

Learner Fund Graduate Bursary – 2024
Application

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) will re-open the Learner Fund Bursary to Early Learning and Care practitioners who are new graduates of a recognised Early Childhood Education and Care degree programme. The local City/County Childcare Committees (CCC) will process and appraise Learner Fund Graduate Bursary applications.

1. The qualification for which the bursary is paid must be either:
 - a. On the DCEDIY Early Years Recognised Qualifications list and indicated as meeting the qualification requirements for lead educator graduate premium.

Or

 - b. The applicant must hold a letter of eligibility to practice from DCEDIY which states that the qualification meets the standard for lead educator graduate premium.
2. The award must be placed at level 7/8/9 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and was achieved in the academic years 2015-2024.
3. The bursary amount will be €1,000.
4. The qualification must be a full, major award; the bursary will not be paid in respect of partially completed awards.
5. The qualification for which the bursary is paid must be that which qualifies the person to work in the Early Learning and Care sector (and is at least level 7 on the NFQ).
6. Applicants may only apply once and cannot be granted the Learner Fund Graduate bursary for a second time if they have already received it before.
7. The applicant cannot have received any public funding in support of their completing the award relating to this application.
8. The bursary is only available to experienced practitioners who were working in a Tusla registered Early Learning & Care service or as a Tusla registered Childminder prior to beginning their course.
9. Applicants must be currently working in a Tusla registered Early Learning & Care Service. Childminders registered with Tusla can apply for the Graduate Bursary.
10. Staff working in standalone School Age Childcare services are not eligible to apply.
11. Applicants can apply with a full transcript of the completed degree in lieu of a graduating certificate. A full transcript; can be obtained from the educational institution and must show clearly that the learner has been awarded the full degree. **Screenshots or downloads from student accounts / portals will cannot be accepted.**
12. Applicants should apply with the name used in the certificate or transcript. Photographic identification must be provided along with any supporting documents.
13. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.
14. Decision of the CCC is final and cannot be appealed.

Timeframe for applications:

12 th August	Call for applications open by CCCs
27 th September	All forms must be fully completed (incl. supporting documents) and returned by email to your local CCC no later than 5pm on Friday 27 th September 2024.
Week of 11 th Nov	CCCs pay approved applicants

Application for Learner Fund Bursary

Information provided by the applicant will be used only for the purpose it was intended and will be retained by the CCC for financial audit purposes only. Names of applicants and qualification level are disclosed to Pobal for the purposes of administering payments arising from applications. Information may be shared with DCEDIY for verification purposes; but will not be stored or retained in any way by DCEDIY. The DCEDIY Data Privacy Statement applies and can be viewed on their website: <https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/68bb14-department-of-children-and-youth-affairs-data-protection/>

Name of Current Early Learning and Care service or Childminding Service:		Service reference number:	
Name of Early Learning and Care service or Childminding Service prior to undertaking course:		Service reference number:	

Please tick relevant section	I am employed in an Early Learning and Care service		I am employed as a registered Childminder	
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Name:		Award for which bursary is claimed:	
Phone:		Graduating Year:	
Email:			
Address:			

Beneficiary Pay Details: If approved, the bursary will be transferred to your bank account. In order to facilitate this, please provide the following details.			
Account name:			
Bank Address:			
BIC:		IBAN:	

Please ensure you have attached a copy of your supporting documentation (full transcript or graduating certificate) and photographic identification.

Declaration: I, _____, declare that:

1. I was working in a Tusla registered Early Learning & Care service (or a childminder registered with Tusla) at the point when I began the above course.
2. I am currently working in a Tusla registered Early Learning & Care service (or a childminder registered with Tusla).
3. I have not previously received a Learner Fund Graduate Bursary from this, or any other CCC.
4. I have not previously received public funding in support of my completion of this award.
5. This is my sole application for the Learner Fund Graduate Bursary and I have not applied for a Learner Fund Graduate Bursary in any other CCC.

Signed: _____

Date: _____