Introduction

The Líofa 2015 project aims to encourage 5,000 people from all walks of life across the north to sign up to the challenge of becoming fluent in Irish by 2015. As Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure, Carál Ni Chuilín aims to promote the Gaelic language and culture to as wide an audience as possible.

“I believe that the rich cultural and linguistic heritage on this island is something that we all share and something that we can all embrace and enjoy”.

The Líofa or ‘fluency’ target is obviously a challenging personal target and will require a significant degree of commitment from the participants involved. The Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme was developed under the Líofa initiative to support Líofa participants and to encourage future Líofa sign-ups in their endeavour to become fluent in the Irish Language.

The Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme is a measure aimed at broadening the appeal of the Irish language and offers the opportunity, irrespective of traditions and backgrounds, for eligible applicants, to be able to attend an Irish Language summer course, thus increasing their fluency in the Irish Language and enjoying this enriching Gaelic cultural experience.

Criteria

The scheme has been developed and the criteria established to support individuals with financial outlays which may otherwise be a barrier to them accessing an Irish Language Gaeltacht course. Applicants must be signed up to the Líofa 2015 challenge.

The Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme Is Open To:
1. young people aged 12–18 years and
2. adults (18+ years)

Applicants must reside in the north of Ireland (Tyrone, Armagh, Antrim, Fermanagh, Down, Derry) and applicants must be young people whose parent(s) / guardian(s), or adults themselves (who aren’t in full-time education) and are in receipt of one of the following:

- The applicant or the applicant’s child(ren) are in receipt of free school meals as approved by the local Education and Library Board (You will be required to provide a copy of the Board’s award letter)
- Pension Credit
- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under the Immigration and Asylum Act

Young people who receive Income Support, income-based Job Seeker’s Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance, in their own right, are also eligible
The **Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme** will offer a maximum of 100 scholarships. In the case of over subscription other qualifying criteria will be considered, such as geographical location or length of Líofa involvement. In the event that the number of applications is still greater than the number of places available names will be drawn by random selection.

In the case of under subscription, a number of part bursaries (i.e. course fees only) will be offered.

All bursary recipients might be asked to take part in a post programme evaluation exercise (PPE). This will involve the completion of questionnaires and participation in randomly selected direct interviews.

The scheme is being carried out in conjunction with Comhaltas Uladh and Gael Linn and successful applicants can choose to attend any one of the courses **listed in annex A** based in the Donegal Gaeltacht area.

This scheme covers the course fee and accommodation costs only and payment will be made directly to Comhaltas Uladh or Gael Linn following satisfactory completion of the course by the applicant.

Applicants must nominate TWO courses, in case their first choice is unavailable.

The Department’s decision on the awarding of bursaries is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

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**Application**

If you wish to apply you should:

1. Complete the application form
2. Forward the completed application form and relevant supporting evidence that the applicant is in receipt of any of the award notices as set out in the **criteria section**.

For example, a letter of award notice on headed paper from your benefit provider, a copy of the Education and Library Board's letter awarding Free School Meals, or a bank statement confirming same.

or alternatively

Bring the application form to your local benefit office and ask an official to complete section 13 confirming that the applicant and/or the applicant’s parent/guardian is in receipt of same (see application form)

3. Return the application form to the department for assessment to the following address:
   Líofa, DCAL, Languages Branch, 7th Floor Causeway Exchange, 1-7 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7EG by 4pm on Friday 4 April 2014.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

If you have any questions about **The Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme** please contact the Líofa team on T: 028 90 515 058 or E: liofa@dcalni.eu
ADULTS (18+)

Gaorth Dobhair

Code: GL1A - 29/06/14 to 05/07/2014  
Code: GL1B - 03/08/14 to 09/08/2014  

Gael Linn’s Gaeltacht courses for adults are held in Gaorth Dobhair, which is one of the largest Irish-speaking areas in the country. The area is one of outstanding natural beauty, surrounded by the Derryveagh Mountains, the most majestic of which is Errigal. Some of the finest beaches in Ireland are to be found in Gaorth Dobhair.

The courses, which run for seven days, will be totally conversational and will cater for different levels of ability – total beginners, intermediate level and those who already have a reasonable level of fluency. Irish language classes will be held each day from 9.45 a.m. until 3.00p.m.

