

Connect2...

Educational Bursaries and Trusts



April 2008

www.connect2learn.org.uk

This factsheet contains information on bursaries and trusts, based mainly in Northern Ireland, which may help with the costs of education for adults.

Please note that closing dates are approximate in some cases, so check with the relevant organisation directly. Applications can take some time to process and therefore should not be relied upon by those needing help urgently.

Aisling Bursary

Funding: The aim of the bursary programme is to give financial assistance to students from West Belfast progressing to further and higher education and training. Some of the bursaries are specifically for those participating in vocational training.

Policy: The aim is to boost the educational prospects of West Belfast achievers. Applicants must be resident in the West Belfast Westminster Parliamentary Electoral Constituency. Confirm your parliamentary constituency at www.parliament.uk/people - enter your postcode in "Find your MP" search box.

Amount: £1,000 for full time study or £500 for part time study.

To date £291,500 has been distributed to 329 successful applicants.

How to apply: Contact the West Belfast Partnership Board, 202 Andersonstown Road, Belfast, BT11 9EB on T: 028 9080 9202 for further details.

Closing date: The date for submitting applications is usually advertised after Easter in the Andersonstown News.

EGSA Connecting Adults with Learning
4th Floor, 40 Linenhall Street, BELFAST, BT2 8BA
General Enquiries 028 9024 4274

Learners' Line 0845 602 6632



The David West Trust

Funding: Personal or professional development in the following broad categories:

- Disability (focusing in particular on rheumatoid arthritis)
- Cancer
- Carers
- Individuals facing social exclusion (on the basis of homelessness, sexuality or ethnicity)

Grants can cover a range of items: fees for educational/training purposes, travel, respite break for individuals providing care, purchase of books or a piece of equipment. This list is not exhaustive, and the Trust will consider applications for other items, as long as the application relates to one of the categories listed above.

Policy: Applicants must be able to show that there will be some improvement to their lives from the grant.

They hope to award 6 grants in 2008.

Amount: Up to £500

How to apply: Forms can be downloaded from www.proteus-ni.org and are also available by post from Proteus NI Ltd, 8 Edgewater Office Park, Belfast, BT3 9JQ, T: 028 9037 1023.

Closing date: 31 March 2008

Bank of Ireland Millennium Scholars Trust

Funding: Third level educational opportunities and advanced studies in the creative/performing arts. Other courses may be considered at the discretion of the Trust.

Applicants can either be progressing to third level study or currently studying at this level.

- Policy:** Likely candidates will be identified as people having the ability and motivation to participate successfully in third level education in a broad sense, but who would be unable to progress without financial assistance and other support.
- Amount:** Scholarship awards from €3,200 (euros) each year, depending on the individual's circumstances. The maximum contribution per person is €38,000 (euros) for the entire course duration. 68 scholarships were awarded in 2007. The Trust hopes to increase the number of scholarships in 2008.
- How to apply:** Applications must be made through a nominating body such as a college or university. Details of nominating bodies, application forms and guidelines are available from the Trust Office (National College of Ireland) on T: (00353) 1 449 8500 or at: www.boi.ie/millenniumscholars
- Closing date:** 3 March 2008 for general courses.
1 April 2008 for creative/performing arts scholarships.

Educational Bursary Fund for Carers

- Funding:** Funds are available to assist carers with the costs of educational courses which will enhance their quality of life. Courses can be for education, personal development, return to work or pleasure. Applications can be made for course fees, books or equipment. Grants are also available for driving lessons and costs of driving tests (Theory and Practical) where the ability to drive will benefit the carer in their caring role.
- Policy:** Current carers or those whose caring responsibilities have ceased within the last six months may apply for an award. Awards are made to cover the cost of tuition/training and occasionally for equipment or travelling costs. Applicants must be 18 years or over.
- Amount:** Awards do not normally exceed £400.
- How to apply:** Contact The Princess Royal Trust, Belfast Carers Centre, Suites 2-5, 2nd Floor Merrion Business Centre, 58 Howard Street, Belfast, BT1 6PJ, T: 028 9043 4700
- Closing date:** Contact Belfast Carers Centre for information.

