

All Ireland Scholarship Scheme 2011

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 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.

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

Nineteen Scholarships will be made available to students from grant aided Post Primary Schools, and six Scholarships will go to students from Further Education Colleges. A minimum of two Scholarships will be offered in each county of Northern Ireland, based on where the student resides.

3. Eligibility Criteria

- (i) Students from grant aided Post Primary Schools must:
 - Have completed a minimum of three 'A' Levels in the summer of 2011. (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; 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 2011/12. 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 2011 scholarship.

(ii) Students from Further Education Colleges must:

- Have completed a BTEC National Diploma in the summer of 2011;
- Be in receipt of the EMA; 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 2011/12. 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 2011 scholarship.

4. Identification and Selection

Students from Grant aided Post Primary Schools

Application forms from students at grant aided post primary schools must be forwarded to CCEA on or before the closing date of 31 May 2011.

Details of the scholarships and downloadable application forms will be available on the Department of Education (DE), the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), Colleges N.I. and the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) websites as soon as possible but no later than mid March 2011. Students will be required to complete an application form. 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 copy of the printout of their A level results on or before 31 August 2011.

Failure to provide CCEA with this printout will result in the candidate's application being withdrawn.

In early August DEL will issue each post primary school candidate with a reminder letter to provide CCEA with verification of their A level results accompanied by a copy of the printout of their A level results.

Re-marks will be taken into account. Students applying for re-marks must indicate this clearly on their verification of results and should ensure that they submit this along with a copy of their statement of results by the closing date above, even if they have not received the results of re-marks by then. Students should apply for any re-marks as soon as possible after they receive their A level results using Priority Service 2. Once the results of re-mark requests are known, students should forward the results to CCEA.

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.

Students from Further Education Colleges (FE Colleges)

Application forms from students at Further Education Colleges must be forwarded to Colleges N.I. on or before the closing date of 31 May 2011.

Colleges N.I. will establish a panel to rank order the list of candidates that have

applied and successfully completed a BTEC National Diploma in the summer of 2011. They will then provide DEL with a list of candidates in merit order and confirm that those candidates are in receipt of EMA.

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 top 6 performers from the FE sector will be identified.
- (ii) Any gaps in the two per county requirement will then be met from the ranked list of applicants from the school sector.
- (iii) The remaining Scholarships will be allocated to those next in this ranked list.

DEL, on behalf of the Trust, will issue all eligible applicants with an initial letter asking them 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 2011, or that they intend to defer their place for a year. 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.

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 data base.

7. Value of Scholarship

The annual value of the Scholarship is £5,500 for academic year 2011/12.

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 Department when the student has registered with the university or higher education institution. The Scholarship holder will then be advised of further payment dates.

9. Renewal of the Scholarship

Scholarships will be renewed when the authorities of the relevant institution certify that the Scholarship holder has successfully progressed into the next year of their course.

10. 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.