



OPTUM HEALTHCARE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME
Scéim Scoláireachtaí Sláinte Optum

REGIONAL HEALTH CARE SCHOLARSHIP 2019/20



Creating the Healthcare Workers of the Future
Todhchaí Slán

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WHO IS OPTUM?

Optum, the fastest growing part of UnitedHealth Group, is a leading information and technology enabled health service business based in Letterkenny and is a major employer in County Donegal. Optum established its operation in Letterkenny in 1999 with 30 employees under the 'Pacificare' brand. Today, 1,000 staff are employed in Letterkenny.

WHY HAS THIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND BEEN ESTABLISHED?

Optum Ireland aims to support the enhancement of the healthcare system in the region and invest in a 21st century health workforce that meets the needs of tomorrow. Optum has a diverse work-force and wishes to promote diversity in higher education by supporting young people from less advantaged and non-traditional backgrounds. The Scholarship Scheme will be delivered in partnership with NUI Galway and Ulster University.

- The aim of the scheme is to support young people in County Donegal, particularly those who are less advantaged, to access third-level education.
- In line with the Company's mission, the scheme will support and enhance the healthcare infrastructure in the North-West.
- The scheme will incentivize general health-care courses locally as it is proven that most graduates are more likely to work in the area where they studied.
- There are two Universities in the region where top class Healthcare courses are available, NUIG and Ulster University.

- The value of the scholarship is based on assessment of the affordability of studying away from home and on the most recent statistics.
- Two regional scholarships will be awarded at the value of €7,000 each per annum.
- The Institutes will administer the Scholarship fund on a yearly basis.
- The Scholarship award will allow successful candidates to fully participate in College life and alleviate the financial burden on students and/ or their families.
- The scheme is aligned with regional and national strategies in respect of Education and Healthcare to develop the infrastructure in the Region.
- The scheme will provide valuable information on Health-care courses and career pathways in the region and will provide assistance to Careers' Guidance Counsellors in the Secondary School Sector in County Donegal as well as students, parents/guardians and statutory agencies (ETB, Donegal Youth Services, Muintearas and community organisations).

THE SCHEME WILL BE OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS FROM
THE **4TH OF MARCH 2019** AND WILL CLOSE ON THE **3RD OF MAY 2019**.

ELIGIBILITY FOR REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

To be considered for the Regional Healthcare Scholarship Applicants must:

- ✓ have made a formal application through CAO for a place on the first year of one of the full-time undergraduate designated programs of study in NUIG as listed in Appendix A for entry into the academic year 2019/20;

AND/OR

- ✓ hold a formal offer for a place on the first year of one of the full-time undergraduate designated programs of study in the Ulster University at Coleraine as listed in Appendix B for entry into the academic year 2019/20
- ✓ have a home address in County Donegal;
- ✓ have studied in a secondary school in County Donegal for at least 2 years preceding the Leaving Certificate examinations in 2019;
- ✓ be sitting the Leaving Cert for the first time in 2019;
- ✓ be involved in community life and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to their community; and
- ✓ be recognized as being from a socio-economically less advantaged background, and provide evidence that they:-
 - qualify for exemption from payment of the Leaving Certificate Examination Fee as a result of medical card eligibility; and/or
 - are eligible for any form of State support (Maintenance Grant- Special/ Full/75%/25% and/or Tuition Fee Grant (full or part) under the Student Finance Scheme
- Applicants may provide details of other obstacles that hinder access to third-level education (emotional, physical, cultural or social).
- Applicants must comply with the Terms and Conditions of the Scholarship as set out in Appendix C.

SELECTION PROCESS

- When completing the application form, Applicants must demonstrate:
 - ✓ the level of their academic achievements to date;
 - ✓ the potential impact of obtaining a Scholarship on their academic careers at the Institution;
 - ✓ their professional aspirations and how their studies will help them to achieve these;
 - ✓ financial need/hardship;
 - ✓ any other obstacles (emotional, physical, cultural or social) to accessing or sustaining a course of study at third-level as these factors will also be considered; and
 - ✓ commitment to, and willingness to contribute to the local community.
- The School Principal must complete the reference provided in the Application Pack in support of the application.
- The information that the Applicant provides in the application form is important to the Selection Panel in shortlisting candidates for interview and Applicants are advised to include as much information as possible.
- Original documents cannot be returned and Applicants are advised to save a personal copy.
- In the event that the applications of multiple Applicants for a Scholarship are of the same standard, weighting will be given to Applicants who demonstrate a greater financial need by way of Leaving Certificate Examination Fee exemption or in accordance with the thresholds as defined under the Statutory Student Grant Scheme.
- As part of the Selection Process, the Scholarship Panel reserves the right to invite Applicants to attend an informal group interview session in late August, to form part of the final assessment of applications.
- The Panel will operate a reserve list in the event that successful Applicant(s) opt to receive an alternative scholarship (such as All-Ireland/ Naughton/ Ernst Walton) or fail to provide sufficient evidence to verify their means.
- The decision of the Selection Panel is final.

