

The J P McManus All Ireland Scholarship Scheme

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

The Scholarship offers students financial support of £5,500 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 college in Northern Ireland. They will be awarded to the top nineteen performing 'A' level students in schools, and the top six performing BTEC Extended Diploma students in FE Colleges.

Applicants must be in receipt of the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) at time of application, and due to commence university in September/October 2015. A minimum of two scholarships will be offered in each county based on applicant's home address.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)

How do I apply?

Details of the Scholarships and downloadable application forms will be available from the following websites from the 20th March 2015:

NIDirect - www.nidirect.gov.uk/allirelandsscholarships

Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) : www.delni.gov.uk

Department of Education (DE): www.deni.gov.uk

Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA):www.ccea.org.uk

Colleges N.I: www.collegesni.ac.uk

You should complete this form which **must** be signed by the principal of the school or further education college you are currently attending. Applications from students at post primary schools must be received by the Council for Curriculum Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), 29 Clarendon Road, Clarendon Dock, Belfast, BT1 3BG by **Friday 26 June 2015**. Applications from students at further education colleges must be received by Colleges Northern Ireland (Colleges N.I.), Hawthorn Business Park, 39 Stockman's Way, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT9 7ET by **Friday 26 June 2015**.

Can I email my application form?

No. Application forms sent via email **will not** be considered.

Application forms which are not fully completed **will not** be considered.

If I am applying to do a Foundation Degree in September 2015 – can I apply for a J P McManus award?

No. Applicants must be intending to commence a full time undergraduate degree course at a university in September/October 2015.

Are re-marks taken into account?

Re-marks will be taken into account. Applicants must indicate their intention to apply for re-marks on the Confirmation of A Level Results form and submit this to CCEA by **28 August 2015**. Applicants should apply for re-marks as soon as possible after receipt of A level results using Priority Service 2. Re-marks must arrive with CCEA **no later than 31 August 2015**.

What processes are used to select successful applicants?

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 Employment and Learning (DEL). 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 two awards per county and a split between the school and further education sectors.

A panel from the FE Colleges will determine the top performing BTEC Extended Diploma students and will also provide a list of these students to DEL.

In the result of a dead heat situation arising - additional criteria based on prior qualifications may be applied.

When/how will I know if I have been successful?

The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) will write to inform you that you are being considered for an award by the end of September 2015. You must confirm in writing that you still wish your name to go forward to the Trustees to be considered for the award by the date specified by DEL. **You must therefore be available at this time to provide required written confirmation.** DEL will then inform the Trustees of the top 25 students and the Trustees will then inform students if they have been awarded a Scholarship by early October 2015.

If I have been unsuccessful will be notified?

Only those candidates who have been successful will be informed. If you have not received notification from DEL by the end of September 2015 your application has been unsuccessful.

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

No.

Must I attend a university in Northern Ireland?

No. This Scholarship is for students who will be attending university in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland on a full time degree course.

How/when will I receive the Award?

When the Trustees have confirmed that you have been awarded a Scholarship you will be asked to provide DEL with your bank details. DEL will pay your award in three instalments each year upon receipt of your Confirmation of Enrolment. DEL will advise Scholarship holders of these dates at a later stage.

What happens if I do not complete my course?

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

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?

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 2015 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.

For Further Information Please Contact:

In the first instance you should contact your school or college Principal.

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