

University Student Bursaries - Ross and Cromarty Educational Trusts

Criteria for successful candidates:

1. Applicant must have attended the Nicolson Institute for 2 academic years prior to application for a Bursary;
2. Applicant must have been accepted on a Degree course at a Scottish University;
3. Priority is given to students studying one of the STEM subjects;
4. Priority will be given to students who have been in receipt of an EMA for the previous 2 academic years while studying at the Nicolson Institute;
5. Applicant must not be receiving a bursary from any other funding body or community organisation (e.g. Tolsta Community student bursary award);

Criteria for prioritising applications and sifting for the final six applications:

1. Applications for bursary from pupils who meet criteria above are to be sifted and put in order with the highest UCAS scores at the top.
2. Top scoring applications to be verified against criteria 3 and 4 above. If 6 applications meet criteria 3 and 4 then the 6 applicants are to be issued with a £1000 bursary award.
3. If less than 6 qualifying applications are found in the process above, then applications are to be chosen from the list to make it up to 6 qualifying students. Priority is for students meeting criteria 4 and at this stage and a new priority is for degree courses in Gaelic, Medicine or Nursing.
4. If there is still not 6 successful applicants at this point then the students with the top UCAS scores are to receive a bursary until 6 are chosen.

Protocols and timescales for payment of bursary awards:

1. Successful applicants must provide an attendance form (supplied by the Comhairle) at the start of each term, signed by their course tutor, to verify their attendance at their University course.
2. On receipt of the first attendance form the payment of £1000 will be made into the bank account of each candidate.

Change of circumstances – payback of award:

1. If a bursary recipient drops out of University during the year then they may be required to pay back a proportion of the bursary – first term may require payback of £500 and an invoice will be issued for this amount by the Comhairle if necessary. Payback is subject to the consideration of special circumstances by the Chief Officer, Education and Children's Services.

Change of circumstances – increased funds available:

1. If the Ross and Cromarty funding available increases significantly due to increased interest rates or years where no award could be issued (e.g. 2023/24 and 2024/25), then up to 8 bursaries may be awarded in the following financial year. There is to be no buildup of funds held. In a normal year the remaining annual funding after bursaries are paid out are available for payments to individuals or groups under Sections 13 to 29. Applications will be invited for Sections 13 to 29 of the Trust in the period from October till Christmas each year after the student bursaries have been awarded.