- Applicants must allow adequate time for posting the application form, reference and supporting documentation to ensure that it arrives before the deadline, otherwise it will not be considered. The closing date for receipt of completed applications by registered post, with supporting evidence, is **5pm on Friday 3rd of May 2019.**
- Applicants will be informed of the outcome of the application process as soon as possible in early to mid-September of each academic year.

APPLICANTS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO MAKE AN APPLICATION TO STUDENT UNIVERSAL SUPPORT IRELAND (SUSI) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



ULSTER UNIVERSITY, COLERAINE has two campuses in the North-West, Magee campus, located in Derry City, and in Coleraine. It is listed in the prestigious Times Higher Education ranking of the top 150 universities in the world under 50 years old.

Ulster is a cosmopolitan university, enabling a cohort of almost 27,000 students to meet their personal and professional ambitions. Students at Ulster University are among the most satisfied according to the most recent National Student Survey, in which the University achieved 88% on the overall satisfaction score.

Ulster University was awarded a coveted THE Award 2016 for 'Most Improved Student Experience', based on the results of a survey which polled 15,000 students. Ulster University invests £42 million in research and innovation programmes each year and has an alumni network of over 160,000 alumni in 148 countries worldwide. Over 90% of Ulster University graduates go into work or further study within six months of graduating. The 2014 Research Excellence Framework identified Ulster University as one of the top 25% of UK universities for world-leading research, based on research power and 72% of Ulster University's research activity judged to be world leading or internationally excellent. Ulster University has created 20 spin-out companies which have a turnover of £28 million and employ over 290 staff.



THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh was named 'University of the Year 2018' in the Sunday Times University Guide and ranks among the top 1% of Universities in the world. Our prestigious history spans almost two centuries. Our spectacular location boasts the unique landscape and culture of the west of Ireland. Our global network connects us to partners around the world. Our researchers are shaping the future. Our students are shaping their own.

THE DONEGAL MEDICAL ACADEMY

Acadamh Leighis Dhún na nGall

An important development in recent years is the Donegal Medical Academy, established for the training of doctors, in conjunction with NUI Galway and Saolta University Health Care Group. The Academy is housed in a purpose-designed facility located on the grounds of Letterkenny University Hospital.

APPENDIX A:



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND GALWAY

KEY DATES!

HPAT EXAM: **20TH JANUARY 2019**

CAO: APPLY BY **1ST FEBRUARY 2019**

CHANGE OF MIND UNTIL **1ST OF JULY 2019**

GY501 Medicine (5 year)

(The Selection Panel reserve the right to award the scholarship to a student who is placed on the 6 year programme)

GY 503 Speech & Language Therapy

GY504 Podiatric Medicine

GY502 Occupational Therapy

GY517 Midwifery

GY303 Biomedical Science

GY304 Bachelor of Science (Bio-Technology)

GY318 Biopharmaceutical Chemistry

GY408 Biomedical Engineering

GY104 Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)

APPENDIX B:

ULSTER UNIVERSITY (Coleraine)



KEY DATE:-

UCAS APPLICATION DEADLINE: **15TH JANUARY 2019**

B230 Pharmacy (MPharm)- 3/ 4 years

The School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences at Ulster University has been ranked as the UK's **number one university** for Pharmacy and Pharmacology, according to the Guardian League Tables 2017, 2016 and 2015.

- *It should be noted that the course duration is 4 years for this MPharm pathway as opposed to 5 years and there is no requirement to pay additional tuition fees in the final year of between €7,500- €8,250 approx. which is a requirement in the 5 year counterpart in other third-level institutions.*
- *The cost of living is also significantly less in Coleraine.*
- *The scholarship program will cover the three year undergraduate and the four year combined MPharm program*

B510 Optometry - BSc Hons - 3 years

Bsc Hons/Moptom - 4 years

C100 Bsc (Hons) Biology

B992 Biomedical Science

B990 Biomedical Science with DPP (Pathology)

B991 Biomedical Science with DPP/ DIAS

B460 Bsc (Hons) Dietetics

C820 Psychology or Psychology with DPP/DIAS (4 years)

