

The 1916 Bursary Fund 2021/2022 FAQs

1916 Undergraduate Bursaries: Frequently Asked Questions (2021/22)

Who can apply?

The 1916 Bursary Scheme is open to all applicants who aim to pursue undergraduate higher education in 2021/22. Mary Immaculate College will review all applications. Applicants should have made an undergraduate application for 2021/22 through the CAO to Mary Immaculate College, via one of the following admissions pathways, in order to be considered 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 disability
 - students who are deaf/hard of hearing
 - students who are blind/ visual impaired
- Mature Student entry (first-time entrants only)
- QQI award entry
- Part-time programme entry

The minimum eligibility criteria for you to be considered for a 1916 Bursary in the 2021/22 academic year are that you must be:

1. From one or more of the target groups eligible under this scheme, having entered MIC through one of the specified entry pathways
2. In receipt of the special rate of SUSI maintenance grant and/or in receipt of a long-term means tested DEASP payment
3. A first-time, new entrant to higher education to undergraduate study
4. Resident in the State (Republic of Ireland) for three of the past five years on the date on which your first year of study commences
5. Pursuing an approved full-time or approved part-time undergraduate course

If you do not meet all these minimum criteria, you cannot be considered for a 1916 Bursary for undergraduate study. Please see [here](#) for details of other financial assistance for which you may be eligible as a MIC student.

Full DFHERIS 1916 Bursary Fund guidelines for 2021/22 are available [here](#).

I am a Leaving Certificate student in 2021, 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.



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 Refugee and Family Reunification)

Can I be assessed for a 1916 Bursary under one or more target group categories?

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 categories, provided you meet the key eligibility 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 groups, 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, UK or the Swiss Confederation
- Refugee (including Programme Refugee and Family Reunification);
- Subsidiary Protection;

- European Communities (Free Movement of Persons Regulation) 2006 and 2008;
- Permission to remain by virtue of marriage to, or civil partnership with, an Irish national or as dependent child of such a person;
- Humanitarian leave to remain (including Permission to reside in the State under Section 49 of the International Protections Act 2015);
- Permission to remain following a decision not to deport under Sections 3 of the Immigration Act 1999; or
- Permission to remain as a dependent child or a person who has acquired Irish Citizenship by naturalisation, residing in the State.

For further clarification please [see](#) 1916 Bursary Guidelines 2021-22.

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 (see separate [FAQs](#) for current 1916 Bursary recipients who are progressing to postgraduate study)
- 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 long term means-tested social welfare payment.

I am in receipt of a long term 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?

Please download the application form and FAQs. Applications and all supporting documentation must be submitted by email only to 1916BursaryFund@mic.ul.ie by 5.00pm on Friday 15th October 2021.

Supporting documentation submitted after the closing date will not be accepted.

Enquiries can be directed to 1916BursaryFund@mic.ul.ie

When can I apply?

The application process will close on Friday 15th October 2021. No late applications will be accepted, and all supporting documentation must be submitted by the closing date.

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 long term means-tested payment from Social Welfare (Department of Employment Affairs and 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. The Fund for Students with Disabilities is a well-developed and stand-alone process separate from the 1916 Bursary Scheme.

How many Bursaries will be awarded?

There are three tiers of 1916 undergraduate bursaries available for 2021/22 academic year in Mary Immaculate College within the target groups.

Tier 1: 6 Bursaries of €5,000 per annum for the normal duration of the undergraduate course.

Tier 2: 3 Bursaries of €2,000 per annum for the normal duration of the undergraduate course.

In the case of Tier 1 and Tier 2:

- bursaries may be renewed where it has been confirmed that the recipient has progressed to the next year of their course.
- bursaries will not be paid in respect of a repeat period of study, therefore any student repeating a year must have their bursary paused until they progress.

Tier 3: The number of Tier 3 bursaries available to eligible applicants will be confirmed after all Tier 1, Tier 2 and postgraduate bursaries have been allocated. This bursary is a once off payment of €1,500 for 2021-22 Academic Year only.

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.

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 2021/22. 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.

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.

You have 10 days, from the receipt of the bursary outcome, to lodge an appeal if you are unhappy with the decision. If you fail to lodge an appeal within this timeframe, your appeal will be invalid. Appeals will be reviewed by representatives from the Mid-West Cluster. Representative(s) from your Higher Education Institution will not be involved in the appeals process. No member of staff involved in making the original decision will participate 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.

The opening date of the appeals process will be advised later in the year.

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 <https://www.mic.ul.ie/study-at-mic/access-disability?index=6>
Please also visit www.studentfinance.ie for further information on sources of funding.

Who can I contact for more information?

Please contact 1916BursaryFund@mic.ul.ie if you have any queries.