Helena Kennedy Foundation

Funding: You can apply if you are in your final year at a publicly funded further education institution (for example last year of Access or A level course at a UK further education or sixth form college) and you aim to start a programme of higher education for the first time in autumn 2008 (such as an HND, degree or Foundation Degree) at a UK higher education institution. Students taking a gap year will also be considered.

or

you are in your final year of an HND or Foundation Degree at a UK publicly funded further or higher education institution and are progressing to a top up year at a UK further or higher Education Institution.

Awards are not made for postgraduate courses.

Policy: The Foundation's beneficiaries are primarily disadvantaged students who have overcome significant barriers in order to continue with their education at university level.

Amount: One off bursaries of £1,000 (paid in two equal instalments). 106 bursaries and scholarships were awarded in 2007.

How to apply: Applicants **must** be nominated by their further education college, adult education centre or sixth form college. Normally only one application is accepted per college. Application forms are available to download from the website at www.hkf.org.uk or T: 01908 321155 / 232641.

Closing date: 28 March 2008

The Lawlor Educational Grants Programme

Funding: Priority is given to students undertaking their first degree or qualification, although others may be considered. Postgraduates are considered if the course is a necessary add-on to their degree.

- Policy:** Any student in need with an Irish background studying in the UK can apply. Applicants are required to provide clear information as to the special circumstances which they feel qualify them for financial assistance.
- Amount:** The maximum grant is £500 per year. Around 30 grants are awarded each year, depending on funds available. Grants are awarded for one academic year and recipients may re-apply at the end of this period.
- How to apply:** Students should apply to the following address during April/May 2008 for an application form: Linda Tanner (Administrator), Irish Youth Foundation (UK), The Irish Centre, Blacks Road, Hammersmith, London, W6 9DT, T: 020 8748 9640.
- Closing date:** The submission deadline will be at the end of May/ early June. Contact the Irish Youth Foundation (UK) for further information.

The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund

- Funding:** Any educational course or training that could help to improve career opportunities or personal development. Expenses such as fees and books may be covered but costs such as travel, subsistence, accommodation and childcare are not.
- Policy:** The scheme is open to those who have lost a grandparent, parent, child, brother or sister in the Troubles, those who have suffered injury as a direct result of a Troubles-related incident and the primary carers of people injured in the Troubles.
- The scheme is aimed at those whose education or career has been negatively affected by their personal experiences, and who now need assistance or wish to improve their career opportunities through education or training. Applicants must submit an application prior to the commencement of their course/training.
- Amount:** Grants will not exceed a maximum of £1,200 in one year.

How to apply: Contact the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund, Grants Administration Office, 1st Floor, Albany House, 73-75 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7AF, T: 028 9024 5965 / 5949, E: nimfgao@belfast.org.uk

Closing date: Contact the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund Grants Administration Office for details.

Northern Bank Study Travel Fund

Funding: For students who would like to complete part of their studies abroad but are concerned about the cost.

Policy: The Northern Bank Study Fund is open to all students who meet the following criteria:

- Students must have completed at least two years of full time study on a course of higher education
- Students must have passed end-of-year course exams
- Students must provide a letter of confirmation from the institution of education they are attending in the UK or Ireland
- Students must provide a letter of confirmation from the institution of education abroad (which for the purposes of Northern Bank Study Travel Fund means outside the UK and Ireland) stating that they have been accepted to study there for at least three months
- Students must be 20 years of age or more by September in the year they wish to travel
- Students must have a home (family) address in Northern Ireland
- The programme is not open to employees of Northern Bank and their families

The Northern Bank Study Travel Fund is run on a lottery basis and the success or otherwise of applications is down to the luck of the draw.

Amount: Non-repayable grants of £1,000. The Northern Bank Travel Fund hopes to make awards to 20 students in 2008.

