



UL40 Mature Student Scholarships 2021-22

Information for applicants

Introduction

The University of Limerick (UL) encourages and supports the participation of mature students on all its programmes. UL recognises and acknowledges the increasingly challenging economic environment which students face, in particular those who are entering college as adult learners to undertake full-time study and is pleased to announce the eighth year of its UL40 Scholarships for first year mature students. This scheme was introduced to provide financial assistance to adult learners who are commencing higher education on a full-time basis and for the first time. A total of 10 scholarships, worth €2,000 each, are available under this scheme.

Eligibility

This scheme is open to UL mature students¹ who meet the following criteria:

- Registered in first year of a full-time undergraduate programme
- Meet both the nationality and residency criteria for the Free Fees initiative as set out by UL's [Fees Office](#)
- A first-time entrant to higher education (i.e. has not previously achieved a third-level qualification)
- Is not in receipt of any other scholarship or bursary

Awarding of the Scholarships

Two scholarships will be awarded, in order of merit, to students presenting Mature Student Access Certificate (MSAC) results obtained in the calendar year of entry to their undergraduate programme. These two scholarships will be awarded automatically to the top two performing MSAC students who have progressed to full-time undergraduate programmes in UL and who are eligible for the scheme.

Eight scholarships – two each per faculty - will be awarded on a competitive basis to first year mature students. Awarding of these scholarships will be made on the basis of assessment of a short essay submitted by applicants. The decision regarding the awarding of the Scholarships will be made by a UL40 Mature Student Scholarship Committee. The Committee includes representatives of the Mature Student Office and each of the four faculties in UL.

¹ A mature student is someone who is 23 years of age or older on 1st January in their year of entry to first year of a full-time undergraduate programme.

Value

A total of 10 scholarships are available per academic year to the value of €2,000 each. It is anticipated that this Scheme will run for 10 years, from 2014/15 to 2023/24 inclusive.

Duration

Each Scholarship is awarded as a once-off payment to a first year mature student. A Scholarship is only available in the academic year in which it is offered. It cannot be deferred to a subsequent year.

How to apply

1. Complete the UL40 Mature Student Scholarship online application form, which will open on Monday of Week 1 in Semester One (Monday 27th September). The link will be emailed directly to all first year mature students by the Mature Student Office.

The application involves submission of a short essay (see point 2 below). **As the essay is input as part of the application form, you can simply copy and paste it into the form when the application system opens.** Your essay cannot be attached as a separate document to the form.

It is recommended that you use Times New Roman Font, size 12 to type your essay. **Bold**, underline and *italics* should only be used for formatting if appropriate. The [UL Regional Writing Centre](#) is a useful resource to assist you in drafting a good essay. They provide a range of [online resources](#) which might prove useful in structuring your essay.

NB: Please do NOT include your name on your essay. All applications are assessed on an anonymous basis. The assessors do not have access to your personal details.

2. Write a short essay (strictly no more than 500 words) which addresses the following questions:
 - a. What do you hope to achieve, personally, during your time studying at the University of Limerick?
 - b. What are your future career or professional goals?
 - c. How will a UL40 Mature Student Scholarship benefit your participation in your undergraduate course?
3. The essay will be scored as follows:
 - a. Personal goals – 30 marks
 - b. Professional / career goals – 30 marks
 - c. How Scholarship will assist participation – 30 marks
 - d. Writing skills & overall presentation of essay – 10 marks
4. The closing date for submission of applications is **5.00pm, Friday 15th October 2021**

Conditions of award

- Applicants must be registered as a student of the University of Limerick on the programme in respect of which the Scholarship is being awarded.

- If a Scholarship holder withdraws from the programme for which she/he has registered or fails to continue throughout the year to meet the attendance and other requirements of the programme, she/he will forfeit the Scholarship and may be required to repay the whole or any part of the Scholarship as may be decided.

Review

The conditions and operation of the UL40 Mature Student Scholarship Scheme are subject to review and revision from time to time at the discretion of the University of Limerick.

The eligibility and scoring of applications is thoroughly checked in the processing of applications. Therefore the decision of the UL40 Mature Student Scholarship Committee on the awarding of scholarships is final.