



Ireland Health Care Scholarship Program 2025/26

Scéim Scoláireachtaí Sláinte Éireann



Atlantic Technological University (ATU)

Ollscoil Theicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh (ATU)

Optum® Ireland is a part of UnitedHealth Group®.

The Ireland Health Care Scholarship Program is funded by Optum Ireland, part of UnitedHealth Group, to enhance the performance of the health system and improve the overall health and well-being of the people we are privileged to serve and their communities.

The Ireland Health Care Scholarship Program aims to invest in a 21st century health workforce that meets the needs of tomorrow and promotes diversity in higher education by supporting young people from less advantaged and non-traditional backgrounds. The programme will be delivered by Optum Ireland in partnership with Atlantic Technological University (ATU).

- The Ireland Health Care Scholarship Program provides three scholarships to ATU Donegal, and two scholarships to ATU Sligo / ATU Galway-Mayo. The value of each award is €12,000.
- Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria and have applied for an undergraduate programme on the designated course list set out below.
- The fund is administered by the academic institution to the scholar each year subject to the scholar being in good academic standing.

How to apply

Students can apply by completing the [online application form](#) or by scanning the QR code.

Alternatively, a paper copy of the application can be completed. A scanned copy of the completed form must be sent to: irl-optumscholars@optum.com



Applications to be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, May 2, 2025

Criteria | Critéir

To be considered for The Ireland Health Care Scholarship Program applicants must:

- Have made a formal application through CAO for a place on the first year of one of the full-time undergraduate designated programmes of study in the Atlantic Technological University as listed in Appendix A for entry into the academic year 2025/26.
- Have a home address in County Donegal;
- Have studied in a secondary school in County Donegal for at least two years preceding the Leaving Certificate examinations in 2025.
- Be sitting the Leaving Cert for the first time in 2025.
- Be involved in community life and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to their community;

and

- Be recognised as being from a socio-economically less advantaged background, and provide evidence that they:
 - Qualify for SUSI and provide a letter verifying that they are eligible for State support (Maintenance Grant – Special/Full/75%/25% and/or Tuition Fee Grant (full or part) under the Student Finance Scheme.
- Applicants may provide details of other obstacles that hinder access to third-level education (emotional, physical, cultural or social).

School Principal reference forms

The School Principal must complete the [principal reference form](#).

This reference is confidential and should be submitted either online or as a scanned copy sent to irl-optumscholars@optum.com by **Friday, May 2, 2025**.

The online principal reference can also be completed by scanning the QR code.



- As part of the selection process, shortlisted applicants will be invited to provide a video clip in response to certain questions as part of the final assessment of applications.
- Applicants must read and comply with the Terms and Conditions.

Applicants are strongly advised to make an application to Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) as soon as possible.

Designated course list 2025/26 | *Liosta na gCúrsaí*

ATU Donegal | OTA Dún na nGall

AU391	Health and Social Care	AU361	Computer Science
AU390	Early Childhood Care, Health & Education	AU363	Computing in Data Science & Artificial Intelligence
AU290	Inclusive practice for Special Needs Assistants	AU362	Cyber Psychology
AU372	Bioanalytical Science	AU360	Applied Computing
AU370	Food Science & Nutrition	AU262	Computing with Cybersecurity & Digital Forensics
AU373	Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Science	AU261	Computing
AU270	Science (Common Entry) Dental Nursing	AU351	Electronic Engineering
AU173	Health Science with Dietetics Studies		
AU172	Health Science with Occupational Therapy Studies		
AU171	Health Science with Physiotherapy Studies Pharmacy Technician		
AU170	General Nursing		
AU174	Intellectual Disability Nursing		
AU380	Mental Health Nursing		
AU382			
AU381			

ATU Sligo | OTA Sligeach

AU965	Science (Common Entry)	AU831	Mechatronic Engineering
AU969	Biomedical Science	AU834	Precision Engineering & Design
AU858	Biomedical Science	AU941	Robotics & Automation
AU968	Pharmaceutical Science with Drug Development	AU955	Computing
AU857	Pharmaceutical Science with Drug Development	AU845	Computing
AU972	Human Nutrition	AU956	Computer Networks & Cyber Security
AU862	Human Nutrition	AU846	Computer Networks & Cyber Security
AU973	Clinical Measurement Physiology	AU957	Software Development
AU861	Health Science & Physiology	AU847	Software Development
AU919	Early Education and Care		
AU918	Social Care Practice		

