



Bursary - Guidance Notes

Funding for the enclosed Bursary Streams covers the financial year 2025 - 2026

Please note retrospective funding is not eligible.

These Bursary Guidance Notes should be read in conjunction with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council's Grant Aid Code of Practice, which is available to download on the Council's website:

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/sponsorship-grants-bursaries/grant-aid/>

Before submitting an application, individuals are recommended to contact the relevant department to discuss the application. Officers are available to assist with any queries you may have regarding your application or the criteria. Please make sure you contact an officer well in advance of the closing date to avoid disappointment. Officer contact details are listed in the Contact Section of these Guidance Notes.

How to Apply

Application forms must be completed through the Council's Grant Aid Portal which can be accessed at:- <https://fodc.submit.com/>

Before completing an application form applicants should ensure they meet the programme specific criteria as outlined in the Guidance Notes.

If you require any assistance with completing the application form please contact the Grants & Investment Unit, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council:

Tel: 0300 303 1777

Email: grants@fermanaghomagh.com

Bursary - Guidance Notes 2025/26 (1st Call)

Bursaries:

- Irish Language (Academic)
- Irish Language Gaeltacht (Minors, Adult, Family)
- Sport - Rolling Stream
(Bursary Stream is open on a rolling basis, applications are accepted throughout the year)
Applications **MUST** be submitted **PRIOR** to the Tournament, Competition or Event taking place, applications cannot be made retrospectively.

Name of the Programme	Irish Language Academic - Bursary
Programme Dates	Funding covers the period: 1 April 2025 to 28 February 2026
Brief Description	<p>Fermanagh and Omagh District Council supports Irish Language learners in pursuing academic achievement in Irish.</p> <p>Applicants must be aged 18+ years and intend to enrol in an Irish Language diploma/degree at either undergraduate or postgraduate level or are already enrolled.</p> <p>Irish Language Academic Bursary funding is available to assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Fees <p>Applicants for the academic bursary can also apply for the adult bursary. However, if successful in both can only be in receipt of one bursary of their choosing in any one financial year.</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Applicants must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aged 18+ years and intend to enrol in an Irish Language diploma/degree at either undergraduate or postgraduate level or are already enrolled • normally be a resident in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area
Programme Specific Criteria	<p>This bursary is only available once per academic achievement, successful applicants cannot apply for this bursary again while still studying for the same academic achievement.</p> <p>If successful to receive funding award retrospectively the applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Irish Language course by attending for the full academic year • Provide proof of full payment of fees for the Irish Language course • Participate in Council promotional activity to publicise the bursary award.
Scoring Criteria	<p>Applicants should provide as much relevant detail as possible about the project and answer the questions as fully as possible. The responsibility to provide sufficient detail in any application for Council's consideration rests with the applicant.</p> <p>1. Irish Language learning journey and contribution to Irish Language in the district - Tell us about your learning journey e.g. How long have you been learning the language, what is your highest academic achievement? How do you contribute to Irish Language in the district e.g. organising Irish Language activities, acting as Irish Language Officer in a club or organisation. How do you use Irish Language in everyday life?</p>

	Score Available	Score Awarded
<i>Learning Journey and contribution to Irish Language</i>		
Detailed information on applicants learning journey how they progressed in learning the language (courses attended, qualifications gained). Detailed evidence of contribution to IL in the district and how IL is used in everyday life.	8-10	
Some information on applicants learning journey how they progressed in learning the language (courses attended, qualifications gained). Some evidence of contribution to IL in the district and how IL is used in everyday life.	4-7	
Limited information on applicants learning journey how they progressed in learning the language (courses attended, qualifications gained). Little or no evidence of contribution to IL in the district and how IL is used in everyday life.	0-3	

2. How will you use this qualification to further empower Irish Language speakers and communities in the district - Tell us how you will use your qualification to further empower Irish Language speakers in the district.

	Score Available	Score Awarded
<i>Empower Irish Language</i>		
Detailed information on how the applicant will use the qualification (organise and participate in IL activities, attend Council IL activities and promote same)	8-10	
Some information on how the applicant will use the qualification (organise and participate in IL activities, attend Council IL activities and promote same)	4-7	
Limited information on how the applicant will use the qualification (organise and participate in IL activities, attend Council IL activities and promote same)	0-3	

Applications will be scored and placed in ranking order. Where applications exceed the 65% threshold, they will be ranked in score order. The applications that exceed the threshold will be allocated funding with remaining funds allocated to the next highest ranked applications, until funding has been expended. A reserve list will operate until December 2025.

Criteria	Score Available	Weighted Value	Weighted Score	Score Awarded
1. Irish Language learning journey and contribution to Irish Language in the district	10	X5	50	
2. Use of qualification to further empower Irish Language in the district	10	X5	50	
TOTAL SCORE: (Threshold 65%)			100	

Average Grant Amount	£500 Irish Language Academic Bursary is subject to funding availability.
Responsible Service Area	Community & Wellbeing Directorate
Contact Information for applicant support purposes	Applications can be discussed with Irish Language Officer: Fiona Crudden Telephone: 0300 3031777 Mobile: 07740454962 Email: fiona.crudden@fermanaghomagh.com or gaeilge@fermanaghomagh.com

