



Ireland Health Care Scholarship Program 2025/26

Scéim Scoláireachtaí Sláinte Éireann

Regional

Réigiúnach

Optum® Ireland is a part of UnitedHealth Group®.

The Ireland Health Care Scholarship Program is funded by Optum Ireland, part of UnitedHealth Group, to enhance the performance of the health system and improve the overall health and well-being of the people we are privileged to serve and their communities.

The Ireland Health Care Scholarship Program aims to invest in a 21st century health workforce that meets the needs of tomorrow and promote diversity in higher education by supporting young people from less advantaged and non-traditional backgrounds. The programme will be delivered by Optum Ireland in partnership with the University of Galway, Ulster University and Queens University.

- The Ireland Health Care Scholarship Program provides two scholarships to the University of Galway, two scholarships to Ulster University and a dedicated scholarship to Queens University. The value of each scholarship is €25,000 for the term of the undergraduate course.
- Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria and have applied for an undergraduate programme on the designated course list set out below.
- The fund is administered by the academic institution to the Scholar each year subject to the scholar being in good academic standing.

How to apply

Students can apply by completing the [online application form](#) or by scanning the QR code.

Alternatively, a paper copy of the application can be completed. A scanned copy of the completed form must be sent to: irl-optumscholars@optum.com



Applications to be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, May 2, 2025

Criteria | Critéir

To be considered for The Ireland Health Care Scholarship Program applicants must:

Have made a formal application through CAO for a place on the first year of one of the full-time undergraduate designated programmes of study at the University of Galway as listed in Appendix A for entry into the academic year 2025/26.

And/or

- Hold a formal offer for a place on the first year of one of the full-time undergraduate designated programmes of study in the Ulster University and/or Queens University as listed in Appendix B for entry into the academic year 2025/26.
 - Have a home address in County Donegal.
 - Have studied in a secondary school in County Donegal for at least two years preceding the Leaving Certificate examinations in 2025.
 - Be sitting the Leaving Cert for the first time in 2025.
 - Be involved in community life and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to their community;
- and**
- Be recognised as being from a socio-economically less advantaged background, and provide evidence that they:
 - Qualify for SUSI and provide a letter verifying that they are eligible for State support (Maintenance Grant – Special/Full/75%/25% and/or Tuition Fee Grant (full or part) under the Student Finance Scheme.
 - Applicants may provide details of other obstacles that hinder access to third-level education (emotional, physical, cultural or social).

School Principal reference forms

The School Principal must complete the [principal reference form](#).

This reference is confidential and should be submitted either online or as a scanned copy sent to irl-optumscholars@optum.com by **Friday, May 2, 2025**.

The online principal reference can also be completed by scanning the QR code.



- As part of the selection process, shortlisted applicants will be invited to provide a video clip in response to certain questions as part of the final assessment of applications.
- Applicants must read and comply with the Terms and Conditions.

Applicants are strongly advised to make an application to Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) as soon as possible.

Designated course list 2025/26 | *Liosta na gCúrsaí*

University of Galway | Ollscoil na Gaillimhe

GY501	Medicine (5 year)*	GY304	Bachelor of Science (Biotechnology)
GY503	Speech & Language Therapy	GY318	Biopharmaceutical Chemistry
GY504	Podiatric Medicine	GY408	Biomedical Engineering
GY502	Occupational Therapy	GY104	Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)
GY517	Midwifery	GY321	Genetics & Genomics (BSc)
GY303	Biomedical Science	(NEW)	Pharmacy (MPharm)

* The selection reserve the right to award the scholarship to a student placed on the 6 year program

Ulster University at Magee | Ollscoil Uladh Campas Mhígh Aoidh

G401	Computer Science	B821	Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging
G601	Computer Science (Software Systems Development)	B123	Health Physiology / Healthcare Science
Q131	Irish with Computing	B930	Occupational Therapy
G501	Information Technologies	B160	Physiotherapy
H602	Electrical & Electronic Engineering (BEng Hons)	B985	Podiatry
GA50	Artificial Intelligence	B822	Radiotherapy and Oncology
L500	Social Work	B632	Speech and Language Therapy
8H21	Personalised Medicine		

Ulster University, Coleraine | Ollscoil Uladh, Cúil Ratháin

B230	Pharmacy (MPharm)	B460	Dietetics (BSc Hons)
B510	Optometry BSc Hons-Bsc Hons/ MOptom	C820	Psychology or Psychology with DPP/DIAS
C100	Biology BSc (Hons)	B400	Human Nutrition with placement year (BSc Hons)
B992	Biomedical Science	B450	Food & Nutrition with placement year (BSc Hons)
B990	Biomedical Science with DPP (Pathology)		
B991	Biomedical Science with DPP/ DIAS		

Designated course list 2025/26 | *Liosta na gCúrsaí*

Ulster University, Belfast | Ollscoil Uladh, Béal Feirste

BH82	Biomedical Engineering MEng (Hons)	L510	Health and Social Care Policy BSc (Hons)
BH81	Biomedical Engineering BSc (Hons)	H3W8	Health and Wellbeing BSc (Hons)
G400	Computing Science BSc (Hons)	G450	Interactive Computing BSc (Hons)
G500	Computing Technologies BSc (Hons)	G603	Software Engineering MEng (Hons)
H601	Electronic Engineering BEng (Hons)	G600	Software Engineering BEng (Hons)
H600	Electronic Engineering MEng (Hons)		

