



1916 Bursary Information Sheet 2019-2020

The 1916 Bursary Fund

The 1916 Bursary Fund is a targeted funding scheme established by the Department of Education and Skills. Its aim is to support the implementation of the National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2015-2019. The National Access Plan is working to increase the numbers of students who are currently underrepresented in higher education. This funding is being provided to underline the Government's commitment to the type of equality of opportunity envisaged by the 1916 signatories.

Participating Higher Education Institutions

- NUI Galway
- Letterkenny Institute of Technology
- Institute of Technology Sligo
- Galway Mayo Institute of Technology

Applications

The Bursaries are targeted at first-time Higher Education applicants who are socio-economically disadvantaged **and** who are from one or more of the target groups that have low participation rates in higher education:

Applicants must:

(a) Be in receipt of a DSP means-testing social welfare payment
and/or

(b) Be able to demonstrate that they would qualify for the highest level of SUSI grant*

* For more information visit: <https://susi.ie/quick-links/special-rate-awards/>

And be from one or more of the following target groups:

- Socio-economic groups that have low participation in higher education;
- First time, **mature student** entrants;
- Students with a **disability** – particularly students with a physical/mobility impairment, students who are deaf/hard of hearing and students who are blind or have a visual impairment;
- Irish **Travellers**;
- **Further education** award holders;
- **Lone parents** in receipt of a means tested social welfare payment;



- **Ethnic minorities** who are lawfully present in the State;
- Children who are/were in the care of the State/TUSLA;
- Part-time students.

The value of a 1916 Bursary.

Each student who is awarded the 1916 Bursary will receive a bursary to the amount of €5,000 for each year of their undergraduate programme of study. The bursary will be paid each year of the course up to a maximum of four years for full time students and six years for part time students providing that the recipient complies with the bursary guidelines and progresses to the next academic year of their course.

Who can apply for a 1916 Bursary?

Prospective students, who are socio-economically disadvantaged, belong to one of the Bursary Fund target groups and who are from one of the socio-economic groups that have low participation in higher education:

- Applicant's household / family income must be less than €23,500 (excluding SUSI disregarded payments) **or** applicant must be in receipt of a DSP means-tested social-welfare payment;
- New entrants (full-time or part-time) progressing to higher education for the first time, intending to pursue an undergraduate course in a publicly funded institution that:
 - (a) takes not less than two years to complete,
 - (b) on the successful completion of which a student is awarded a major higher education and training award at level 6 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.
- Applicants must have been resident in the Irish State for three of the past five years on the date on which a year of study commences.

How will Bursaries be awarded?

GMIT have six bursaries to be awarded. As it is expected that the number of applications will exceed the number of bursaries available, priority will be given to the eligible applicants who can provide evidence of membership of more than one of the categories listed, the significance and impact of the socio-economic disadvantage and the barriers experienced.

The awarding of the bursary will be dependent on the acceptance of an offer for a GMIT Programme and the confirmation of eligibility for SUSI Special Rate grant or DSP means tested social welfare payment (self).

The lead institution may terminate a bursary at any time, where the bursary holder no longer meets the terms and conditions of the bursary fund.



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Please note: Students are not entitled to receive the 1916 Bursary in conjunction with any other bursary, scholarship or award. If a student has already been awarded a scholarship, he/she may still apply for this 1916 Bursary but if successful will forfeit the value of the lesser scholarship. Students may however hold the 1916 Bursary and the student grant simultaneously, where they meet the eligibility criteria of the student grant scheme. The 1916 Bursary will be an income disregard for the purposes of 'reckonable income' in the student grant scheme. 1916 Bursary holders can also apply for the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) and the Fund for Students with Disabilities (FSD). The 1916 Bursary will also be an income disregard for the purposes of means tested social welfare payments or BTEA entitlement and will have no impact on the individual's DSP social welfare payment.

When will Bursaries be awarded?

Bursaries will be paid in two installments annually – (Semester 1 & 2)

Bursary Conditions

- The bursary will be awarded for the normal duration of the undergraduate programme and is available across all disciplines.
- Bursary holders will be expected to fulfill the regulations of their college/institute and to undergo any examination/assessment as determined by their college/institute.
- Bursaries will be renewed on successful progression to the next year of the course. It will not be paid in respect of a repeat period of study (the institution may waive this rule in exceptional circumstances).
- A bursary holder wishing to change programme must have the prior written approval of their institution and will not receive the Bursary until they have progressed to a level which they haven't previously completed on the previous course.
- A bursary may be awarded for a maximum of four years full-time (unless the natural duration of the undergraduate programme exceeds four years) or six years (part-time).
- A bursary may be held in respect of postgraduate studies for a maximum of four years. Bursary holders may defer a maximum of one year prior to commencing postgraduate studies with the prior written approval of the Institution and subject to available funds and the fund continuing.
- A bursary holder, during the course of their studies, may defer a maximum of one year with prior approval from the Institution and inform the HEA.
- A bursary may be retained by a student that transfers to another higher education institution providing that the student has completed at least one year of study in the higher education institution that awarded the bursary. This is subject to progression.





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Data Collection and Sharing

Information on how students' personal data is processed is available in the Privacy Notice on the 1916 Bursary Application Form. A Data Sharing Agreement is in place between the West/North-West cluster members i.e. GMIT, IT Sligo, LYIT and NUI Galway.

Appeals

Appeals will be accepted up to five days after notification of outcomes of application and will be independently reviewed on the grounds that information provided was considered, assessed and scored correctly. No further documentation/information can be provided by the applicant at appeal stage.

Application Forms

Application forms are available to download on the GMIT website:

<https://www.gmit.ie/apply/scholarships>

Application forms can also be requested from studentservices@gmit.ie or phoning 091-742392

Queries

E-mail studentservices@gmit.ie or phone 091-742392 or 091-742118

Application Period

1st January 2019 - 5th July 2019 (5pm)

Late/incomplete applications will not be considered

Completed Application Forms

Completed forms accompanied by ALL Financial Documentation and other relevant Supporting Documentation to be submitted to Fund Administrator, Student Services Office, GMIT, Dublin Road, Galway

1916 Bursary Fund Guideline Details

For further information on the HEA 1916 Bursary fund application guidelines

visit www.hea.ie/assets/uploads/2017/08/PATH-2-Guidelines-2018_19-002.pdf

