



## 1916 Bursaries: Frequently Asked Questions (2020/21)

### Who can apply?

The 1916 Bursary Scheme is open to all applicants who aim to pursue undergraduate higher education in 2020/2021. Mary Immaculate College will review all applications. However, applicants should have made an under-graduate application for 2020/2021 through the CAO to Mary Immaculate College, via one of the following admissions pathways, in order to be initially shortlisted for the award of a bursary.

- Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)
- Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) - priority will go to:
  - students with a physical/mobility impairment
  - students who are deaf/hard of hearing
  - students who are blind or have a visual impairment
- Mature Student entry (first-time entrants only)
- QQI award entry
- Part-time programme entry

Bursaries will only be awarded to first year – first time entrant - undergraduate students, registered in Mary Immaculate College for the 2020/2021 academic year and who are in the identified target groups. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they would qualify for the special rate of SUSI maintenance grant and/or are in receipt of a Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection means-tested social welfare payment.

**Applicants who are eligible through one of these pathways may also be from one of the following target sub-groups:**

- Lone parents
- Member of the Irish Traveller community
- Ethnic Minorities (including programme refugees)

### **I am a Leaving Certificate student in 2020, awaiting my results. Can I apply to the 1916 Bursary Fund in MIC?**

Yes, you can but you should have already made an application to MIC through either the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) or the Disability Access Route (DARE) in order to be considered.



### **Can I be assessed for more than one type of bursary?**

Yes, while you can only be considered under one entry pathway into an undergraduate programme you can be considered under a number of targeted groups. For example, if you are a QQI applicant to the College but also a lone-parent you can be considered for a bursary under both the QQI and Lone-Parent groupings provided you meet the key criteria noted above.

### **Can I also apply to the 1916 Bursary Fund in another college if I have chosen a course there as a CAO preference or if I have also made another type of application there?**

Yes, you can also make an application to the 1916 Bursary Fund in another college. Please check the relevant Higher Education Institute's website for an application form.

### **What does "Socio-Economically Disadvantaged" mean for the 1916 Bursary?**

This term usually means that you live in an area of urban or rural disadvantage where not many people from that area go on to third level education by tradition or for financial reasons. You may have attended a DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) school. Your family income may mean that you may not be able to go to college without financial help. You may be from a socio-economic group that is underrepresented in higher education. All of these factors, either individually or often combined, mean that you have additional social and financial barriers to accessing higher education.

### **I think I may be from an ethnic minority, can you clarify this?**

The ethnic minority group, as per the guidelines for the Bursary Scheme, will include persons whose current immigration status or leave to remain under the Department of Justice and Equality is one of the following:

- A national of a Member State, a state which is a contracting state to the EEA agreement or the Swiss Confederation;
- Refugee (including programme refugee);
- Subsidiary Protection;
- Permission to remain as a family member of an EU/EES/Swiss citizen under the European Communities (Free Movement of Persons) Regulations 2006 and 2008 and EU Directive 2004/38/EC (EU Treaty Rights provisions);
- Permission to remain because of marriage/civil partnership with an Irish national or as dependent child of such a person;
- Humanitarian leave to remain granted before the Immigration Act 1999 came into effect;



- Permission to remain following a decision not to deport under Sections 3 of the Immigration Act 1999;
- Permission to remain as a dependent child or a person who has acquired Irish Citizenship by naturalisation, residing in the State; or
- Permission to reside in the State under Section 49 of the International Protection Act 2015.

For further clarification, see section 14 of the Student Support Act 2011 and regulation 5 the Student Support Regulations 2020 (Statutory Instrument No. 77 of 2020).

#### **Who are the Bursaries not available to?**

- Students in the second, third or fourth year of their undergraduate studies cannot apply. This bursary is for first year – first time entrant - undergraduate students only
- Postgraduate students
- Students who have already received a higher level qualification at Level 6 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)
- Students on a full-time or part-time undergraduate course in a publicly funded institution that takes less than two years to complete or on the successful completion of which a student is awarded an education and training award at Level 5 or below on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)
- Students who cannot demonstrate that they would qualify for the special rate of SUSI maintenance grant and/or are not in receipt of a Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection means-tested social welfare payment.

#### **I am in receipt of a means tested social welfare payment, can I apply?**

Yes, you can apply.

#### **I am repeating a year. Can I apply?**

Applications from those currently repeating year one of their undergraduate programme will only be considered in cases where evidence is supplied that a significant life event was the reason for non-progression. Examples of such life events include major ill health which was certified at the time, pregnancy, bereavement in the immediate family. All other conditions of eligibility for the Bursary Fund must be met.

#### **How do I apply?**

Application forms are available from the MIC [website](#).



### **Can I apply online?**

Applications must be submitted by email only to [1916BursaryFund@mic.ul.ie](mailto:1916BursaryFund@mic.ul.ie) by 5.00pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Enquiries can be directed to [1916BursaryFund@mic.ul.ie](mailto:1916BursaryFund@mic.ul.ie)

### **When can I apply?**

The application process will open on Monday 25 May 2020 and close on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020. No late applications can be accepted.

