



Gaisce SUAS

Bursary Fund 2025/26

Supporting Participation, Reducing Barriers

INFORMATION GUIDE

Overview

"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 delighted to launch the Gaisce SUAS Bursary Fund for 2025-26.

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.

With support from the Department of Education and Youth, funds raised from our *Be the Arrow* campaign, and other philanthropic supporters, **Gaisce SUAS** seeks to alleviate barriers that some young people may face in embarking on and achieving their Gaisce Award.

The Gaisce SUAS Bursary Fund 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 €87,000 which we will award across two bursary strands.

There are two bursary strands available:

1. **Uplift**, funded by the Department of Education and Youth and *Be the Arrow* fundraising

2. **Youth Justice**, funded by a philanthropic supporter.

The fund intends to:

- Reduce barriers to participation in the Gaisce Award for those experiencing disadvantage.
- 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.

Uplift Fund

The Uplift Fund will be awarded to individuals or small 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 associated 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.

Youth Justice Fund

The **Youth Justice Fund** will be awarded to individuals or small groups of young people **via** their organisation or Gaisce Award Partner (i.e. Youth Diversion Project).

This fund is open to applications from youth diversion, probation and custody organisations who can demonstrate barriers to participation.

Applications that meet the associated criteria are welcomed 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.

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 small 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 or €100 max per individual participant (up to 10 participants)
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Participant support costs covered under this fund include the following areas:

- **Challenge areas costs:** Costs related to challenge areas for participants experiencing marginalisation and/or disadvantage (i.e. transport, gear, equipment), in particular the Community Involvement Challenge Area
- **Accessibility:** Supporting accessibility for participants experiencing marginalisation and/or disadvantage with additional support needs i.e. accessible transport or accessible activities for any of the Challenge Areas.
- **Sustainability:** The purchase of equipment/gear that can be utilised for current and future participants experiencing marginalisation and/or disadvantage, supporting a sustainable approach and use of funds.
- **Adventure Journey:** Adventure journey costs (i.e. transport, accommodation, adventure journey provider fee, equipment, etc.) for individual participants experiencing marginalisation and/or disadvantage

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 the participant/s 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 participant/s to complete their Gaisce Award, and PAL/s must be committed to supporting the participant/s on all challenge areas of their Gaisce Award.
- Funding must only be used for the applicable costs.
- The participant/s who the grant is intended to support must be registered for a Gaisce award or should be registered within the lifecycle of the grant.
- PAL/s must engage with their Gaisce Development Officer during the lifecycle of the bursary.

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, and it must not exceed €100 per person.

The amount of funding received will depend on the available funding, number of applications and proposed use of funds.

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 17th October 2025** and no late applications will be accepted.

Disbursement

You will be notified by email of the outcome of your application, no later than 14th November 2025.

If successful, you will be required to complete and return an Agreement Form in order to access the Bursary. The Bursary amount will be paid from Gaisce to the organisation, on condition of the agreement form being received before the deadline.

Support and Monitoring

All successful SUAS Bursary awardees will be supported by a [Gaisce Development Officer](#) associated with their region.

The Development Officer will provide any additional support, information, and check-in to PALs during the lifecycle of the Bursary.

A condition of the fund is PALs active engagement and cooperation with their Development Officer during the lifecycle of the Bursary.

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 detail of expenditure.

PAL/s are also required to respond to contact made by their Development Officer during the lifecycle of the Bursary Fund.

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

Important: Gaisce reserves the right to request return of funds in the event of failure to complete a report, breach of the terms set out in the funding agreement, or evidence of misuse of funds.

How to apply

To apply for this grant, you must complete an **online application form**, which can be accessed via the webpage www.gaisce.ie/suas

There are two separate streams under the SUAS Bursary: Uplift and Youth Justice.

Please ensure that you complete the correct application form associated with the stream you want to apply for.

Applications open on Wednesday 24th September 2025 and the closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 17th October 2025.

Note: Only one application per organisation is permitted.

When to apply - key dates

Applications open: 24th September 2025

Applications Close: 5pm, 17th October 2025

Bursary announced: On or before 14th November 2025

Payment of Bursary: December 2025

Period of Fund: December 2025 - June 2026

Report due: 26th June 2026

Details of Fund

Participant Support Costs (Bronze or Silver or Gold award)

Amount funded	€100-€1,000 (<i>with a maximum of €100 per participant</i>)
Who is the funding for	<p>Young people who experience barriers to participation in the Gaisce award, for example due to marginalisation, disadvantage, fewer opportunities, and inequality.</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>• 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• Sustainability<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Camping equipment➤ Hiking/outdoor clothing, shoes, gear that will belong to the organisation and used for further participants
What is not funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PAL/GAP staff costs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities not related to the Gaisce award • Gaisce registration fees • Mileage
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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