



Championing educational initiatives for young people with a care experience

Bursary Scheme 2021

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.

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 between 18 and 30 years and are 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 can provide evidence* that you have enrolled in an academic course or career training/development programme.
5. You are available to confirm and verify the details supplied in the application form.
6. Your referee is available to confirm and verify the details you have supplied in your application form.

*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 situation. Your application will be considered by a committee who has experience in working with children/young people who have had a care experience. We will look at your application seriously and treat it confidentially.

How much can I apply for:

The current maximum award is €5000 per person.



How to apply:

You need to complete an application form

- The information supplied on the application form and from the referee are a key part of the decision process so please provide as much information as possible.
- 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 it in. 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 don't need to know every detail about your life, but we do need enough information to make an informed decision about your application. We do 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 names of 1 referee who can confirm your circumstances. We may 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, when and where were you in care. We only need enough information so that we can verify that you were in the care for at least 6 months prior to your 18th birthday.

Question 3. We need the name and details of the course or training that you are enrolled in and details of what you need financial support with. If it is for an item such as a laptop computer or equipment for your training course, please give a brief explanation as to how it will benefit you. Please state the amount of money required and a brief explanation of what it is for and how it will benefit you. (We may require receipts.)

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 are currently working with you or have 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 request.

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, Louise.

This is her email address; Louise.McAreavey@tusla.ie

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

Tusla Bursary Applications

C/O Louise McAreavey,

Business Support

Tusla

Child & Family Agency,

Service Directors Office,

Dublin Mid Leinster,

Vista Primary Care,

Ballymore Road,

Naas

Co Kildare



Louise will send an email or a text confirming that we have received your application shortly after it arrives.

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. We may then contact your referee to verify the information you have supplied.
2. The Application Review Committee will look at your application and determine an award based on criteria and the information you have supplied.

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

We try to be as efficient as possible and we will let you know as soon as a decision is made. The committee aims to meet regularly to look at the applications. Louise will let you know the date that you can expect a decision.

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.