How to apply: Application forms are available from all Northern Bank branches or find out more at www.northernbank.co.uk

Closing date: 27 June 2008

O'Reilly Foundation

- Funding:** The Foundation provides scholarships each year for postgraduate studies at PhD or equivalent level. While outstanding candidates of any recognised academic discipline are encouraged to apply, preference will be given to those planning their doctoral studies in the following academic areas: Business Studies, Law, Marketing, Media Studies, Science, Technology or Arts.
- Policy:** Applicants must have an excellent academic record and have demonstrated leadership qualities as well as the potential and desire to make a significant contribution to the future of Ireland.
- Applicants should have a first class or at least 2:1 honours undergraduate record to date with reasonable expectation of a first class or at least a 2:1 honours degree in the current academic year. Graduates with a similar high honours degree or with equivalent professional qualifications, or who are completing a master's degree and wish to continue their studies to PhD or equivalent level, are also eligible to apply. Candidates must be normally resident in the island of Ireland.
- Amount:** €25,400(euros) per year per scholar. The award will generally be for a maximum of two years. The Foundation may, at its discretion, extend or reduce this period to meet the particular circumstances of the scholars.
- How to apply:** The application form can be downloaded from the O'Reilly Foundation's website at www.oreillyfoundation.ie
- Closing date:** Contact the O'Reilly Foundation for information at E: info@oreillyfoundation.ie (closing date for last year was in November)

North-South Masters Bursaries 2008-2009

Funding: The aim of this scheme is to encourage outstanding students from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to cross the border to undertake postgraduate study and experience life in the other jurisdiction.

Policy: The bursaries are open to students currently registered at an Irish or Northern Irish university or Dublin Institute of Technology (or who have graduated within the past five years) proposing to take up a place on a Masters course which would require them to relocate to the other Irish jurisdiction. They are also open to currently registered students at an Irish or Northern Irish university or Dublin Institute of Technology (or who have graduated within the past five years) wishing to follow a cross-border Masters course involving some study in the other jurisdiction. For the first time, they are also open to Irish or Northern Irish-born students currently registered at (or who have graduated within the past five years from) a British university, and to students crossing the border to do the first year of a PhD.

Amount: Six bursaries, worth €20,000 (euros) each will be awarded in areas of study of particular relevance to business and industry.

For example: ICT, biotechnology, chemistry, engineering, environmental sciences, finance, logistics, food science, commercial law and business administration. Candidates should contact the Centre for Cross Border Studies (see below) for advice on other relevant subjects.

How to apply: To be considered for this award, applicants will be required to write a short essay (1400-1500 words) explaining why they wish to study in the other Irish jurisdiction and how they believe their studies will enhance understanding of innovation and business development on the island of Ireland in their chosen subject.

For further information, including an application form, contact Andy Pollak or Patricia McAllister, Universities Ireland, The Centre for Cross Border Studies, 39 Abbey Street, Armagh BT61 7EB, T: 028 37 511550 (048 from the Republic of Ireland), E: p.mcallister@qub.ac.uk

Closing date: 2 May 2008

Print Futures Awards

- Funding:** Awards of £2,500 each are available to people aged 16-30 years who are resident in the UK and want to train for a career in printing or the graphic arts.
- Past winners have included students on established print and print management courses, graphic design students, employees of family-owned print businesses, prepress specialists, pressroom managers and operators, PhD students and technicians from the consumables sector and publishing print production staff.
- Policy:** Applications may also be made by those undergoing company training. Successful applicants in this category will receive an award of £1,250 on condition that their employers will fund an equal sum in 2009/2010.
- Winners may spend their awards in a variety of ways including course fees, travel costs for study tours, books, computers and software.
- Amount:** The maximum award is £2,500.
- How to apply:** An explanatory brochure and application form is available from Terry Ulrick, Print Futures Awards Secretary, at terryulrick@tucommunications.co.uk or T: 01444 831918. Application forms can also be downloaded from www.britishprint.com , www.unitetheunion.org.uk or www.printerscharitablecorporation.co.uk
- Closing date:** The closing date for entries is 30 April 2009. Interviews will be held during May and June and the awards presented in July.

University Bursaries

Queen's University of Belfast (QUB)

Information on scholarships and bursaries available at QUB is available on their website at www.qub.ac.uk (type "scholarship" into search box) or by contacting Academic and Student Affairs on T: 028 9097 5003.

University of Ulster

Hardship funds

These funds are geared to make a quick and supportive response to an unanticipated financial situation. Students must be registered at the University and an individual interview will be required.

