: Students from Further Education Colleges (FE Colleges)

Application forms from students at Further Education Colleges must be fully completed and posted to Colleges Northern Ireland, 39A Stockman's Way, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT9 7ET. Application forms must be received on **or before the closing date of Friday 26 June 2015**.

Application forms sent via email **will not** be considered.

Application forms which are not fully completed **will not** be considered.

Applications submitted on forms from previous years **will not** be considered.

Copies of the official BTEC Extended Diploma / Notification of Performance form must be sent to Colleges Northern Ireland **Friday 28th August 2015**. Please do **not** send original result documentation.

Late applications will not be considered and failure to provide Colleges Northern Ireland with the official BTEC 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 BTEC Extended Diploma in the summer of 2015. Colleges Northern Ireland will provide DEL with the ranked list of candidates and will also confirm that those candidates are in receipt of an EMA.

In the result of a dead heat situation arising - additional criteria based on prior qualifications may be applied.

All Applicants

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

- (i) 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.
- (ii) The remaining Scholarships will be allocated to those next in this ranked list.
- (iii) The top 6 performers from the FE sector will be identified.

DEL, on behalf of the Trust, will notify those applicants in contention for the Scholarship by the end of September 2015. 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 2015. Applicants who are intending to defer their university place must inform DEL 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 DEL by the end of September 2015, stating that you are in contention for the Scholarship, your application has been unsuccessful.

5. Scholarship Offers

The Trust will contact applicants identified by DEL 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 Employment and Learning 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 2015/16.

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 bank account. The first instalment will be paid by the DEL when the student has provided DEL with proof of registration with the university or higher education institution. Further payments can only be made by DEL on provision of confirmation of continued attendance at university and DEL 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.