

Subject:

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS 2016

**Circular Number:
2016/07**

**Date of Issue:
11 April 2016**

Audience:

- Principals and Boards of Governors of grant-aided post-primary schools with sixth forms;
- Careers Teachers in grant-aided post-primary schools with sixth forms;
- Education Authority;
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools;
- Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment;
- Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education;
- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta

Summary of Contents:

Information for schools on the awarding of Higher Education Scholarships

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the contents of this Circular should be addressed to:

Geraldine Catney
Assessment & Qualifications Team
Department of Education
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
BANGOR
Co Down
BT19 7PR

**Governor Awareness:
Essential**

**Status of Contents:
Information for schools**

**Related Documents:
None**

**Superseded Documents:
None**

**Expiry Date:
Not applicable**

**DENI Website:
<http://www.deni.gov.uk>**

Tel: 028 9127 7640
Fax: 028 9127 9100

**Additional copies:
Tel: 028 91 279543**

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Introduction

The purpose of this circular is to make schools aware of the launch of the All Ireland Scholarship Awards 2016. The scheme will provide financial assistance to top performing students from low-income households who intend to take up higher education places from next autumn.

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.

Number of scholarships

The scholarships will provide financial assistance for up to 25 students per year in the north of Ireland for studies at undergraduate level, with 19 of the scholarships being awarded through the schools sector and 6 through the Further Education (FE) sector.

Eligibility Requirements

The scholarships being awarded through the schools sector will be on the basis of performance in A level examinations from all Awarding Bodies. In order to be eligible, candidates must attend a grant-aided post-primary school and be recognised as being from low-income households and, as evidence of this, must be in receipt of an Educational Maintenance Allowance. In addition, candidates must have completed a minimum of three 'A' Levels in the summer of 2016 (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), and have also been **conditionally accepted onto a full-time undergraduate degree** course in the United Kingdom, or the Republic of Ireland, in the academic year 2016/17. 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 2016 Scholarship. A minimum of two scholarships will be offered in each county (based on the home address of the student) with additional awards allocated on the basis of the top A levels achieved. The first scholarships will be awarded to students who intend to take up higher education places from autumn 2016.

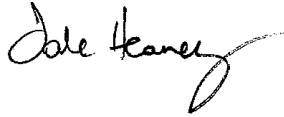
Nomination Process

Pupils must complete a self nomination form which must be signed by the principal of the school. Application forms are available on the Department of Education (DE), the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), Colleges N.I., the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) website and on the NI Direct website at <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/allirelandscholarships>

Principals will be asked to verify a candidate's home address and to complete a declaration that he/she is in receipt of an Educational Maintenance Allowance. Candidates will be required to confirm that they are willing to allow all relevant details to be given to the CCEA. When A level results have been issued to candidates, CCEA will validate top achievers on the basis of their examination results.

Further Information

Information about the scheme is available on the Department of Education's website at www.deni.gov.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Heaney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

DALE HEANEY
Assessment & Qualifications Team