C880 Social Psychology

APPENDIX C: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The Scholarship Panel will consider the application form, reference and supporting documentation to determine who will be awarded a Scholarship. Evaluation of applications will be on the basis of academic achievement, demonstration of impact on studies, future career potential and personal and family circumstances. Applicants who demonstrate greater financial need will be prioritized in the case of multiple applications of the same standard. The Scholarship Panel's decision is final. Successful Applicants will be notified as soon as possible after the issue of the Leaving Certificate Results.
- As part of the selection process, the Scholarship Panel reserves the right to invite Applicants to attend an informal group session in late August 2019, to form part of the final assessment of Applications.
- Successful Applicants will not be permitted to hold or receive any other Scholarship such as the All-Ireland/ Naughton/ Ernst Walton/ 1916 Bursary and may therefore have to elect which scholarship to receive.
- Any offer of a Scholarship is dependent upon information being truthful and accurate and upon the Applicant fulfilling all of the conditions of the Scholarship. The right to withdraw an offer is maintained in the event of any error or omission whatsoever in the information provided by or on behalf of the Applicant. The Applicant will be given 14 days' notice in writing that the offer is being withdrawn.
- Scholarships will only be awarded to Applicants who have been formally offered a place on a designated course by the Institution on the basis of Leaving Cert results.
- Scholarships will not be awarded and funds will not be processed unless evidence of an exemption from paying the Leaving Certificate Examination Fee and/or a letter of formal approval from Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) verifying the Applicant's entitlement to any form of a Maintenance Grant and/or Tuition Fee Grant is submitted to the Selection Panel. The Donor reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a Scholarship if supporting evidence is not furnished.
- Detailed feedback is not available in the case of an unsuccessful application.

- Each Scholarship is for the named person on the application only.
- The Scholarship will be processed as per the specified schedule following registration of the recipient with the Institution.
- The Scholar will be notified of the schedule of payments by Optum and/or the Institution.
- The Scholarship fund will be retained by **Ulster University** to cover the cost of the tuition fees and the balance will be paid directly to the recipient to be used for living expenses.
- The Scholarship will be renewed each year subject to the scholar being in good academic standing. Scholars will be expected to adhere to the regulations of the Institution and to undergo every term examination or any other examination determined by the authorities of their Institution for their course.
- The Scholar must commence his or her programme of study during the academic year of 2019/20. The Scholar must successfully complete their programme of study within the standard time-frame. The duration of the Scholarship will be clearly stated upon confirmation of award and will not be extendable to cover any deferred or repeated year, unless Optum elects in its sole discretion to extend the Scholarship period. Authorised postponements will be considered only in exceptional circumstances, and for a valid reason. In the event that no reasons are provided, it will remain within the discretion of Optum to withdraw the Scholarship.
- Payment of the Scholarship will not be made if the Scholar is out of the Institution on a placement year.
- The Selection Panel reserves the right to award the Scholarship to an Applicant who fails to provide evidence of an exemption from paying the Leaving Certificate Examination Fee and/or a letter of formal approval from Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) verifying the Applicant's entitlement to any form of a Maintenance Grant and/or Tuition Fee Grant in circumstances where the Selection Panel is satisfied that the Applicant has demonstrated sufficient hardship (physical/emotional/social/cultural) in accessing or maintaining a third-level course of study.

- Payment of scholarships will be administered by the Institution on proof of registration with the Institution on a designated course.
- The Scholar will be expected to attend an Optum Scholarship Awards Ceremony (date to be agreed by all parties) to be formally presented with the award. The Scholar may also be required to attend an awards ceremony in the Institution and the Institution will invite a representative from Optum to attend.
- The Scholar will be expected to take part in the promotion of this Scholarship and may be asked for a photograph and personal statement for use in promotional material. The Scholar's contact details (email address, phone number and postal address) will be retained by Optum for the purpose of administering the Scholarship only.
- The Scholar will agree to allow the Institution to share certain data (name, course, student ID number, institution, etc.) with other parties within the Institution as required.
- Optum reserves the right to withdraw a scholarship where a student is deemed not be of good academic standing by the Institution.
- This Scholarship is not open to friends or family members of Optum's senior employees including Senior Director and above.
- Optum reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions on notice to the Institutions and Scholars where necessary.

For further information contact: nodlaig.brolly@optum.com

OPTUM SCHOLARS 2018/19

With Katie Mullan, Irish hockey Captain and Pádraig Monaghan CEO of Optum Ireland



Optum Healthcare Scholars (L-R front row)

Jodie Gallagher, St Columba's Stranorlar (General Nursing, LYIT)

Sophie Carlin, St Columba's Stranorlar (Stratified Medicine, UU Magee)

Liam Orr, Loreto Milford (Medicine, NUIG)

Caoilinn Diver, Carndonagh Community School (MPharmacy, UU Coleraine)

Rónán Hegarty, St Columba's Glenties (Computing, LYIT)



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



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