



GAISCE
THE PRESIDENT'S
AWARD

Bursary Fund 2024/25

Supporting Participation, Reducing Barriers

Background

"Gaisce is driven by a commitment to a better society, by the enthusiasm, ability, and resilience of young people. Through the Gaisce programme, young people are encouraged and guided so that their innate talents and abilities, as well as their sense of citizenship and social agency, can be realised to their full potential"

- President Michael D. Higgins, 2021

Gaisce - The President's Award is a self-development programme for young people aged 14-25. It is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, to all young people to dream big and realise their potential. Our mission is to provide a positive youth development programme that encourages and rewards young people to discover their passions and challenge themselves, positively impacting themselves and the world around them.

One of Gaisce's core values is **Inclusion and Equality**; every person having the opportunity to grow their potential through equality of access, participation, and outcome. Gaisce is inspired by the principle of **leaving no one behind** (a central promise of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals) and working to strengthen access points to Gaisce for all young people, regardless of their circumstances.

With support from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and other philanthropic supporters, **Gaisce SUAS**, our Bursary Fund, seeks to alleviate barriers that some young people may face in embarking on and achieving their Gaisce award.

Overview of the Gaisce SUAS Bursary Fund

Gaisce SUAS aims to increase participation and access to the Gaisce Award programme for young people experiencing marginalisation or who are living in difficult circumstances.

This fund supports a core Gaisce objective; to reach more young people, especially those on the periphery of society. For this deliverable, Gaisce has a fund of €75,000 which we will award across two bursary strands.

There are two bursary strands available:

1. **Uplift**, funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.
2. **Youth Justice**, funded by a philanthropic supporter

The Uplift Fund will be awarded to individuals or groups of young people via their organisation or Gaisce Award Partner (i.e., School, youth project, organisation, service, etc).

This fund is open to applications that meet the funding criteria from:

- New Gaisce Award Partners - organisations/projects where Gaisce has never been run to date due to barriers.
- Active Gaisce Award Partners - organisations who currently offer Gaisce
- Inactive Gaisce Award Partners - organisations/projects where Gaisce may have previously been offered but has not for some time.

The fund intends to:

- Reduce barriers to participation in Gaisce
- Ensure that more young people than ever can achieve Gaisce Awards, reflecting the diversity of our society.
- Ensure young people aged 14-25 across our society can see themselves in the Award.

The Uplift fund is a new fund that can be applied for by any organisation supporting young people.

The **Youth Justice Fund** is available for youth diversion, youth probation and other Youth Justice organisations who can demonstrate barriers to participation. It is an existing fund that can be applied for by organisations in the youth justice space.

What types of activities are funded?

Gaisce SUAS is designed to be used to support participants who are experiencing marginalisation or who are living in difficult circumstances, to complete their award.

The fund will contribute towards **participant support costs** associated with Bronze, Silver, or Gold award requirements.

This can be for an individual or a group of young people; up to €1000 per organisation.

Gaisce SUAS Bursary Fund	Participant Support Costs (Bronze, Silver, or Gold)	maximum of €1000 per group
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Examples of participant support costs covered under this fund include:

- **Adventure journey:** Adventure journey costs for participants experiencing marginalisation and/or disadvantage (i.e. transport, accommodation, adventure journey provider fee, equipment, etc.)
- **Challenge areas costs:** Costs related to challenge areas for participants experiencing marginalisation and/or disadvantage, in particular the Community Involvement challenge area
- **Accessibility:** Costs related to supporting accessibility for participants experiencing marginalisation and/or disadvantage with additional support needs (i.e. accessible transport or activities) for any of the challenge areas.