Designated course list 2025/26 | *Liosta na gCúrsaí*

ATU Sligo, St Angela's | OTA Sligeach, San Aingeal

AU991	General Nursing
AU992	Intellectual Disability Nursing

ATU Galway City | OTA Cathair na Gaillimhe

AU647	Biomedical Engineering	AU677	Computing & Digital Media
AU547	Biomedical Engineering	AU577	Computing & Digital Media
AU656	Science (Undenominated)	AU676	Computing in Software Development
AU556	Science (Undenominated)		
AU670	Applied Biology & Biopharmaceutical Science	AU576	Computing in Software Development
AU569	Applied Biology & Biopharmaceutical Science	AU642	Software & Electronic Engineering Capitals
AU668	Chemical & Pharmaceutical Science	AU542	Software & Electronic Engineering Capitals
AU568	Chemical & Pharmaceutical Science		
AU671	Medical Science		
AU663	Public Health Nutrition		

ATU Mayo | OTA Maigh Eó

AU690	General Nursing
AU691	Psychiatric Nursing
AU696	Applied Social Care
AU593	Applied Social Care
AU695	Early Childhood Education & Care
AU592	Early Childhood Education & Care

Terms and conditions | *Téarmaí agus Coinníollacha*

- The Selection Panel will consider the application form, reference and supporting documentation to determine who will be awarded a Scholarship. Evaluation of applications will be on the basis of academic achievement, demonstration of impact on studies, future career potential and personal and family circumstances. Applicants who demonstrate greater financial need will be prioritised in the case of multiple applications of the same standard. The Selection Panel's decision is final. Successful applicants will be notified as soon as possible after the issue of the Leaving Certificate Results.
- Any offer of a Scholarship is dependent upon information being truthful and accurate and upon the applicant fulfilling all of the conditions of the Scholarship. The right to withdraw an offer is maintained in the event of any error or omission whatsoever in the information provided by or on behalf of the applicant. The Scholar will be given fourteen (14) days' notice in writing that the offer is being withdrawn.
- Scholarships will only be awarded to applicants who have been formally offered a place on a designated course by the Institution on the basis of Leaving Cert results.
- Scholarships will not be awarded, and funds will not be processed unless evidence of an exemption from paying the Leaving Certificate Examination Fee and/or a letter of formal approval from Student Universal Support Ireland ("SUSI") verifying the applicant's entitlement to any form of a Maintenance Grant and and/or Tuition Fee Grant is submitted to the Selection Panel.
- Detailed feedback is not available in the case of an unsuccessful application.
- Each Scholarship is for the named person on the application only.
- Successful applicants will not be permitted to hold or receive any other scholarship such as, for example only, the All-Ireland/ Naughton/ Ernst Walton/ 1916 Bursary and may therefore have to elect which scholarship to receive.
- Depending on the designated course of study, the Institution may retain the Scholarship fund to cover the cost of the tuition fees and the balance will be processed to the Scholar as per the specified schedule following registration of the Scholar with the Institution. In the event that the tuition fees are provided for due to the nature or the course, the Institution will process the entire fund to the Scholar in accordance with the schedule of payments.
- The Scholar recipient will be notified of the schedule of payments by Optum Ireland or its representative or the Institution.
- Scholarships will be renewed each year subject to the scholar being in good academic standing. Scholars will be expected to adhere to the regulations of the Institution and to undergo every term examination or any other examination determined by the authorities of the Institution determined by the authorities of such Institution for their course.
- The Scholar must commence his or her programme of study in the academic year noted in the Scholarship award. The Scholar must successfully complete their programme of study within the standard timeframe. The duration of the Scholarship will be clearly stated upon confirmation of award and will not be extendable to cover any deferred or repeated year unless Optum Ireland elects in its sole discretion to extend the Scholarship period. Authorised postponements will be considered only in exceptional circumstances, and for a valid reason. If no reasons are provided, it will remain within the discretion of Optum Ireland to withdraw the Scholarship.