### **Can I get the 1916 Bursary and SUSI?**

Yes, if you are eligible and awarded a SUSI Grant and the Bursary you can keep both. The 1916 Bursary is not counted as income when assessing SUSI.

### **Can I receive the 1916 Bursary and any other Scholarship or Grant?**

No, you cannot be in receipt of any other Scholarship or Bursary, regardless of its value. However, you can receive the 1916 Bursary with your SUSI Grant or Social Welfare Payment and you can apply for the Student Assistance Fund or Fund for Students with Disabilities.

### **Will the Bursary affect my SUSI application?**

The payment from the 1916 Bursary is not counted as income by Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI).

### **Will the Bursary affect my Social Welfare payment?**

No, the 1916 Bursary does not affect your means tested or other payments from Social Welfare (Department of Social Protection).

### **Can I keep my Rent Allowance and Medical Card with the 1916 Bursary?**

The Bursary should not be counted as income when you are being assessed for any means tested payments.

### **Can I apply for the Student Assistance Fund if I get the 1916 Bursary?**

Yes, you can apply. Mary Immaculate College assesses applications for the Student Assistance Fund using a well-developed and stand-alone process separate from the operation of the 1916 Bursary Scheme.



**Can I apply for the Fund for Students with Disabilities if I get the 1916 Bursary?**

Yes, you can apply. Mary Immaculate College makes applications to the Fund for Students with Disabilities for students with disabilities using a well-developed and stand-alone process separate from the 1916 Bursary Scheme.

**How many Bursaries will be awarded?**

The following is the proposed allocation of the 1916 Bursary Awards for 2020/2021 in Mary Immaculate within the target groups. Where insufficient qualifying applications are received in any particular category, bursaries may be re-distributed across other categories at the discretion of the 1916 Bursary Committee:

Entry pathway	Allocation of Bursaries
HEAR	2
DARE/ Disability	1
Mature Student entry	2 <i>Priority will be given to those who meet the qualifying criteria to be considered lone parents</i>
QQI entry <i>(i.e. received offer of place in Round '0' on the basis of QQI award points)</i>	1
Part-time programme entry	0

**TOTAL allocation: 6**



### **What is expected of me if I am awarded a 1916 Bursary?**

- You will be expected to fulfil the regulations of the College and to undergo all examinations/assessments required by your programme of study
- You will be expected to meet with a designated Student Advisor in the College at least twice per year.
- Awardees under the fund may be invited to participate in or attend publicity events organised by the College to increase awareness of the 1916 Bursary.
- You will be required to sign the Student Contract if you are successful in your application.
- In order to continue to receive the Bursary you will be expected to have progressed to the next year of your course, following the successful completion of all parts of the course as required during the previous year, subject to the normal duration of the approved course.

### **If my application is unsuccessful, can I appeal?**

Yes, however, there is only one basis for making an appeal:

1. That you believe there was an administrative error in assessment” i.e. that you think a mistake was made when your application was being reviewed that led to you not being awarded the Bursary.

Appeals will be reviewed by representatives from the Mid-West/Shannon Consortium Cluster. Representative(s) from your Higher Education Institution will not be involved in the appeal’s process. No member of staff involved in making the original decision will be involved in the appeal decision process. A letter detailing the outcome of your appeal will be e-mailed to you. There will be no further stage of appeal beyond this final decision.

**Applicants wishing to appeal must submit in writing, outlining the administrative error in assessment, to [1916BursaryFund@mic.ul.ie](mailto:1916BursaryFund@mic.ul.ie)**

**For information relating to appeals please contact [1916BursaryFund@mic.ul.ie](mailto:1916BursaryFund@mic.ul.ie)**



**I have been awarded the 1916 Bursary how will I be paid?**

The award will be paid in two instalments as early as possible during the academic year 2020/21. Please note that, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the academic year for first year undergraduate students is not expected to start until October, or possibly even early November 2020. Awardees under the 1916 Bursary Fund in MIC must have registered on their programme of study before payment can be made.

**I have been awarded the 1916 Bursary. Can I repeat a year?**

The 1916 Bursary cannot be paid for a repeat year unless the institution agrees that there were “exceptional circumstances i.e. medical or personal reasons why you could not complete the year. You would be expected to provide written evidence of your illness or personal situation from a professional outside your family group. You would also be expected to work with the student supports within your institution during your difficulty and at a minimum have advised someone in your college that you have an on-going issue.

**I applied but was not successful in my application. Are there any other financial supports available?**

Yes. Each institution has funds to support students experiencing financial difficulties. The most prominent of these is the Student Assistance Fund. Please also visit [www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie) for further information on sources of funding.

If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please contact the MIC Access and Disability Office or the MISU (Students’ Union).

**Who can I contact for more information?**

Please contact [1916BursaryFund@mic.ul.ie](mailto:1916BursaryFund@mic.ul.ie) if you have any queries.