Important:

- The bursary fund is **not** intended to cover all costs that may be associated with completing the award
- The registration fee for Gaisce awards **cannot** be covered by this fund

Funding Criteria

The following funding criteria applies to this grant:

- Funding sought must directly support participants who experience marginalisation and/or disadvantage to engage in their Gaisce Award.
- If the organisation applying is new to Gaisce, they must register to become a Gaisce Award Partner with at least one President's Award Leader (PAL).
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate how the participant(s) experience marginalisation and/or disadvantage.
- Applicants must demonstrate how the funding will be used to directly support participants to complete their Gaisce Award.
- The PALs from the applying organisation must be committed to supporting the participants on all challenge areas of their Gaisce award towards completion.
- Funding must only be used for the applicable costs.

Application requirements:

- Only **ONE** application per PAL/GAP/organisation will be eligible for consideration.
- Funding must be payable to an organisation's account, not an individual.

If these criteria are not met, unfortunately you cannot avail of the SUAS Bursary Fund.

How much funding is available?

The maximum fund any organisation can apply for is €1000 in total.

You must detail in the application how many participants the bursary fund is intended to support.

The amount of funding you receive will depend on the available funding, number of applications and the costs indicated in your application.

The funding applications will be assessed by the Gaisce Selection Committee and weight will be given to aspects such as impact on participation, demonstrated level of need, and proposed use of funds.

The decision of the Gaisce Selection Committee is final and cannot be appealed.

The closing date for applications is **Friday 25th October 2024 at 5pm** and no late applications will be accepted.

Disbursement

You will be notified by email of the outcome of your application, no later than 29th November 2024.

If successful, you will receive the full amount of your grant once your application has been approved. Payments will be made from Gaisce to the organisation.

How to apply

To apply for this fund, you must complete an **online application form**, which can be accessed via the link below.

Click here to complete the online application form for the Uplift Fund: [Gaisce SUAS: Uplift Bursary Fund 2024/25 Application Form \(office.com\)](#)

Click here to complete the online application form for the Youth Justice Fund: [Gaisce Youth Justice Bursary Fund 2024/25 - Application Form \(office.com\)](#)

Applications open on Thursday 5th September 2024 and the closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 25th October 2024.

Note: Only one application per organisation is permitted.

Will I have to complete a report? What sort of documentation is required?

You will be required to complete an **online final report**, for which a link will be provided explaining your outcomes, activities related to the grant, impact, and brief detail of expenditure.

You may be expected to show receipts upon request by Gaisce for payments related to the Bursary Fund so please store these records safely.

When to apply - key dates

Applications open: 5th September

Applications Close: 25th October at 5pm

Bursary announced: On or before 29th November

Payments begin: December

Period of Fund: December 2024 - June 2025

Report due: 30th June 2025

Details of Fund

Participant Support Costs (Bronze or Silver or Gold award)

Amount funded	A maximum of €1,000 per organisation will be funded.
Who is the funding for	<p>Young people who experience barriers to participation in the Gaisce award, i.e. who experience marginalisation or disadvantage.</p> <p>The bursary should support these young people to achieve their Gaisce award, who might otherwise not be able to participate.</p>
What is funded	<p>Participant support Costs: Costs associated with completing the Gaisce award, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adventure journey: Adventure journey costs for participants experiencing marginalisation and/or disadvantage<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Transport➤ Accommodation➤ adventure journey provider fee,➤ equipment• Community Involvement: Costs related to participating in a community involvement activity i.e. transport• Accessibility: Costs related to supporting access and addressing accessibility needs for participants that experience disadvantage with additional support needs or a disability <i>Only in particular/special circumstances will the following areas be funded:</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Skill: Costs related to participating in a personal skill activity i.e. transport, equipment, programme fee • Physical Recreation: Costs related to participating in a physical recreation activity i.e. transport, equipment, programme fee
What is not funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAL/GAP staff costs • Activities not related to the Gaisce award • Gaisce registration fees • Mileage

Ineligible funds:

The list of items not funded is not exhaustive and the Bursary Selection Committee convened by Gaisce reserves the right to deem other activities ineligible, as necessary. If you are still unclear as to whether costs are eligible or not, please contact suas@gaisce.ie.