



**Tusla
Fostering**

Gníomhaireacht
Altramaíthe na hÉireann
Ireland's Fostering Agency

Scéim Urraíocht Gaeltachta

Gaeltacht Sponsorship Scheme

Paca Eolais - Information Pack

Clár Ábhair

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Réamhrá

The Gaeltacht Sponsorship Scheme helps young people in foster care attend a recognised Gaeltacht summer course by covering the cost of the course and providing additional financial support.



A Gaeltacht course is much more than learning Irish. It gives young people the opportunity to build confidence and independence, make new friends from across Ireland, take part in sports, music & cultural activities

It also supports young people to improve their Irish through full language immersion, experience life in an Irish-speaking community, and enjoy a safe, structured and memorable summer experience.

For many families, the cost of attending the Gaeltacht can be a barrier. This sponsorship aims to remove that barrier so more young people in care can take part.

The scheme aims to ensure that young people in foster care have the same opportunities as their peers to experience the educational, social and cultural benefits of attending the Gaeltacht.

The scheme supports young people by:

- Providing **equal access** to Irish-language immersion
- Encouraging **confidence** in speaking Irish
- Supporting **positive friendships** & **peer connections**
- Offering a safe & structured **summer activity**
- Creating **future opportunities** through Irish
- Encouraging **lifelong engagement** with Irish language and culture
- Providing valuable **support** & **respite** for young people and foster families

Sonraí na hUrraíochta

Each successful applicant will receive:

- **Full course fees** paid (up to €1,290)
- **€100 discretionary allowance** which can be used towards travel, toiletries, pocket money, other essential items.

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The scheme is open to young people who are:

- currently living in foster care
- in 1st to 5th Year in secondary school
- studying Irish as a school subject

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There are **24 sponsorships** available, with 4 available in each region.

If more eligible applications are received than sponsorships available, places will be allocated through a random lottery within each region.

Próiseas Iarratais

Young people must complete the application form, with support from their foster carer or link worker if needed.

Please email the completed application form to the Irish Language Development Officer (ILDO) at lauren.gormley@tusla.ie.

For application deadlines and other key dates please see the application form.



An Cúrsa a Chur in Áirithe

Once sponsorships have been confirmed, the young person and their foster carer **apply directly** to their chosen recognised Gaeltacht college.

Sponsorship confirmation will be issued before Gaeltacht applications open, allowing families time to secure a place.

Sponsorships can be used at any **recognised Gaeltacht college**.

A full list of approved colleges is available at:
www.colaistigaeilge.ie/

Ag Ullmhú don Ghaeltacht

Before attending the course, the ILDO will provide preparation sessions for successful applicants.

These sessions will cover:

- What to expect and daily routines
- What to pack
- Building confidence before the course
- Answering any questions

The aim is to help young people feel prepared, reassured and excited before they attend.



Ceisteanna Coitianta

1. Can a young person receive the sponsorship more than once?

Yes, young people can receive the sponsorship for up to three years.

2. Do I qualify automatically for years 2 & 3, if I am successful in year 1?

Yes, once a young person receives the sponsorship, they are entitled to receive it for three years. They do not need to reapply and will not be entered in the lottery system in subsequent years.

Instead the ILDO will be in contact each year to ask whether they wish to avail of the sponsorship for the upcoming summer.

The recipient must confirm that they wish to continue receiving the sponsorship. If they do not wish to avail of it, the space will be allocated to another young person.

3. Who pays the deposit?

The foster carer pays the required booking deposit directly to the Gaeltacht college. Tusla will reimburse this deposit once proof of booking has been submitted.

Accepted proof includes a receipt, an invoice or an email confirmation from the college showing course dates.

Ceisteanna Coitianta

4. Can I apply again if I'm not successful?

Yes. Young people who are unsuccessful can apply again the following year.

5. Do I have to attend a particular Gaeltacht college?

You can attend any recognised Gaeltacht college. A full list of approved colleges is available at: www.colaistigaeilge.ie/



Tuilleadh Eolais

If you have any questions about the Gaeltacht Sponsorship Scheme or the application process, please contact the Irish Language Development Officer at lauren.gormley@tusla.ie or 087 1772 722.

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Attending the Gaeltacht is an experience that can stay with a young person for life. Alongside improving Irish, it offers the chance to build confidence, develop independence, make lasting friendships and experience the richness of Irish language and culture.

Through this scheme, Tusla is committed to ensuring that young people in foster care have the opportunity to take part in this important and rewarding experience.