Coláiste Ros Goill, Na Dúnaibh

Code: CU1A - 27/07/2014 to 02/08/2014  
Code: CU1B - 03/08/2014 to 09/08/2014  

Downings is a lovely seaside village located amid the spectacular scenery of north Donegal. The village is blessed with superb beaches and has fine views across Sheephaven Bay to the Ards peninsula and the distant flat-topped peak of Muckish. It has a long standing tradition of tweed making and fishing. Downings is traditionally an Irish speaking area. Sheephaven Bay is ideal for water sports and deep sea angling. The Rosapenna Championship Links Golf Course is just half a mile from the village. This small peninsula area jutting out into the Atlantic also has interesting walks and drives. Coláiste Ros Goill has been running adult courses for over 60 years and is in high demand.
Coláiste Bun an Inbhir
**Code:** GL2B - 29/06/2014 to 20/07/2014

Coláiste Bhun an Inbhir is a Gael Linn summer college located in North West Donegal, 50KM from Letterkenny. The Bun an Inbhir Gaeltacht is blessed with a rich cultural heritage and beautiful beaches and scenery. The courses are both exciting and enjoyable and require students to speak Irish for the full duration of the course to the best of their ability. A mixture of formal classes and a wide range of activities ensure every student has an opportunity to improve fluency in the Irish language and deepen their awareness of their heritage.

Coláiste Mhachaire Rabhartaigh
**Code:** GL3A - 20/06/2014 to 05/07/2014  
**Code:** GL3B - 06/07/2014 to 27/07/2014  
**Code:** GL3C - 28/07/2014 to 19/8/2014

Machaire Rabhartaigh is situated north west of Letterkenny in the Cloch Cheann Fhaolaidh Gaeltacht between Gort an Choirce and Cnoc Fola. The Machaire – the area of sand dunes and beach, which stretches for some three miles, affords a magnificent view of Inis Bó Finne and Tory Island. Coláiste Mhachaire Rabhartaigh, the Gael Linn summer college is located in the local community centre and national schools. Gael Linn has been associated with this area for over thirty years and during that time the college has become an integral part of this linguistically rich and vibrant community.

Coláiste Bhríde, Rann na Feirste
**Code:** CU2A – 20/06/14 to 01/07/2014  
**Code:** CU2B - 01/07/14 to 11/07/2014  
**Code:** CU2C - 01/07/14 to 22/07/2014  
**Code:** CU2D - 22/07/14 to 12/08/2014

Founded in 1926, Coláiste Bhríde, Rann na Feirste, is Donegal Gaeltacht’s best known and longest established College. The area, which looks out upon the Atlantic, is renowned for the richness of the Irish spoken there, and the long and highly regarded folklore, music and story-telling which is still an common feature of everyday life. Students stay with families who are native Irish speakers and are taught by highly qualified professionals in a safe and controlled environment.
Details must be provided in **BLOCK CAPITALS** clearly using **BLACK ink**. Illegible forms will not be processed. All supporting evidence (e.g. Award letter) must be original copies. Photocopies are not acceptable.

1. Ainm/Name of applicant:

2. Seoladh/Address:

3. Postchód/Postcode:

4. Riomhphost/E-mail:

5. Guthán/Phone Number:

6. Dáta Breithe/Date of Birth:

7. Áit, cód agus dáta an chúrsa/Venue, code and date of course (see annex A):
   - First choice: Venue:
     - Code: Date:
   - Second choice: Venue:
     - Code: Date:

8. ✓ Tick the box to confirm that the applicant is signed up to the Líofa challenge:

9. ✓ Tick the box to confirm that you have provided evidence that you or your parent(s)/guardian(s) are in receipt of income related benefit as highlighted in the criteria section.

10. ✓ Tick the box to indicate which option you are using to prove that you meet the criteria as set out in the criteria section above.

   - **Option 1:** Copy of the Education and Library Board’s award letter indicating that applicant or applicant’s child (or children) is in receipt of free school meals. 
     PLEASE STATE NAME OF SCHOOL WHICH CHILD(REN) ATTEND(S):

   - **Option 2:** Award Notice (Official letter/documentation indicating receipt of benefit)

   - **Option 3:** Declaration by Social Security Office (section 13 below)
11. DECLARATION: I confirm that, if successful, I will complete the Gaeltacht course selected and I confirm that the information given in this application is true and complete.

Signed:  
Date:  
Name: (BLOCK CAPITALS)  

12. If you are **under 16**, your parent or legal guardian must **countersign** this Agreement:

Líofa applicant Full Name:  
Signed on behalf of above:  
Date:  
Signatory's relationship to Líofa applicant:  

13. (To be completed only if option 3 in question 10 is selected) Confirmation by Social Security Office that applicant or applicant’s parent(s) / Guardian(s) are in receipt of related benefits as outlined in the criteria section:

Signed: (Social Security Official)  
Date:  
Office:  
Print Full Name:  
Social Security Official stamp:  

14. DATA PROTECTION
Please tick as appropriate. Are you content to receive information about other Líofa initiatives using the contact details provided?

Yes  
No  

For DCAL use only:

Applicant Number:  
Cost of course:  
Signed by:  
Date:  
A duly authorized representative of DCAL Languages Branch  

Terms and Conditions Apply | Baineann Téarmaí agus Coinniollacha leis seo