



Ollscoil na hÉireann
National University of Ireland

NUI Denis Donoghue Award 2025

Regulations and Procedures

The National University of Ireland (NUI) is pleased to invite applications for the NUI Denis Donoghue Award 2025 until **11.45pm on Friday, 24 October 2025**.

1. About the NUI Denis Donoghue Award

- 1.1** The NUI Denis Donoghue Award is an annual award established in memory of Professor Denis Donoghue. The award is funded by a donation from his daughter, Emma Donoghue.
- 1.2** The purpose of this award is to provide monetary support to students from under-represented groups in higher education in NUI member institutions.¹
- 1.3** The award is intended to address a **specific barrier or challenge** to completing or excelling in an undergraduate degree programme. Examples of barriers or challenges include:
 - lack of equipment or training
 - unpaid internships
 - lack of funds for travel.

¹ Our member institutions are: Maynooth University, UCC, UCD, University of Galway, the IPA and RCSI. Students at colleges linked to our member institutions, such as Burren College of Art and NCAD, are also eligible.

- 1.4** The award is offered to students who have completed first year/stage one.
- 1.5** While the award will be open to all eligible students for applications, NUI may identify a particular focus in any given year where at least one award will be allotted to a specified under-represented group.
- 1.6** In 2025, NUI will offer at least twelve individual awards, each valued from **€2,000 - €5,000**.
- 1.7** Students can receive funding through this award on **one** occasion only. If unsuccessful, students may reapply in future years.

2. Eligibility Criteria – Information for Students

2.1 Programme Criteria

- (i) You must be registered for the academic year 2025-2026.
- (ii) You must be registered on an undergraduate degree programme in an NUI member institution, as a full-time **or** part-time student.²
- (iii) Your degree programme must lead to either:
 - a Level 7 (ordinary bachelor's degree) qualification, or
 - a Level 8 (honours bachelor's degree) qualification.
- (iv) You must have completed first year/stage one.
- (v) You are also eligible if you are repeating a year between second year and final year.

2.2 Identity Criteria

To be eligible to apply for the NUI Denis Donoghue Award, you **must** be, or identify as, **at least one** of the following:

- a) A member of a socio-economically disadvantaged community
- b) A first-time mature student (23 or older on 1 January of the year of entry to higher education)
- c) A student with a disability / disabled student
- d) A member of the Irish Traveller or Roma communities
- e) A student who has progressed to higher education through a further education and

² Member institutions include Maynooth University, UCC, UCD, University of Galway, IPA, RCSI, Burren College of Art and NCAD.

- training programme
- f) A lone parent
- g) A member of an ethnic minority group.

3. Application Procedure

3.1 Application Form

The online application form is accessible here: <https://forms.office.com/e/GUGQVDZjGu>.

The application form has three sections that must be completed before clicking submit:

- (i) Personal Details
- (ii) Eligibility for the Award
- (iii) Personal Statement

The Personal Statement (maximum **300 words**) should outline:

- a) The barrier(s) you face in completing or excelling in your degree programme.
- b) How you would use the NUI Denis Donoghue Award to address the barrier(s).

3.2 Closing Date

The closing date for receipt of applications is **11:45 pm on Friday, 24 October 2025**.

4. Selection Procedure

- 4.1** We, in the NUI Awards team, administer the application process for the NUI Denis Donoghue Award.
- 4.2** We consider all applications for eligibility and enter all eligible applicants into a lottery. We use a random-number generator to identify the recipients of the NUI Denis Donoghue Award. We have an independent observer attend the lottery.
- 4.3** Before the recipients can be recommended to the NUI Senate for approval, we will contact the institutions to confirm they are registered for 2025-2026 on an undergraduate degree programme and have passed first year/stage one of the programme.
- 4.4** We make a recommendation to the NUI Senate concerning the number of recipients whose eligibility has been confirmed (please note that recipient names are not shared).
- 4.5** The decision of the NUI Senate on the awards will be final.

5. Terms and Conditions of the Award

- 5.1** We have the right to contact representatives from your institution to confirm that you are registered in second year or later of an undergraduate degree programme for 2025-2026.
- 5.2** If your application is successful, the money will be transferred directly to your bank account.

6. Further Information

The following [statements](#) can be accessed from NUI's website.

- Data Protection Statement
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Statement
- Sustainability Statement.