Name of the Programme	Irish Language Gaeltacht - Bursary (Minors 1, 2 3, 4, Adult, Family)
Programme Dates	Funding covers the period: 1 June 2025 - 31 August 2025
Brief Description	<p>Fermanagh and Omagh District Council assists individuals to improve Irish Language skills through providing bursaries for Irish Language Gaeltacht courses.</p> <p>Irish Language Gaeltacht Bursary funding is available to assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Fees • Accommodation Costs • Transport/Mileage (mileage capped at 0.45 pence per mile) <p>The following bursaries are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor 1 - Bursary Up to £100 for attending a 1 week course for students aged 12-14. • Minor 2 - Bursary Up to £220 for attending up to 3 week course for students aged 12-14. • Minor 3 - Bursary Up to £220 for attending up to 3 week course for students aged 14-16. • Minor 4 - Bursary Up to £220 for attending up to 3 week course for students aged 16-18. • Adult Bursary 18+ Up to £100 for attending a 1 week course for learners 18+. <p>Note: Adults that have been successful in receiving an adult bursary in 2023-2024 or 2024-2025 are not eligible to apply for an adult bursary in 2025-2026. Applicants for the adult bursary can also apply for the academic bursary. However, if successful in both can only be in receipt of one bursary of their choosing in any one financial year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Bursary Up to £300 for attending a course at the Gaeltacht. At least one adult and one child are required to attend.
Stage 1 Eligibility	<p>To apply the applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a resident of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area • In the case of minors have parental/guardian permission to attend the course <p>If successful to receive funding award retrospectively the applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Irish Language course by attending for its duration • Provide proof of full payment of fees for the Irish Language course

	The applicant should give details of their Irish Language learning journey so far and how the course will further develop their language skills.
Stage 2 Outcome	<p>Following assessment for compliance with eligibility criteria applications will move to a random selection process. This process will facilitate the distribution of bursary awards in each of the categories.</p> <p>A reserve list randomly selected for each category will be created and operate until 31 August 2025.</p> <p>Where random selection is used to identify bursary recipients there is no recourse for appeal.</p>
Average Grant Amount	<p>Range between £100 - £300</p> <p>Irish Language bursaries are subject to funding availability.</p>
Responsible Service Area	Community & Wellbeing Directorate
Contact Information for applicant support purposes	<p>Applications can be discussed with Irish Language Officer:</p> <p>Fiona Crudden Telephone: 0300 3031777 Email: fiona.crudden@fermanaghomagh.com or gaeilge@fermanaghomagh.com</p>



Name of the Programme	Sports Bursary – Individuals
Programme Dates	Funding covers the period: 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026
Brief Description	<p>The Sports Bursary Grant Aid is to support and provide assistance to sporting individuals who have been selected or qualified for international duties, following a performance-based process, to represent their sport at a National (e.g., Irish, British, Home Nations) European, and/or International (e.g., World / Olympics / Commonwealth) event (e.g., tournament / competition / match / final).</p> <p>Individuals can avail of Sports Bursary funding to assist with the following event expenditure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry Fees • Travel Costs (e.g., flights / ferries / bus / train) • Accommodation Costs <p>Up to a maximum Sports Bursary amount of £250.00 per individual is available within any financial year.</p> <p>Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Applications must be received prior to event taking place. Applications cannot be made retrospectively.</p> <p>Assessment of applications may not be carried out until after the event takes place.</p> <p>Applicants should retain evidence of all expenditure incurred.</p>
Programme Specific Criteria	<p>Applicants must;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be involved in an amateur capacity. 2. Reside within the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council area (unless currently studying at College or University). 3. Enter only one event per application. 4. Be selected or qualified for international duties, following a performance-based process, to represent their sport at a National, European, and/or International event. 5. Be competing at the highest level within their event e.g., category A, Grade 1 etc., 6. Provide a signed letter from a National Governing Body of Sport (NGB), confirming points 4 and 5. The letter must be submitted with the Sports Bursary application. <p>NGB must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Be recognised by a Sports Council - via either of the links below. OR 8. Provide evidence that it is affiliated to a NGB recognised by a Sports Council. This must be a signed letter from the recognised NGB that the NGB is affiliated to. <p>Sport NI / UK – Recognition Master List - January 2025.xlsx Sport Ireland - NGB Contact Finder Sport Ireland</p>

	<p>The following is ineligible criteria for the Sports Bursary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Applicants based outside the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area. 10. Semi-professional or professional applicants. 11. Retrospective applications. 12. Applicants who have not been selected or qualified for international duties, following a performance-based process, to represent their sport at National, European, and/or International event 13. Applicants who have not provided a signed NGB supporting evidence and documentation. 14. NGB is not recognised by a Sports Council e.g., Sport NI, Sport Ireland, UK/GB; 15. NGB is not affiliated to a NGB recognised by a Sports Council; and/or no evidence that the NGB is affiliated to a NGB recognised by a Sports Council. 16. Expenditure incurred with training camps, training programmes or friendly events. 17. Car hire and mileage travel costs. 18. Coaches, Trainers or Referees will not be considered. <p>Conditions and Administrative arrangements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. All applications will be considered on an individual basis against the eligibility criteria by a relevant Director or Head of Service and reported to the Council's Grant Aid Award Panel and Regeneration and Community Meeting. 20. Applications will only be assessed if all the necessary information has been provided. 21. Fermanagh and Omagh District Council may defer applications if further information is required or if the application form and supporting evidence is not completed properly. 22. Submission of an application does not necessarily mean that financial assistance will be granted. 23. Any award of funding is subject to budget availability. 24. The financial assistance is offered on a deficit basis and an income / expenditure report must be submitted with a claim.
Maximum Amount	Up to a maximum of £250 per individual (per financial year).
Responsible Service Area	Community & Wellbeing Directorate
Contact Information for applicant support purposes	<p>Ryan Hanna - Community Facilities and Club Development Team Leader Email: ryan.hanna@fermanaghomagh.com Tel: 0300 303 1777 ext. 21168 Mob: 07702 919798</p> <p>Keith Collen - Community Wellbeing Manager Email: keith.collen@fermanaghomagh.com Tel: 0300 303 1777 ext. 21165 Mob: 07979 530765</p>