

## **Irish Embassy Bursary Programme**

### **Purpose of the programme**

The Irish Embassy Bursary Programme was established by the Embassy of Ireland in Hungary, the Irish Hungarian Business Circle (IHBC), and by the Forum of Scholars of Irish Studies in Budapest in November 2014. The Bursary programme offers an opportunity for a small number of Hungarian under-graduate, graduate and, or postgraduate students' studying Irish topics in history, society, language, literature, culture, politics, music, visual arts, business studies and architecture to receive partial funding towards a summer course in an institute in Ireland on an annual basis. Irish companies and other organisations in Hungary contribute to the funding of this programme by means of paying towards the costs associated with attending a summer school or conducting research in an Irish institute. The award is granted in accordance with this Statute and with any rules and laws governing grant and scholarship regulations in Hungary and in Ireland. The amount of the award and the number of grantees vary according to the sum of the contributions and sponsorship annually, up to the availability of the fund. The Embassy of Ireland in Hungary shall invite sponsors to contribute to the award annually.

The award is granted annually on the basis of academic criteria, specified in the Statute below. Embassy of Ireland, members of the Forum for Irish Studies and the IHBC shall advise all Hungarian universities, colleges, institutions, and societies, where the related studies and/or research are conducted, of the availability of the Bursary each year.

The procedure of the selection of the grantees is established in the Statute below and a panel, drawn from members of the Forum or other such suitable persons, shall be responsible for the selection of the successful students.

### **Statute**

#### **Eligibility for the grant:**

Hungarian undergraduate, graduate and post graduate students are eligible for the award to

- 1) Attend a summer school in Ireland relating to the topic of the candidates' research
- 2) Visit an Irish Research Institute (National Library of Ireland, TCD Library, NUI Galway etc.) to carry out research directly related to their research topic.

#### **Criteria of application:**

Applicants must:

- 1) Have a high level of proficiency in English, as demonstrated by previous study or a relevant certificate
- 2) Have completed - or will complete by the time of taking up the Bursary - an undergraduate degree at a Hungarian academic institution
- 3) Demonstrate an interest in or previous research on an Irish topic, have completed an Ireland-focused module in their chosen field of study or be registered (or accepted for admission) on an M.A. Programme or a Ph.D. Programme at a Hungarian academic institution that offers at least one course relating to his/her research topics. Proof of acceptance for admission to postgraduate studies must be provided.

or

- 4) Be researching – or preparing to research – an M.A. thesis or a Ph.D. thesis on a subject dealing partly or wholly with an Irish topic.

#### Application process:

The applicant must submit a set of documents, by the deadline established by the Forum, to the email address of the Embassy of Ireland: [budapestembassy@dfa.ie](mailto:budapestembassy@dfa.ie) and by post to: The Embassy of Ireland, 1054 Budapest, Szabadsag ter 7-9, Bank Centre, Platina II . VI floor. These shall consist of:

1. Completed Application Form
2. CV
3. Motivation Letter outlining proposed summer school/research trip or project, or a relevant research proposal signed by a supervisor from his/her host university. A letter of invitation or completed registration form is required. Proof of the letter of invitation from the Irish research institute and an approved academic workplan signed by the host institute's Director must be provided.
4. In case of students aiming to attend a summer school, a letter of recommendation is required by an academic of his/her home institution. In the case of students submitting an application for research, a statement of endorsement from the project supervisor is required.

#### Evaluation of applications:

##### Selection Panel:

A Selection Panel (or panels, as required) drawn from members of the Forum, or other suitable persons as may be agreed, shall be responsible for the selection process. A selection panel, or panels, as required, will be formed with a minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 members, including a representative of the Embassy. . The members of the Forum nominate members to the relevant selection panel for one year and every November the members of the Forum nominate new members to the Judgement/ Selection panel.

##### Selection procedure:

After the deadline for receipt of applications has passed, the Embassy of Ireland will circulate all the applications to the members of the selection panel(s) within 10 working days. The members of the selection panel(s) shall have 15 working days to review all the applications. By email, each member of the selection panel(s) may indicate to the other members of the panel(s) their first and second choice and submit a short report to the other members of the panel(s) explaining how the chosen candidates meet the criteria above. Each student selected and a report must be submitted before the agreed deadline. The panel(s) shall, if necessary, meet to review and confirm their approval of the selected students. The decision of the panel(s) is final. Within 5 days, after the conclusion of work of the judgement panel, the panel(s) shall inform the Irish Embassy and IHBC of their decision.

### **Bursary Contract**

The Irish Embassy shall inform the successful candidate that he/she is granted the award and invite him/her to sign a Bursary Contract with the Irish Hungarian Business Circle. In the Bursary Contract, the contracting parties (IHBC and grantee) specify how the grant will be used, and what costs the grantee will have to meet by receipt. In the Bursary Contract, the grantee undertakes that with the acceptance of the award he/she shall conclude the research or attend the summer school that is specified in his/her work plan by the given deadline, and submit a brief report on its completion. Each bursary grantee shall arrange all travel practicalities with TENSİ Travel Agency and the transfer of tuition fees and registration fees shall take place through IHBC. The grantee is obliged to abide by the terms of the Bursary Contract signed with IHBC. In case the grantee fails to complete the programme he/she is responsible for repaying the bursary amount.

### **Announcement of the Award**

The awards will be announced and presented at the annual St. Patrick's Day Reception on 17 March.