



## **Kildare County Council Comhairle Chondae Chill Dara**

- 1) THE WILLIAM G. CARROLL EDUCATION BURSARY FOR THE COMMUNITY**
- 2) KILDARE EDUCATION BURSARY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**
- 3) KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMORIAL BURSARY FOR DEIS SCHOOLS**

### **INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

The bursaries are designed to provide an opportunity to study at third-level to persons who may not be able to undertake a course of study because of serious disadvantage or disability. The William G. Carroll Bursary will be directed mainly, but not exclusively, at third-level courses in the field of community development. The Kildare Education Bursary for People with Disabilities is for any third-level course undertaken by an individual with a learning or physical disability that may impede their education. The Kildare County Council Memorial Bursary will be directed at students who had previously studied in DEIS schools (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools). DEIS schools are schools which help people who are at risk of or are experiencing an educational disadvantage.

### **DETAILS OF BURSARY:**

The three bursaries will be funded from monies allocated by Kildare County Council in its annual budget and may be granted in respect of applicants who meet the eligibility criteria. The Bursaries will continue for each of the succeeding years of attendance at the third-level institution (unless otherwise decided) subject to a maximum of 5 years in any one case, and subject to the level of funding available. Bursaries cannot normally be deferred. The continuation of the Bursary will be subject to certification by the head of the relevant faculty of the candidate's satisfactory performance, including attendance and results for each academic year.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A BURSARY?**

- ◆ Applications are invited from persons living in County Kildare who wish to undertake a degree course at a recognised third-level institution in Ireland; or in the case of the Memorial Bursary also for students undertaking a Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) course.
- ◆ The course applied for must be generally at undergraduate level. In exceptional cases, the selection committee may award a bursary to post-graduate students who were previously awarded bursaries through the scheme for at least two of their undergraduate years.
- ◆ The William G. Carroll and Kildare Education Bursaries are not normally available for PLC courses, but any applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- ◆ The criteria by which candidates will be assessed in relation to their suitability and levels of disadvantage include:
  - The interest, ability, and potential of the candidate to study the chosen course.
  - The existence and severity of the disadvantage that may prevent the candidate from studying a particular course.
  - The candidate's motivation, commitment, and disposition to benefit from third-level education and to complete the course of study successfully.

## ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

- Candidates must obtain a place in a recognised third-level educational institution or PLC (Memorial Bursary) but not essentially within County Kildare.
- They must demonstrate the ability, motivation, and commitment to complete the course of studies successfully.
- Each candidate must be a first-time applicant as an undergraduate in a third-level institute (except as below).
- Post-graduate candidates must have been awarded a bursary in at least two of their undergraduate years.
- The candidate must maintain a high level of attendance in each module of the course over the period of its duration.
- The candidate must include details of two referees. At least one of these should be professional / academic. The referees should provide recommendations about the candidate's academic ability.
- The candidate must demonstrate that they face a significant barrier, making it more difficult or impossible to pursue further education or training, and
- The candidate must maintain satisfactory levels of performance in courses of choice.

## SELECTION PROCESS:

The primary aim of the Bursary is to assist students who face significant barriers to progression in education. It is important to provide detailed information that will validate the existence of such a barrier. The candidate will have to provide this information by means of a personal statement (See How to Apply). The information provided will be subject to verification and relevant documentation will be sought at the appropriate stage in the selection process. Kildare County Council, through the Chief Executive Officer, will appoint a selection panel to assess the merits and eligibility of all candidates based on the application form and the criteria specified in the following paragraph.

## HOW TO APPLY:

Each candidate must submit:

### 1. **Completed Application Form.**

Available online. The form requires information and supporting documentation verify your claim of personal, medical, or financial hardships that may act as a barrier to attending college.

### 2. Personal Statement 1 & 2. (To be completed by candidate) .

#### **Statement 1**

- Your interest in your chosen course and evidence to demonstrate this interest.
- Your personal strengths and experiences, which you believe will help you to enjoy and succeed at college.
- Details of any employment, work experience, placement, or voluntary work, which you consider support your application.
- Your social and sporting activities etc and any other interests or achievements.
- Any other information which you consider supports your application.

#### **Statement 2**

- Any economic, social, physical, or other impediment / disadvantage experienced by you or your household, which you feel may impede or prevent you from studying.
- The support and assistance you may need to overcome the barrier of disadvantage and complete the subject.
- Most recent examination results.
- A written academic reference. If you are unable to obtain one due to being outside the education system for an extended period a reference from an employer is also acceptable.
- Employment detail summary for yourself and your parents/guardians (if you reside with them).

**NOTE:** *Statement 2 may be separately enclosed in a sealed envelope with the candidate's name on the outside. Therefore, you should compose your statements carefully and concisely so as provide precise and relevant information.*

## **AWARD OF BURSARY:**

The Bursary will be awarded based on a candidate's application and/or interview subject to:

- ◆ Information provided in relation to the application.
- ◆ An offer of a place in a recognised third-level educational institution in Ireland.

The latter consideration may result in an offer of a Bursary being made on a conditional basis initially or shortly before commencement of the academic year. The conditions governing the Bursary will be outlined in detail to the successful candidate at the time the offer is made.

Kildare County Council reserves the right to withdraw any award of the Bursary at any time.