Queens University, Belfast | Ollscoil na Banríona, Béal Feirste

A100	Medicine	L500	Social Work BSW
B230	Pharmacy MPharm	DB6K	Food Science and Nutrition BSc Level: Undergraduate
A200	Dentistry BDS	DB64	Food Science and Nutrition MSci
C800	Psychology BSc	BD46	Food Science and Nutrition with Professional Studies MSci
B100	Human Biology BSc	BDK6	Food Science and Nutrition with Professional Studies BSc
B940	Biomedical Science BSc	G402	Computer Science MEng
B212	Pharmaceutical Biotechnology BSc	G405	Computer Science Incl Professional Experience MEng
B213	Pharmaceutical Biotechnology (Sandwich) BSc	G400	Computer Science Professional Experience BSc
B211	Pharmaceutical Sciences (Sandwich) BSc	H305	Engineering Sandwich MEng
B210	Pharmaceutical Sciences BSc	G420	Data Science with Year of Professional Experience BSc
F15A	Medicinal Chemistry MChem	H600	Electrical and Electronic Engineering BEng
F154	Medicinal Chemistry with a Year in Industry BSc	H602	Electrical and Electronic Engineering MEng
F15C	Medicinal Chemistry with a Year in Industry MSci	H604	Electrical and Electronic Engineering Sandwich BEng
C700	Biochemistry BSc	H605	Electrical and Electronic
C702	Biochemistry MSci		
C704	Biochemistry with Professional Studies BSc		
C705	Biochemistry with Professional Studies MSci		
F150	Medicinal Chemistry BSc		

Terms and conditions | *Téarmaí agus Coinníollacha*

- The Selection Panel will consider the application form, reference and supporting documentation to determine who will be awarded a Scholarship. Evaluation of applications will be on the basis of academic achievement, demonstration of impact on studies, future career potential and personal and family circumstances. Applicants who demonstrate greater financial need will be prioritised in the case of multiple applications of the same standard. The Selection Panel's decision is final. Successful applicants will be notified as soon as possible after the issue of the Leaving Certificate Results.
- Any offer of a Scholarship is dependent upon information being truthful and accurate and upon the applicant fulfilling all of the conditions of the Scholarship. The right to withdraw an offer is maintained in the event of any error or omission whatsoever in the information provided by or on behalf of the applicant. The Scholar will be given fourteen (14) days' notice in writing that the offer is being withdrawn.
- Scholarships will only be awarded to applicants who have been formally offered a place on a designated course by the Institution on the basis of Leaving Cert results.
- Scholarships will not be awarded, and funds will not be processed unless evidence of an exemption from paying the Leaving Certificate Examination Fee and/or a letter of formal approval from Student Universal Support Ireland ("SUSI") verifying the applicant's entitlement to any form of a Maintenance Grant and and/ or Tuition Fee Grant is submitted to the Selection Panel.
- Detailed feedback is not available in the case of an unsuccessful application.
- Each Scholarship is for the named person on the application only.
- Successful applicants will not be permitted to hold or receive any other scholarship such as, by way of example only, the All-Ireland/ Naughton/ Ernst Walton/ 1916 Bursary and may therefore have to elect which scholarship to receive.
- Depending on the designated course of study, Ulster University or, Queen's University may retain the Scholarship fund to cover the cost of the tuition fees and the balance will be processed to the Scholar as per the specified schedule following registration of the Scholar with the Institution. In the event that the tuition fees are provided for due to the nature or the course, the Institution will process the entire fund to the Scholar in accordance with the schedule of payments.
- The Scholar will be notified of the schedule of payments by Optum Ireland or its representative or the Institution.
- Scholarships will be renewed each year subject to the scholar being in good academic standing. Scholars will be expected to adhere to the regulations of the Institution and to undergo every term examination or any other examination determined by the authorities of the Institution determined by the authorities of such Institution for their course.
- The Scholar must commence his or her programme of study in the academic year noted in the Scholarship award. The Scholar must successfully complete their programme of study within the standard timeframe. The duration of the Scholarship will be clearly stated upon confirmation of award and will not be extendable to cover any deferred or repeated year unless Optum Ireland elects in its sole discretion to extend the Scholarship period. Authorised postponements will be considered only in exceptional circumstances, and for a valid reason. In the event that no reasons are provided, it will remain within the discretion of the Foundation to withdraw the Scholarship.

