

All Ireland Scholarship Scheme 2026 Guidance Notes

1. Introduction

The All Ireland Scholarship Scheme provides **twenty-five Scholarships** to the top-performing students in receipt of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), who reside in Northern Ireland.

Subject to the conditions set out in this document, Scholarships awarded will be renewed annually and continue until the completion of the undergraduate course chosen.

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.

2. Number of Scholarships

The **twenty five scholarships** will be awarded across **two** categories:

- **Nineteen Scholarships will be awarded to the top 'A' Level students from grant aided Post Primary Schools.** In order to meet the requirements of the All Ireland Scholarships Trust, a minimum of two of these Scholarships will be awarded in each county of Northern Ireland, based on the home address of the student (See Section 3a and 4a for more details).
- **Six Scholarships will be awarded to the top Level 3 Extended Diploma students from Further Education Colleges.** One Scholarship will be awarded in each of the six Further Education Colleges.

3. Eligibility Criteria

(a) Students from grant aided Post Primary Schools must:

- Have completed a **minimum of three 'A' Levels** by the summer of 2026.
(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);
- Have been **in receipt of the EMA** at the time of examination;
- Have been **conditionally accepted onto a full-time undergraduate degree course** in the United Kingdom, or the Republic of Ireland, in the academic year 2026/2027;
- **Only GCE A Level results will be accepted from Post Primary School applicants. (BTECs, Diplomas or Certificates will not be accepted).**

(b) Students from Further Education Colleges must:

- Have completed a **Level 3 Extended Diploma** by the summer of 2026;
- Have been **in receipt of the EMA** at the time of examination; and
- Have been **conditionally accepted onto a full-time undergraduate degree course** in the United Kingdom, or the Republic of Ireland, in the academic year 2026/27.

4. Application and Selection Process

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>

Section 4a: Students from Grant aided Post Primary Schools

Students at grant aided post primary schools must complete an:

- **Application and Confirmation of A-Level Results form;** and
- Provide CCEA with a **photocopy** of their **Candidate Statement of Results** (Please **do not** send original result documentation).

These must be returned to CCEA by **4.00 pm on Thursday 27 August 2026** and sent either:

- **By Email:** ais@ccea.org.uk (Scan and email as PDF)

or

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

Confirmation of A-Level Results

As awarding organisations issue A Level results directly to schools and a centralised results list is not published, students from grant aided post primary schools will be required to provide CCEA with a **photocopy** of their **Candidate Statement of Results** along with a completed **Application and Confirmation of A-Level Results form**, which is also available to download from the websites mentioned above. Please do not send original Candidate Statement of Results. **Please ensure the copy is signed and verified by your Head of Centre (Principal).**

Application and Confirmation of A-Level Results form along with a **photocopy** of your **Candidate Statement of Results** must be received by **4.00 pm on Thursday 27 August 2026**. (Please **do not** send original result documentation).

If you are unavailable at this time to forward your application and results, you must make arrangements for them to be forwarded on your behalf.

Please note that the following **will not** be considered:

- Application forms and results submitted after the closing date.
- Application forms which are not fully completed.

Important additional information

Modular Specifications (CCEA / WJEC)

Please note, for each GCE A Level subject listed, if the Awarding Organisation is **CCEA or WJEC**, you must enter the **total uniform marks obtained** and **maximum uniform marks available** for each subject in the relevant columns in the **table on page 2** of the Application and Confirmation of A-Level Results form.

Linear Specifications (OCR / Pearson (Edexcel) / AQA / Eduqas)

Please note, for each GCE A Level subject listed, if the Awarding Organisation is **not CCEA or WJEC**, you must enter the **subject code**, **final scaled mark total** and **maximum scaled marks available** for each subject in the relevant columns in the **table on page 3** of the Application and Confirmation of A-Level Results form.

If your Statement of Results does not include this information, please ask your centre to source this and send along a copy signed by your Head of Centre (Principal) with the Application and Confirmation of A-Level Results form.

Late applications will not be considered and failure to provide CCEA with the completed Application and Confirmation of A-Level Results form along with a photocopy of the Candidate Statement of Results will result in the application being withdrawn.

CCEA will determine the academic performance (based on the average percentage uniform mark across a student's best three A level subjects) of those students who applied for the Scholarship and will provide a ranked list of all applicants to the Department for the Economy (DfE). DfE will identify students eligible for receipt of the Scholarship based upon the selection criteria and notify the Scholarship trust of the 25 successful applicants.

