

WICKLOW SPORTS & RECREATION PARTNERSHIP & WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, supported by Sport Ireland.



KATIE TAYLOR BURSARY FOR THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION 2026-27

BURSARY GUIDELINES

To build on its role in promoting social inclusion, Wicklow County Council has established an Educational Bursary for undergraduate degree courses (**Level 7 or 8**). The Katie Taylor Bursary is a Sports Scholarship intended for people who have excelled at and displayed potential and dedication to their chosen sport.

This bursary provides financial assistance to individuals who may be unable to pursue a course of study while maintaining sporting success due to economic, social, or other disadvantages.

DETAILS OF BURSARY

One bursary is available, providing €1,500 per academic year to the successful applicant for three years. A fourth year may be approved by Wicklow County Council. All payments are subject to funding availability and compliance with the scheme's conditions.

A student who receives a bursary and then must repeat a year will not receive the bursary for that repeat year. Furthermore, it will be at the discretion of Wicklow County Council whether such a student will receive the bursary for the subsequent years of their degree course.

Bursaries may be deferred at Wicklow County Council's discretion. Continuation of the Bursary will be subject to certification of the candidate's satisfactory performance, including attendance and results for each academic year and continued participation in their sport.

This bursary is funded by Wicklow County Council.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A BURSARY

Applications are invited from male and female athletes living in County Wicklow who are currently enrolled in the first year of a Level 7 or Level 8 undergraduate degree in the 2026/27 academic year.

Applicants must meet the residency and other eligibility requirements below. Their degree does not need to be sports-related.

The bursary supports applicants in their capacity as competing athletes. Coaching or officiating alone does not qualify an applicant.

Secondary school students and students on PLC or postgraduate courses are not eligible.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

- Applicants must be enrolled at a recognised third-level educational institution in the Republic of Ireland, the UK (including Northern Ireland), or the EU.
- Applicants must show the ability, motivation, and commitment to successfully complete their chosen course.
- Applicants must be enrolled in the first year of a Level 7 or Level 8 undergraduate degree in the 2026/27 academic year.
- A **high level of attendance** must be maintained across all course modules for the duration of study.
- Applications must include an **academic or sports reference**.
- Applicants should demonstrate how the bursary will help them continue their education and participation in sport at a high level by reducing existing barriers.
- Satisfactory **academic performance** must be maintained and proven throughout the course.
- Mature students will be assessed by **Wicklow County Council** on an individual basis to determine eligibility.
- Applicants (and their parents/guardians, where applicable) must have been **resident in County Wicklow since 1 October 2022**. Documentary proof may be required.

- Applicants must meet one of the following **nationality conditions**:
 - Hold EU nationality
 - Have official **Refugee Status**
 - Have been granted **Humanitarian Leave to Remain** in the State
 - Have permission to remain in the State through **marriage to an Irish or EU national** residing and working in the State (or be their child)
 - Be a national of a **European Economic Area (EEA)** member country
 - Be a **Ukrainian resident in Wicklow** under Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection

SELECTION PROCESS

The primary aim of the Bursary is to empower students to reach their full potential in both education and sport by providing financial support to help overcome barriers that may hinder their progress. Applicants are encouraged to outline, through a personal statement, how this assistance will enable them to pursue their studies and maintain their commitment to high-level sporting performance.

All information provided will be subject to verification, and supporting documentation may be requested during the selection process. Wicklow County Council will appoint a selection panel to assess applications based on merit and eligibility. Applicants who meet the specified criteria may be shortlisted for interview.

Shortlisted applicants will be given at least one week's notice of the date, time and location of their interview. Interviews will be held during the academic year. Applicants who are not shortlisted will be notified in due course. Wicklow County Council's decision on each application will be final.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, complete the following steps:

1. **Complete all three parts of the application form:**
 - **Part 1:** Applicant's details and personal statements.
 - **Part 2:** Household information, completed by a parent/guardian or by the applicant if a mature student.
 - **Part 3:** Academic/sport reference, completed by the applicant's referee.

Please type your responses or complete the form clearly in black pen, to ensure your statement is legible. E-signatures are accepted.

2. **Complete both personal statements in Part 1 of the application form.** Each statement must provide precise, relevant information and **must not exceed 500 words.**
 - **Section A:**
 - Expand on your sporting interest and achievements
 - Your interest in your chosen course and evidence to demonstrate this interest.
 - Your personal strengths and experiences which you believe will help you to succeed at college.
 - Details of any employment, work experience, placement or voluntary work which you consider support your application.
 - Any other interests or achievements.
 - Any other information which you consider supports your application.
 - **Section B:**
 - Outline any economic, social or other disadvantage, including disability, experienced by you or your household.
 - Explain how the bursary would help you continue your studies and perform at a high level in your sport.
3. Attach confirmation of your accepted place or proof of enrolment showing your name, institution and Level 7 or Level 8 degree course for 2026/27. If this document does not confirm that you are currently in first year, please provide separate confirmation.
4. **Submit your completed application and supporting documents:**
 - **By email:** wicklowlsp@wicklowcoco.ie
 - **Or by post:** Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow.

AWARD OF BURSARY

The bursary will be awarded on the basis of the applicant's application and interview, subject to:

- The information supplied being true and accurate.
- Confirmation that the applicant is enrolled in the first year of an eligible undergraduate degree at a recognised institution in the Republic of Ireland, the UK (including Northern Ireland), or the EU.
- Disclosure of any other bursary or scholarship the applicant is receiving. Receiving another award does not automatically disqualify an applicant from the Katie Taylor Bursary.

All sections of the application form must be completed in full and submitted with the required supporting documents by the closing deadline.

Wicklow County Council reserves the right to withdraw any award of the Bursary at any time.

Closing deadline: 12 noon on Monday 4 January 2027.

For queries, contact Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership:

Phone: 0404 20100

Email: wicklowlsp@wicklowcoco.ie