Terms and conditions | *Téarmaí agus Coinníollacha*

- The Selection Panel reserves the right to award a Scholarship to an applicant who fails to provide evidence of an exemption from paying the Leaving Certificate Examination Fee and/or a letter of formal approval from SUSI verifying the applicant's entitlement to any form of a Maintenance Grant and/or Tuition Fee Grant in circumstances where the Selection Panel is satisfied that the applicant has demonstrated sufficient hardship (physical/emotional/social/cultural) in accessing or maintaining a third-level course of study.
- Payment of Scholarships will be administered by the Institution on proof of registration with the Institution on a designated course.
- The Scholar may be expected to attend a Scholarship Awards Ceremony or the Scholar may also be required to attend an awards ceremony in the Institution and the Institution will invite a representative from Optum Ireland to attend.
- The Scholar will be expected to take part in the promotion of the Scholarship and may be asked for a photograph and personal statement for use in promotional material. The Scholar's contact details (email address, phone number and postal address) will be retained by Optum Ireland and Optum Ireland for the purpose of administering the Scholarship only.
- The Scholar will agree to allow the Institution to share certain data (name, course, student ID number, institution, etc.) within the Institution as required.
- Optum Ireland reserves the right to withdraw a Scholarship where a student is deemed not be of good academic standing by the Institution.
- Immediate family members of any UnitedHealth Group or Optum Ireland senior employees or executives are not eligible for Optum Ireland's Scholarships.
- Optum Ireland reserves the right to amend these Scholarship Terms and Conditions on notice to the Institutions and Scholars.
- Subject to the requirements of the applicable Data Protection Legislation, the Scholar will agree to allow the Institution to share certain data (name, course, student ID number, institution, etc.) with other parties within the Institution as required with the Scholar's express permission. For purposes of these Terms and Conditions, the "Data Protection Legislation" means any and all laws relating to data protection, the processing of personal data, privacy and/or electronic communications in force from time in Ireland or the United Kingdom, as applicable, including Regulation (EU) 2016/679 ("General Data Protection Regulation" or "GDPR") and any legislation implementing or revising such legislation in applicable EU member states, including the Irish Data Protection Act 2018, and the United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulation, as it forms part of the law of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland by virtue of Section 3 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and any legislation implementing or revising such legislation.

Privacy notice | *Fógra Príobháideachais*

Optum Services (Ireland) Limited (“Optum” or “Optum Ireland”) observes principles of good information handling and take all reasonable care when handling “personal data” - information that identifies or is capable of identifying individuals. Optum Ireland process personal data in accordance with applicable data protection laws. Optum Ireland is the controller of personal data processed in administering the Optum Ireland Health Care Scholarship (the “Scholarship”).

Optum Ireland may collect the following information from you for the purpose of administering the Scholarship: name, course, student ID number, institution, details of educational and personal background, personal statement, home address, phone number, email address, personal and academic references, academic records, photographs and video images. Special categories of personal data may be collected by us if included in the details of educational and personal background.

Optum Ireland’s legal bases to use and process your personal data include:

- The performance of a contract with you and/or the academic institution for your benefit in obtaining the Scholarship;
- Your consent, where applicable, which you may subsequently withdraw at any time by contacting us through the details provided below, without affecting the lawfulness of processing based on consent before its withdrawal;
- Optum Ireland’s legitimate interests to establish and manage the Scholarship including promoting the Scholarship; and
- Optum Ireland’s legal obligation to comply with applicable laws and regulations.

Optum Ireland will only retain personal data about you that is necessary for the purposes described above and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it is kept up-to-date and accurate. From time to time we may ask you to review and update the personal data we hold.

We will need to share your personal data with the academic institution and third-party vendors for certain services. We will only do so when necessary for legitimate purposes such as the administration of the Scholarship and promoting the Scholarship. The academic institution will process your personal data in accordance with its own privacy policy.

You are entitled to request access to, rectification or erasure of your personal data or restriction of processing or to object to processing of such data and other rights in accordance with applicable law. Requests should be submitted to UnitedHealth Group through uhg_privacy_office@uhg.com and to Optum Ireland through information_governance@optum.com. We will provide you with a response in accordance with applicable data protection law. Optum Ireland may refuse to provide such information in limited circumstances under applicable law.

If, having considered your personal data that we hold, you find that it is inaccurate or you otherwise have any concerns, you may request that your information be amended, erased or restricted in accordance with applicable requirements. You may contact UnitedHealth Group through uhg_privacy_office@uhg.com or Optum Ireland through information_governance@optum.com at any time about concerns you may have regarding the processing of your personal data. You also have the right to lodge a complaint before the relevant data privacy authority should we violate applicable data privacy laws(s) in our processing of your personal data.

Privacy notice | *Fógra Príobháideachais*

We request that you provide us with accurate and up-to-date personal data. Should you make a request to access the information we hold about you, we may require that you provide us with further information so that we can be satisfied of your identity, subject to any applicable local restrictions.

Optum Ireland take appropriate physical, technical and organisational security measures to guard against unauthorised or unlawful access and processing of your personal data, and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, your personal data, and to ensure that your personal data is stored lawfully and securely. Examples of our security measures include:

- Optum employees who have access to personal data are made aware of their obligations to protect that information.
- Personal data in paper form is kept in filing cabinets that are only accessible by authorised Optum employees on a need-to-know basis.
- Personal data stored electronically is only accessible by authorised personnel; and
- Printed material displaying personal data is disposed of securely, for example, by shredding.

Optum Ireland may revise this Privacy Notice and the way in which it processes your personal data from time to time. You will be notified of any significant changes.



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UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



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