In order to satisfy the Trustees' requirement that a minimum of two Scholarships are awarded per county, the following process will be used:

- The two per county requirement will be met from the ranked list of applicants from the school sector based on the student's home address.
- The remaining Scholarships will be allocated to those next in this ranked list.

Successful students will receive a Scholarship Offer by the end of **September 2026**.

Failure to provide CCEA with all the details requested on the Application and Confirmation of A-Level Results form and a photocopy of the Candidate Statement of Results form will result in the application being withdrawn.

Review of Results

Outcomes of a Review of Results will be taken into account. Students applying for a Review of Results **must indicate this clearly on their Application and Confirmation of A-Level Results form** and should ensure that they submit this along with a photocopy of their Candidate Statement of Results by 4.00pm on the closing date, **Thursday 27 August 2026**, even if they have not received the outcome of their Review of Results by then.

Applicants are strongly advised to 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.

When applicants receive the results for a Review of Results, they should be sent immediately to CCEA to arrive **no later than 4.00 pm on Thursday 3 September 2026**.

Section 4b: Students from Further Education Colleges (FE Colleges)

Students at Further Education Colleges must complete an:

- **Application form** and;
- Provide a **photocopy** of their **Level 3 Extended Diploma**

These must be returned by **4.00 pm on Thursday 27 August 2026** and sent by email to gneville@collaborateni.ac.uk

Notification of Performance

Copies of the official Level 3 Extended Diploma/Notification of Performance form must be sent to gneville@collaborateni.ac.uk by **Thursday 27 August 2026**. Please **do not** send original result documentation.

Failure to provide your official Level 3 Extended Diploma/Notification of Performance form by the deadline above will result in the application being withdrawn.

The colleges will identify all those applicants who meet the eligibility criteria set out in Section 3(b). They will then determine the academic performance (based on Level 3 Extended Diploma results) of those students who applied for the Scholarship and will provide a ranked list of all applicants to the Department for the Economy (DfE).

Based on this ranked list, the top performing student per FE College will be identified.

In order to satisfy the Trustees' requirement one scholarship will be awarded to each FE College catchment area in Northern Ireland (based on the FE College they are attending as a student).

If there is a tie in the ranking for any individual FE College, then a random selection will be made to determine the winner in that FE College catchment area.

All Applicants

Successful applicants should receive a scholarship offer by the end of **September 2026**. Applicants will be asked to confirm, in writing, that he/she intends to enter a full-time undergraduate degree course in the United Kingdom, or the Republic of Ireland, in September/October 2026. Applicants who are intending to defer their university place must inform DfE and must also confirm that their chosen university has agreed to defer their place for the period of deferral.

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

5. Scholarship Offers

The Trust will contact successful applicants identified by DfE regarding a formal Scholarship offer. The right to withdraw an offer is maintained where information given by the applicant is false, misleading or incomplete.

6. Conditions Attached to Scholarship Offers

Every applicant to whom a Scholarship is offered must fulfil the terms and conditions of the Scholarship. Scholarship holders will be expected to fulfil the regulations stipulated by their institution and undergo all compulsory examinations as required for their undergraduate course.

It will not be permissible for a Scholarship holder to be in receipt of:

- (i) a scholarship awarded by another scholarship or trust;
- (ii) any award paid by a public body; or
- (iii) the equivalent in another European state.

Apart from entrance scholarships, the exclusions do not include the award of scholarships, prizes or bursaries by the institution attended or any statutory support granted to an eligible student taking a designated higher education course under the Education (Student Support) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010.

7. Value of Scholarship

The annual value of the Scholarship is £5,850 per academic year.

8. Payment of Scholarship

The Scholarship holder will be paid the scholarship in three instalments during each academic year. Before a payment is made a student must provide DfE with evidence from their institution that they are enrolled and progressing on their course.

The scholarship is not paid during paid work placements or periods of intercalation. Students must inform Department for the Economy (DfE) in writing if they intend to undertake a placement or intercalated degree.

The Scholarship may not be paid in respect of a second period of attendance at the same course level. The Scholarship will however recommence upon successful progression on to the next stage of the course.

9. Termination or Deferral of the Scholarship

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.

A Scholarship holder who during the course of his/her studies wishes to change course or defer his/her Scholarship for one academic year must obtain prior written approval of the Trust for that period. Where a student changes course, the Scholarship payments will be deferred until the student reaches the same level at which participation on the original course ceased.

10. Data Protection

All data provided by applicants will be protected in accordance with The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).

Information on how your personal data will be used is available in the privacy notice published alongside the application form. You must read and familiarise yourself with the content of the privacy notice before applying for the Scholarship. The application form includes a section for you to sign, giving your explicit consent to the sharing of your data.