Anderson Hanna Award

Applicants must currently be registered students of the University and in good academic standing. It is intended primarily for students born in the nine counties comprising the province of Ulster. A confidential statement is required from an academic referee, nominated by the applicant, preferably their adviser of studies. Applicants are required to attend an interview with the Student Funding Adviser and decisions are subsequently made by the Support Funds Award Committee.

Visa Card Royalty Fund

All students are eligible to apply and all applicants are required to attend an interview with the Student Funding Adviser. Awards are generally granted to students who find themselves in unexpected financial difficulties. This fund is raised by the Alumni Office from income generated by holders of the University of Ulster Visa Card.

Deirdre Busby Fund

Eligible students must produce documentary evidence that a grant would resolve a specific financial problem which threatens the successful completion of their academic studies. The fund aims to assist students who have exhausted other avenues of financial assistance, including bank loans, overdrafts, grants or student loans. The committee will look favourably on students who are not eligible for financial assistance from other hardship funds. All students are eligible to apply.

Contact the Student Finance Team for further information on bursaries and trusts at the University of Ulster:

Linda Martin, Student Funding Adviser (Jordanstown, Belfast, Coleraine and Portrush Campuses), T: 028 7032 4136, E: l.martin@ulster.ac.uk

Paul Cassidy, Student Funding Adviser (Magee Campus), T: 028 7137 5233, E: p.cassidy@ulster.ac.uk

Open University

OU Student Assistance Fund

The Student Assistance Fund is raised by the trustees of the Open University Foundation through charitable donations. It is an emergency fund for OU students who need immediate financial support. Payments are rarely more than £100 at a time. To be eligible, you must prove (to the satisfaction of the Regional Director or Research School) that you are in genuine financial need. For further information, contact your regional centre on T: 028 9032 3722. If you are a research student, contact the Research School on T: 01908 659616, E: Research-School@open.ac.uk

Postgraduate study with the Open University

The Crowther Fund helps OU graduates build on their Open University degrees, by formal study, or research, or by generally broadening their experience through a period of voluntary work.

The fund does not take account of financial circumstances. It is intended for those who have achieved a good OU honours degree (first or 2:1), especially if it was achieved without transferring credit or by a student from a deprived educational background. The applications are available each December until the end of February. They make awards each year in May.

For an application form, contact The Secretary, The Crowther Fund Awards Advisory Board, PO Box 197, The Open University, Milton Keynes, MK7 6BJ, T: 01908 652930, E: OU-Crowther-Fund@open.ac.uk

Other sources of information

Further sources of help may be identified through the Educational Grants Directory, available in main public libraries or contact an EGSA adviser to discuss further. You can also visit the website of the Educational Grants Advisory Service at www.egas-online.org

Benevolent Funds

If you or a family member is employed, or were formerly employed, by a large employer, check if they have a Benevolent Fund.

The Armed Forces

SSAFA Forces Help (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association) helps with applications for assistance to the regiment the person served in. Some regiments may have bursaries, however some may have very limited help.

SSAFA can be contacted at the War Memorial Building, 9 -13 Waring Street, Belfast, BT1 2DW, T: 028 9032 7740.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary Benevolent Fund

Applications in writing must be submitted via a regional representative. Contact: The Secretary, PSNI, Garnerville Road, Belfast BT4 2NX, T: 028 9076 0831.

Trade Unions

If you are a member of a trade union, you could also check whether they could assist you.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities can find further information on educational trusts on the Skill website at www.skill.org.uk or contact Skill NI on T: 028 9028 7000.

Postgraduate students

Postgraduate students could consult the Prospects Postgraduate Funding Guide. Copies are available from the Careers Library in Queen's University Belfast and University of Ulster. Alternatively visit the Prospects website for an up-to-date list of trusts at www.prospects.ac.uk (click on 'Postgrad Study, then 'Funding my further study').

EGSA across Northern Ireland...

0845 602 6632

▲ EGSA Offices



Every effort is made by EGSA to ensure that information is as accurate and comprehensive as possible at the time of going to print. However students should be aware that regulations can change at short notice and are therefore advised to check the current situation with DEL or the appropriate university department (contact list above).

