



Education and Training Grants Scheme 2015

Irish Refugee Council, 37 Dame Street, Dublin 2

Email: educationgrants@irishrefugeecouncil.ie | **Tel:** 01-7645854

The new fund

The Irish Refugee Council (IRC) has received funding from the Community Foundation of Ireland to provide financial support to a number of young people who wish to continue their education or training beyond secondary school level.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for a grant, you must be between 18 and 27 years old, living in Ireland, and must be:

- (1)** Currently in the asylum application process, or have been granted refugee status, subsidiary protection or leave to remain, and
- (2)** Unable to access sufficient State or private financial support to be able to follow the education or training course of your choice.

What costs can the grant cover?

A grant from the IRC education and training fund can cover course fees, registration charges, and other costs related to attending a course in further or higher education, a related access programme, or a vocational training programme. These costs could include travel, books, materials etc.

The grant will cover all or part of your costs for one academic year. You may be eligible to apply for continued funding for a second year, or part-year.

Please note that funds available for this new scheme are limited, so we advise you to consider applying for other sources of financial help for your study or training.

What courses can be covered?

Priority will be given to students wishing to undertake Post-Leaving Certificate courses (PLCs) in Further Education Colleges and other institutions. However, in particular circumstances, undergraduate degree courses and other types of education and training including apprenticeships will also be considered, depending on the individual applicant's situation and the overall cost.

Courses starting in September/ October 2015 are most likely to be funded, but there may be circumstances in which a student already attending a course can be supported to continue, or a student could receive a grant for a short course starting earlier than September.

How do I apply?

Just complete and return the application form by email or post, after reading the guidance notes carefully.

When do I apply?

The closing date for applications relating to the academic year 2015-2016 is June 30th 2015.

How can I get further information or help with my application?

You can email or phone the Student Advisor at the IRC, at: educationgrants@irishrefugeecouncil.ie or **01-7645854**. She will be in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week.

Who makes the decisions?

The Irish Refugee Council has set up an independent and impartial committee of people with expertise in immigration, education and funding, who will consider the eligible applications for the fund and decide on the grants which will be awarded.

If I am awarded funding, what happens when I start my course or training programme?

Before you start, the Irish Refugee Council will make a formal agreement with you, setting out how the scheme will work. It will include:

- The costs which will be covered by your IRC grant;
- A mentoring system for giving personal support and advice to everyone who receives an education or training grant;
- A requirement for students to keep in touch by email/ phone with their mentor, and visit the IRC office to discuss progress and sort out any problems at least once every 4-6 weeks;
- Payment of your course or programme fees;
- Your agreement to keep all receipts for items such as books, travel cards etc. for which cash amounts have been paid by the IRC, and to bring or send these to the IRC office promptly.



Important note: three other migrant support organisations in Ireland also received CFI funding to support asylum seekers and refugees in post-secondary education or training. One (the Dún Laoghaire Refugee Project) has allocated all its funds for 2015, but applications can still be made to the other two. The selection criteria are the same as for the IRC's fund, so if you live in or near Limerick or Cork, do get in touch with the relevant organisation and find out about making your grant application there. Their contact details are:

Doras Luimní

Central Buildings, 51a O'Connell Street, Limerick
Email: info@dorasluimni.ie | **Tel:** 061 310328

The Irish Immigrant Support Centre, NASC

Ferry Lane, off Dominick Street, Cork
Email: info@nascireland.org | **Tel:** 021 4503462