



INCLUSIVE CENTENARIES SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

ANNOUNCEMENT

17 June 2016

To mark Ireland's Decade of Centenaries and celebrate the diversity of Irish society in 2016, NUI Galway is pleased to announce a new, merit-based **Inclusive Centenaries Scholarship Scheme**. This national scheme aims to assist high-achieving, second-level school leavers from Ireland's newest communities to pursue their third-level educational goals at NUI Galway, to realise their full potential, and to contribute to shaping Ireland of today and tomorrow.

Scholarship Award

Four Inclusive Centenaries scholarships are available in 2016. Each comprehensive scholarship will cover all applicable fees (the student contribution and levy and tuition), a monthly living allowance, and accommodation costs as required at levels set by SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland). Scholarship awards will be renewable for the normal duration of the approved course of study, subject to annual review and the satisfactory academic performance and good standing of the scholarship holder. Recipients will be assigned an academic mentor to provide support and guidance throughout their period of study at NUI Galway.

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration for an Inclusive Centenaries Scholarship, you must be a school leaver who is permitted to remain in Ireland within the terms of the International Protection Act 2015 and/or other relevant national legislation noted in the Terms and Conditions. To be considered for an Inclusive Centenaries Scholarship, you must be:

- I. An applicant for international protection in Ireland or, having been refused international protection, an applicant for permission to remain in Ireland;
OR have:
- II. Refugee status, subsidiary protection status, or permission to remain in Ireland
AND
- III. Have been a pupil in a secondary school in Ireland on a fulltime basis for the three years preceding the 2016 Leaving Certificate examinations
- IV. Have passed a minimum of six subjects in the 2016 Leaving Certificate examinations and earned at least 450 points overall
- V. Have applied for and met all requirements to receive an offer of a place on a fulltime undergraduate Level 8 degree course in any College at NUI Galway in the current year via the Central Applications Office, including meeting all points and entry and matriculation requirements

- VI. Be currently **ineligible** for a grant via SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) or for free fees

Application Process

The **Inclusive Centenaries Scholarship Scheme** will be administered by the Office of the Vice-President for Student Experience, NUI Galway. Applicants must submit an application consisting of: an application form, personal statement and two reference forms. The deadline for receipt of applications by email is: Friday 19th August 2016. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview on Friday 26th August. Award decisions will be made and communicated by Monday 29th August 2016. For full details see: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/scholarships/>

To request Application and Reference forms, contact:

Ms. Angela McLaughlin (Mon - Wed am) Administrative Assistant

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INCLUSIVE CENTENARIES SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME 2016

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

17 June 2016

I. Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration for an Inclusive Centenaries Scholarship you must be a school leaver who is permitted to remain in Ireland within the terms of the International Protection Act 2015 and/or Refugee Act, 1996, Immigration Act 1999, and Immigration Act 2004; and you must be:

- i. An applicant for international protection in Ireland or, having been refused international protection, an applicant for permission to remain in Ireland;
OR have:
- ii. Refugee status, subsidiary protection status, or permission to remain in Ireland
AND
- iii. Have been a pupil in a secondary school in Ireland on a fulltime basis for the three years preceding the 2016 Leaving Certificate examinations
- iv. Have passed a minimum of six subjects in the 2016 Leaving Certificate examinations and earned at least 450 points overall
- v. Have applied for and met all requirements to receive an offer of a place on a fulltime undergraduate Level 8 degree course offered by any College at NUI Galway in the current year via the Central Applications Office, including meeting all points and entry and matriculation requirements
- vi. Be currently ineligible for a grant via SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) or for free fees

II. The Application and Assessment Procedure

The application consists of:

1. A personal statement of 600 words (maximum) under the headings:
 - (i) My chosen course of study at NUI Galway and how it will help me to realise my goals
 - (ii) My achievements in School so far
 - (iii) My achievements outside of School (e.g., sports, hobbies, volunteering)
2. Completed application form
3. Two completed references forms from one teacher and one other adult (not related to the applicant).

All applications will be assessed by a **Panel of Assessors**, consisting of three members from different backgrounds. The panel will include a number of assessors with experience of similar review

processes. All applications will be reviewed under three headings reflecting the different elements of the application with marks allocated as follows:

- Personal Statement (max. 40 points)
- Academic Achievement (max. 40 points)
- References (max. 20 points)

The principle of gender balance will be applied in making awards subject to all awardees meeting all eligibility criteria and conditions.

III. Appeals Process

A separate independent **Appeals Board** will be constituted consisting of a group of at least three assessors none of whom were part of the original selection process. Appeal assessors will have prior involvement in similar assessment processes. The decision of the **Appeals Board** will be final.

IV. Additional information

- I. Each comprehensive scholarship will cover all applicable fees (the student contribution and levy and tuition), a monthly living allowance, and accommodation costs as required at levels set by SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland). The award level will be determined by the Panel of Assessors
- II. Scholarship holders will be required to apply for SUSI funding upon becoming eligible to do so. If the SUSI application is successful, the Scholarship award will be reduced accordingly.
- III. Eligibility for receipt of the Scholarship will be reviewed annually
- IV. Implementation of the Inclusive Centenaries Scholarship Scheme will be subject to the following national legislation: International Protection Act 2015; Refugee Act, 1996; Immigration Act 1999, and Immigration Act 2004
- V. Implementation of the Inclusive Centenaries Scholarship Scheme will comply with the Equal Status Act 2000. It aims to reduce barriers to initial entry to third level education for high-achieving school leavers arising from immigration status and economic need of the recipient. The Scholarship confers no benefits to the holder above what is currently available via SUSI to Irish and EU students from families with comparable household incomes who secure a place on a first degree course at NUI Galway
- vii. Galway Inclusive Centenaries scholarship does not confer any immigration entitlement or status on the scholarship holder and neither accelerates nor defers immigration proceedings
- viii. Ireland means the Republic of Ireland
- ix. NUI Galway reserves the right to vary, alter, or amend the scheme from year to year