

1916 Bursary

Information Sheet 2021-2022

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

- Galway Mayo Institute of Technology
- Institute of Technology Sligo
- Letterkenny Institute of Technology
- NUI Galway (and St. Angela's, Sligo)

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://susie.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 the normal duration of a full-time undergraduate programme of study. The bursary will be paid each year for a part-time undergraduate course up to a maximum period of six years.

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 €24,500 (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 has 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 formal awarding of a bursary may only occur once a student has accepted their place at GMIT and the confirmation of eligibility for SUSI Special Rate grant and/or a 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.

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*

- 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 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 holder, during their studies, may defer a maximum of one year with prior approval from GMIT.
- A bursary holder who wishes to change course must obtain the prior written approval from GMIT.
- 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.

*Conditions may be subject to change, for more information please visit

<https://hea.ie/funding-governance-performance/funding/student-finance/1916-bursary-fund/>

Conditions in respect of other supports

- Students are not permitted to hold a 1916 Bursary in conjunction with any other bursary, scholarship or award, irrespective of value.
- Where relevant, a bursary holder is permitted to avail of any additional financial supports available to them where they are benefitting from the opportunity to study abroad as part of their course e.g. Erasmus+.
- Where relevant, students are permitted to hold a 1916 Bursary in combination with a SUSI grant.
- Students on Back to Education allowance or other Department of Employment and Social Protection social welfare payments can hold a 1916 Bursary without it having any impact on their Back to Education allowance entitlement or other social welfare payment.
- A 1916 Bursary will be considered as income disregard for the purposes of reckonable income in relation to SUSI grants or means-tested social welfare payments.
- Bursary holders are permitted to apply for the Student Assistance Fund and/or be covered for supports under the Fund for Students with Disabilities.

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 21 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 online at <https://www.gmit.ie/apply/pre-entry-scholarships-and-entry-schemes>.

Queries

E-mail ap@gmit.ie

Closing Date

The closing date for submission of application forms is **5pm on the 9th July 2021**

The closing date for submission of supporting documentation is **5pm on the 30th July 2021**.