



## Championing educational initiatives for young people with a care experience

### Bursary Scheme 2022

#### Applicants Eligibility:

You may be wondering if you qualify to apply for this bursary, what you can apply for, how much you can apply for and how do you go about applying. Listed below are the criteria for making an application to the Tusla Bursary Scheme 2022. If you have any questions on the criteria, as set out in this eligibility form, please contact the committee secretary as outlined at the end of the document.

#### You may apply for a bursary if:

1. You have had care experience prior to your 18th birthday of at least **6** months.
2. You are currently aged over 18 and **not in receipt** of financial support for your education/ training fees from SUSI, Tusla or any other source. *(Being in receipt of the aftercare financial allowance from Tusla does not necessarily make you ineligible)*
3. Your application seeks support for access to education and/or career development. *(This can be a new course/training or continuation on an existing course/training)* Your application can be for financial support with course fees and/or hardware/software required to enable you to participate in the course *(e.g., tools to complete an apprenticeship, laptop, printer etc.)*
4. You are available to confirm and verify the details supplied in the application form.
5. Your referee is available to confirm and verify the details you have supplied in your application form.
6. You can provide evidence\* that you have enrolled in an academic course or career training/development programme. *(This is a vital requirement)*

*\*This will usually be a letter or receipt from the relevant body confirming that you have registered for the course/training.*

#### What can you apply for:

You may request anything related to your course which you feel will improve your educational journey or training outcome.

Your application will be considered by a committee that has experience in working with children/young people who have had a care experience. The committee will look at your application carefully and treat it with the upmost confidentiality.



### **How much can I apply for:**

The current maximum award is €5000 per person.

### **How to apply:**

You need to complete the required application form.

- The information supplied on the application form, along with a recommendation from your referee is a key part of the decision-making process, so please provide as much information as possible to support your application
- We will need to verify that you had a care experience for at least 6 months

### **Filling in the Bursary Application Form**

Please read all parts of the application form and this guidance carefully before you fill in the form. It is fine to get a Social Worker, Aftercare Worker, other professional or a friend to help you complete the form.

All information provided is confidential and protected under the Data Protection Acts 1988 & 2003.

We need enough information to make an informed decision. We ask that you complete all sections of the application form as fully as possible, including telling us when and where you were in care and giving the name of 1 referee who can confirm your circumstances. We will need contact you to confirm the details supplied.

### **How to fill in the application form.**

**Question 1.** Contact details: This is really important. Please double check that your phone number and email address are entered correctly as we will need to contact you.

**Question 2.** Your care experience: Tell us a little about your care experience e.g., how long you were in care and when and where you were in care. We require enough information so that we can verify that you were in care for at least 6 months prior to your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Question 3.** We need the name and details of the course or training that you are enrolled in or hope to soon be enrolled in and any other relevant course details. If you are applying for financial assistance for an item such as a laptop computer or equipment for your training course, please state the cost of this equipment and a brief explanation as to how it will benefit you. We will require quotes and receipts for these.



**Question 4.** Reference: We need to speak to your designated referee to ensure that this grant will provide the right support for you. Your referee must be a person who is currently working with you or has worked with you in a professional capacity in the past. These can include Foster Carers, Social Worker, Social Care Worker, Aftercare Worker, Residential Manager etc.

A Referee is required to provide the Bursary Committee with the following information:

1. The referee's views as to why, in their opinion, you should be awarded the grant.
2. Any additional information that may support a positive decision on your application.

**Question 5.** A declaration that the information you have supplied on the application form is true. You understand that if you are awarded a grant based on false information steps may be taken to recover any monies paid.

### **Submitting your application**

You may submit your application in two ways

The best way to submit your application is by **email** to the Committee Secretary below:

email address: **educationbursary@tusla.ie**

You can also print off a hard copy and post it to:

Tusla Education Bursary Applications

C/O Fiona Boylan

Tusla The Child & Family Agency

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Brunel Building

Hueston South Quarter

St. John's Road West

Dublin 8



If applying through email, you will receive confirmation of receipt in kind. For hardcopy applications, confirmation will arrive by text to the mobile number provided on the application form.

### **What happens next?**

1. The Application Review Committee will contact you in the first instance to confirm that the application details supplied are correct and meet the criteria. Your referee will then be contacted to verify the information that you have supplied.
2. The Application Review Committee will look at your application and determine an award based on the selection criteria and the information that you have supplied.

### **When will I know if I have been awarded a bursary?**

We aim to inform applicants as soon as possible once a decision is made. The committee will meet regularly to look at the applications and the Committee will let you know the date that you can expect a decision.

### **Closing date for the bursary applications:**

Friday October 28<sup>th</sup> 2022

We look forward to hearing from you

*We respect and value your privacy and will only collect and use personal data for the purpose described here, and in a manner that is consistent with our obligations and your rights under the law.*