

All Ireland Scholarship Scheme 2026

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Overview

The All Ireland Scholarship Scheme, which is funded by JP McManus, provides financial support to high achieving students from low income households. The Scholarships were first awarded in the Republic of Ireland in 2008 and they became available in Northern Ireland in 2009.

The Scholarship offers students financial support of £5,850 per annum for the duration of their undergraduate degree course.

The Scholarship will be awarded to the top 25 performing students who attend a grant aided post primary school or a Further Education (FE) college in Northern Ireland.

They will be awarded to the top:

- 19 performing 'A' level students in grant aided post primary schools; and
- 6 performing Level 3 Extended Diploma students in the FE colleges.

Applicants must have been in receipt of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) at the time of examination, and due to commence an undergraduate degree course at a university in **September/October 2026**.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Where can I access an application form?

Details of the Scholarships, including how to apply, will be available from the following websites from **March 2026**:

- NI Direct: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/all-ireland-scholarships>
- Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA): www.ccea.org.uk
- Further Education Colleges:
 - Belfast Metropolitan College: <https://www.belfastmet.ac.uk>
 - Northern Regional College: <https://www.nrc.ac.uk>
 - North West Regional College: <https://www.nwrc.ac.uk>
 - South Eastern Regional College: <https://www.serc.ac.uk>
 - Southern Regional College: <https://www.src.ac.uk>
 - South West College: <https://www.swc.ac.uk>

By submission, you are confirming that the information contained in the form is accurate. Any inaccuracies may mean your application cannot be processed.

What is the deadline for applying?

Application forms and results must be received by post or by email by **4.00pm on Thursday 27 August 2026**.

Application forms that are not fully completed **cannot** be accepted.

If you are unavailable at this time to forward your results you must make arrangements for them to be forwarded on your behalf. Results received after the deadline **will not** be considered.

Can I submit a combination of A Level, BTEC, Diplomas or Certificates?

No. Applicants from Post Primary Schools can only submit A-Level results (a minimum of 3 A Levels completed in 2026).

Applicants from Further Education Colleges can only submit Level 3 Extended Diploma results.

Please ensure you send your form through to the correct organisation, as detailed below.

Where do I send my completed Application and Confirmation of A-Level Results form to?

For applications from students in post primary schools:

Application and Confirmation of A-Level Results form along with a photocopy of your Statement of Results (Please **do not** send original result documentation) can be returned either by email or post:

By Email:

Emailed applications (scanned as PDF) should be sent to: ais@ccea.org.uk

By Post:

Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA),
AIS (QDS)
Room 319
29 Clarendon Road,
Clarendon Dock,
Belfast, BT1 3BG

Please ensure the Statement of Results is signed and verified by your Head of Centre (Principal)

For applications from students in Further Education colleges:

Application forms, Notification of Performance forms and copies of the official Level 3 Extended Diploma should be returned by email:

Emailed applications (PDF) should be sent to: gneville@collaborateni.ac.uk

Please ensure the copy of the Level 3 Extended Diploma is signed and verified by your Head of Centre (Principal)

If I am applying to do a Foundation Degree in September 2026 – can I apply for a JP McManus award?

No. Applicants must be intending to commence a full-time undergraduate degree course at a university in September/October 2026.

If I am required to complete a Foundation Diploma before I enrol on my Honours Degree course, am I eligible to apply?

You can apply, as long you can continue onto an Honours Degree the following year. The Scholarship will be a 2026 award, this will only be payable during the life of the Honours Degree course and not during the Foundation Diploma.

If I am in receipt of an FE Award, rather than EMA, can I apply?

No, you must be in receipt of EMA to be eligible.

Are outcomes from a Review of Results considered?

Outcomes from a review of results will be considered. Applicants must indicate their intention to apply for a Review of Results on the Application and Confirmation of A-Level Results form and submit this to CCEA by **4.00 pm on Thursday 27 August 2026**.

Applicants should apply for a Review of Results as soon as possible after receipt of A-Level results using Priority Service 2 and before Thursday 20 August 2026.

Outcomes from a Review of Results **must** arrive with CCEA **no later than 4.00 pm on Thursday 3 September 2026**.

What processes are used to select successful applicants?

The process for each category is as follows:

- The CCEA will determine the academic performance of those 'A' Level students who have applied for the Scholarship and provide a ranked list of the top students to the Department for the Economy (DfE). A minimum of two Scholarships will be offered in each county based on applicant's home address. This will ensure that the Scholarships meet the requirements of the Trustees in terms of a minimum of two awards per county.
- The FE Colleges will rank the academic performance of FE students in accordance with their Level 3 Extended Diploma results. From the ranked list, the top performing FE student from each FE College will be identified. This meets the requirements of the trustees in terms of one award per FE College catchment area. If there is a tie in the ranking for any individual FE College, then a random selection will be made to determine the successful applicant in that catchment area.

Once the 25 successful applicants have been identified DfE will provide their details to the Scholarship Trust. Successful students should then receive a scholarship offer from the Trust by the end of September.

If I have been unsuccessful, will I be notified?

Yes. All successful and unsuccessful applicants will receive notification from DfE by the end of **September 2026**.

Will the award of this Scholarship affect my entitlement to any student support grant?

No.

Must I attend a university in Northern Ireland?

This Scholarship is for students on a full-time undergraduate degree course who will be attending university in Northern Ireland or other part of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland.

My course includes a placement, how will this affect my scholarship?

The scholarship is not payable during paid work placements. You must advise DfE if you are undertaking a paid work placement.

How/when will I receive the Award?

DfE will pay your award in three instalments each year upon receipt of evidence of continued enrolment and progression.

What happens if I do not complete my course?

You must inform DfE immediately if for any reason you change course or cease your university studies.

The Scholarship shall be terminated if a student has abandoned his/her course or has been expelled from the course or relevant institution. A student shall be deemed to have abandoned the course if he/she is absent for a period of 60 days or more without prior permission of the scholarship trust.

Will I have to pay back any monies if I cease my university studies?

You will not be expected to pay back any money received up to the point of ending university studies.

Can I take a gap year before commencing university if I have been awarded a scholarship?

Yes. The scholarship may be deferred for one academic year and for that period only, with prior written permission of the Trustees and the academic institution. The scholarship will, however, remain a 2026 scholarship.

Can I apply for the scholarship if I am repeating my examinations this year?

No. Applications will only be considered from those sitting their examinations for the first time.

Contacts

In the first instance you should contact your school or college Head of Centre (Principal).

If you require further information, please contact:

General Enquiries:	Aisling Hill Department for the Economy Adelaide House, 39-49 Adelaide Street Belfast, BT2 8FD Email: AllirelandScholarships@economy-ni.gov.uk
School Enquiries:	To be confirmed Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) 29 Clarendon Road, Clarendon Dock Belfast, BT1 3BG Email: ais@ccea.org.uk
FE College Enquiries:	Grace Neville Further Education Colleges NI Cookstown Campus Burn Road Cookstown Co Tyrone, BT80 8DN Email: gneville@collaborateni.ac.uk