Terms and conditions | *Téarmaí agus Coinníollacha*

- The Selection Panel reserves the right to award a Scholarship to an applicant who fails to provide evidence of an exemption from paying the Leaving Certificate Examination Fee and/or a letter of formal approval from SUSI verifying the applicant's entitlement to any form of a Maintenance Grant and/or Tuition Fee Grant in circumstances where the Selection Panel is satisfied that the applicant has demonstrated sufficient hardship (physical/emotional/social/cultural) in accessing or maintaining a third-level course of study.
- Payment of Scholarships will be administered by the Institution on proof of registration with the Institution on a designated course.
- The Scholarship will be processed to the Scholar as per the specified schedule following registration of the Scholar with the Institution.
- The Scholar will be expected to attend a Scholarship Awards Ceremony (date to be agreed by all parties) to be formally presented with the award. The Scholar may also be required to attend an awards ceremony in the Institution and the Institution will invite a representative from Optum Ireland to attend.
- The Scholar will be expected to take part in the promotion of the Scholarship and may be asked for a photograph and personal statement for use in promotional material. The Scholar's contact details (email address, phone number and postal address) will be retained by Optum Ireland for the purpose of administering the Scholarship only.
- The Scholar will agree to allow the Institution to share certain data (name, course, student ID number, institution, etc.) within the Institution as required.
- Optum Ireland reserves the right to withdraw a Scholarship where a student is deemed not be of good academic standing by the Institution.
- Immediate family members of any UnitedHealth Group or Optum Ireland senior employees or executives are not eligible for Optum Ireland's Scholarships.
- Optum Ireland reserves the right to amend these Scholarship Terms and Conditions on notice to the Institutions and Scholars.
- Subject to the requirements of the applicable Data Protection Legislation, the Scholar will agree to allow the Institution to share certain data (name, course, student ID number, institution, etc.) with other parties within the Institution as required with the Scholar's express permission. For purposes of these Terms and Conditions, the "Data Protection Legislation" means any and all laws relating to data protection, the processing of personal data, privacy and/or electronic communications in force from time in Ireland, as applicable, including Regulation (EU) 2016/679 ("General Data Protection Regulation" or "GDPR") and any legislation implementing or revising such legislation in applicable EU member states, including the Irish Data Protection Act 2018.

Privacy notice | *Fógra Príobháideachais*

Optum Services (Ireland) Limited (“Optum” or “Optum Ireland”) observes principles of good information handling and take all reasonable care when handling “personal data” – information that identifies or is capable of identifying individuals. Optum Ireland process personal data in accordance with applicable data protection laws. Optum Ireland is the controller of personal data processed in administering the Optum Ireland Health Care Scholarship (the “Scholarship”).

Optum Ireland may collect the following information from you for the purpose of administering the Scholarship: name, course, student ID number, institution, details of educational and personal background, personal statement, home address, phone number, email address, personal and academic references, academic records, photographs and video images. Special categories of personal data may be collected by us if included in the details of educational and personal background.

Optum Ireland’s legal bases to use and process your personal data include:

- The performance of a contract with you and/or the academic institution for your benefit in obtaining the Scholarship;
- Your consent, where applicable, which you may subsequently withdraw at any time by contacting us through the details provided below, without affecting the lawfulness of processing based on consent before its withdrawal;
- Optum Ireland’s legitimate interests to establish and manage the Scholarship including promoting the Scholarship; and
- Optum Ireland’s legal obligation to comply with applicable laws and regulations.

Optum Ireland will only retain personal data about you that is necessary for the purposes described above and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it is kept up-to-date and accurate. From time to time we may ask you to review and update the personal data we hold.

We will need to share your personal data with the academic institution and third-party vendors for certain services. We will only do so when necessary for legitimate purposes such as the administration of the Scholarship and promoting the Scholarship. The academic institution will process your personal data in accordance with its own privacy policy.

You are entitled to request access to, rectification or erasure of your personal data or restriction of processing or to object to processing of such data and other rights in accordance with applicable law. Requests should be submitted to UnitedHealth Group through uhg_privacy_office@uhg.com and to Optum Ireland through information_governance@optum.com. We will provide you with a response in accordance with applicable data protection law. Optum Ireland may refuse to provide such information in limited circumstances under applicable law.

If, having considered your personal data that we hold, you find that it is inaccurate or you otherwise have any concerns, you may request that your information be amended, erased or restricted in accordance with applicable requirements. You may contact UnitedHealth Group through uhg_privacy_office@uhg.com or Optum Ireland through information_governance@optum.com at any time about concerns you may have regarding the processing of your personal data. You also have the right to lodge a complaint before the relevant data privacy authority should we violate applicable data privacy laws(s) in our processing of your personal data.

Privacy notice | *Fógra Príobháideachais*

We request that you provide us with accurate and up-to-date personal data. Should you make a request to access the information we hold about you, we may require that you provide us with further information so that we can be satisfied of your identity, subject to any applicable local restrictions.

Optum Ireland take appropriate physical, technical and organisational security measures to guard against unauthorised or unlawful access and processing of your personal data, and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, your personal data, and to ensure that your personal data is stored lawfully and securely. Examples of our security measures include:

- Optum employees who have access to personal data are made aware of their obligations to protect that information.
- Personal data in paper form is kept in filing cabinets that are only accessible by authorised Optum employees on a need-to-know basis.
- Personal data stored electronically is only accessible by authorised personnel; and
- Printed material displaying personal data is disposed of securely, for example, by shredding.

Optum Ireland may revise this Privacy Notice and the way in which it processes your personal data from time to time. You will be notified of any significant changes.



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Teicneolaíochta
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic
Technological
University



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