



Ollscoil na hÉireann
National University of Ireland

NUI Denis Donoghue Award 2023

Regulations and Procedures

Updated: April 2023

The National University of Ireland (NUI) is pleased to invite nominations for the NUI Denis Donoghue Award, offered in 2023.

1. NUI Denis Donoghue Award

- 1.1.** The NUI Denis Donoghue Award is an annual award established in memory of Denis Donoghue. The Award is funded by a bequest from his daughter, Emma Donoghue.
- 1.2.** The purpose of the NUI Denis Donoghue Award is to foster success and facilitate excellence, by providing monetary support to students from under-represented groups in higher education in Ireland.
- 1.3.** The Award is intended to support students for a specific purpose which they identify as a barrier to their completion of, or excelling in, their degree. The Award may be used for equipment, training, travel relevant to the degree, or for any purpose that will support a student other than a direct financial stipend, which is not covered.
- 1.4.** The Award is offered to students who have completed first year/stage one and are in the second year or later of their undergraduate degree programme in an NUI member institution.
- 1.5.** While applications will be open to all eligible students, NUI may announce a particular focus in any given year where at least one award will be awarded to a student from a specified under-represented group.
- 1.6.** The Award will be valued between min. €2000 and max. €5000. Three awards will be typically granted per year.
- 1.7.** Students can receive funding through this Award on one occasion only. If unsuccessful,

students may reapply in future rounds, up to the final year of their undergraduate degree programme.

2. Eligibility Criteria

2.1. Undergraduate Degree Programmes

- (i) To be eligible to apply for the NUI Denis Donoghue Award, students must be registered on an undergraduate degree programme in an NUI member institution. Students must have completed first year/stage one and be between second year and final year of their degree programme.
- (ii) Eligible students may be registered on full-time or part-time undergraduate degree programmes leading to a major higher education and training award at Level 7 (Ordinary Bachelor's Degree) or Level 8 (Honours Bachelor's Degree) on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).
- (iii) The Award is offered to current students in UCD, UCC, University of Galway, Maynooth University, IPA, RCSI, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Burren College of Art and NCAD.

2.2. Under-Represented Groups

To be eligible to apply for the NUI Denis Donoghue Award, applicants must be included in one or more of the following target groups:

- (i) Students from communities that have low levels of participation in higher education
- (ii) First-time mature students (23 or older on 1 January of their year of entry to higher education)
- (iii) Students with a disability (particularly those with a physical or mobility impairment, those who are deaf or hard of hearing and those who are blind or have a visual impairment)
- (iv) Members of the Irish Traveller community
- (v) Further education and training award holders progressing to higher education
- (vi) Lone parents
- (vii) Students from ethnic minorities

3. Application Procedure

The following documents are required to apply for the NUI Denis Donoghue Award:

3.1. Application Form: Application forms are available to download at www.nui.ie/awards.

3.2. Personal Statement: Applicants must submit a personal statement. The personal statement (max. 1000 words) should contain two sections, 1 and 2:

- (i) In Section 1, the applicant should discuss their experiences, ambitions and goals, and motivations for study, with reference to their degree programme.

- (ii) In Section 2, the applicant should identify the barrier(s) they have found to completing or excelling in their degree programme, *and* how they would benefit from the NUI Denis Donoghue Award, *and* monetary value of award required (min. €2000, max. €5000).

3.3. Letter of Support: A signed letter (max. 500 words) from the applicant's university or college supporting the application should be submitted. This can be written by an academic or administrative member of staff, or a representative from any student support service.

4. Selection Procedure

4.1. The NUI Awards team will administer the competition for the NUI Denis Donoghue Award.

4.2. The NUI Awards team will consider all applications and enter all eligible applications into a lottery. The recipients of the NUI Denis Donoghue Award will be drawn from this lottery.

4.3. The NUI Awards Team may appoint a Selection Panel to assist in assessing the eligibility of applications, to include Equality, Diversity & Inclusion representatives from the NUI community. Additional experts may be invited by NUI to sit on the Panel, if required.

4.4. A recommendation regarding the NUI Denis Donoghue Award will be made to Senate by the NUI Registrar.

4.5. The decision of the NUI Senate or the NUI Vice-Chancellor acting on behalf of the Senate, on awarding the Prizes will be final.

5. Lodgement of Document

5.1. All application documents must be submitted by email to awards@nui.ie. The email subject should state the NUI Award being applied for, i.e. NUI Denis Donoghue Award.

5.2. Candidates should ensure the electronic documents included in their application are:

- (i) saved as separate PDF files, and
- (ii) compressed into a zip file (max. size 20 MB)

5.3. The closing date for receipt of the full application, including the application form, personal statement, and letter of support is Friday, 13 October 2023.

6. Further Information

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

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