



Student Supports For Traveller and Roma Students 2026-2027

Further information should be sought from the Access Office of each institution to understand the full criteria required for each respective award. We have included a table below with the financial support information, as well as contact details of Traveller and Roma Support Workers (where applicable) and Access Offices, for each Higher Education Institution in Ireland.

The table below outlines the financial supports and bursaries that Traveller and Roma Students may be eligible for in the upcoming academic year. Each of the supports below are classified as income disregarded. This means that if applicants are successful in their application for the funding below, it **will not** impact their SUSI grant or Department of Social Welfare claims if relevant.

This list is not comprehensive, and we encourage all Traveller and Roma students to contact the Access Office at the institution they're attending or intend to attend to explore the supports available to them.

PATH 5 Funding is available to Higher Education Institutions to help retain existing students and increase Traveller and Roma participation in higher education. **Direct financial support and/or indirect supports for full-time and part-time students can be facilitated**, where it supports the key objectives of PATH 5.

Financial Support	Key Information	Further Information
The 1916 Bursary Fund The 1916 Bursary Fund is a financial award that supports students from underrepresented groups in higher education. Travellers and Roma are named priority group students.	• Must apply in the first year of study • Awards up to €5,000 per academic year. • Opens Thursday, 3 September, 9 a.m. • Deadline: Friday, 9 October, 5 p.m. • Financial eligibility is assessed on 2025 household income • Traveller and Roma applicants self-declare and do not need to provide supporting documentation of ethnicity	See eligibility at www.1916bursary.ie Contact your Access Office for more information.
DFHERIS Student Accommodation Assistance (DFHERIS) Provides funding to assist Traveller and Roma higher education students from Traveller and Roma, or those with care experience, to cover accommodation costs.	• Maximum of €6,000 per academic year (€3,000 for one semester) • Must be living independently while attending higher education • Mortgage or social housing rent is not covered • Not available to students already receiving another accommodation support such as HAP or Rent Supplement • Deadlines are set each year, usually mid-October for Semester 1 and early February for Semester 2. Confirmation of the scheme for 2026/27 is awaited	See the DFHERIS Website for more information. Contact your Access Office for more information.

The Student Assistance Fund The Student Assistance Fund provides financial support to full-time or part-time students experiencing financial difficulties while attending college.	• Awards depend on application • Deadlines vary by institution. Many open in October with a second round in February • Cannot be used towards tuition or registration fees • Emergency applications may be possible outside the normal rounds	Contact your Access Office for more information.
Tusla NTRIS Employment Support Scheme Open to Traveller and Roma students on courses that meet the requirement for employment in social work or social care with Tusla. The scheme provides paid summer work placement each year of the course and an offer of employment with Tusla on graduation.	• Up to €5,000 per year, paid fortnightly and subject to tax • Requires a minimum of 30 days of work placement between June and September in each year of the course • Must be in receipt of a student grant under SUSI • Can be held alongside a SUSI grant and the 1916 Bursary • No closing date. Applications and interviews are ongoing	See www.tusla.ie/ntris for more information
Laptop Schemes A number of institutions operate laptop loan or lending schemes for students who cannot afford a device for their course. Some of these are not specific to Traveller or Roma students, but Traveller and Roma students are eligible to apply everywhere a scheme is running.	• Availability varies between institutions and some schemes have now closed • Where a scheme is running, applications usually open in August or September • Devices provided on long-term loan and remain the property of the institution	Ask your Access Office or Student Services what is available in your institution for 2026/27.

	Where no scheme is running, the Student Assistance Fund may assist with the cost of a device	
Trinity College The Gisele Schmidt Memorial Fund for Traveller Education The Gisele Schmidt Scholars Fund for Travellers and Roma was established in 2007 at Trinity to financially support Traveller and Roma students in accessing higher education.	- Awards €1500 annually - Deadline: End of October - One Traveller or Roma will be selected for each academic year - Applies to Post-graduate and Undergraduate.	Students applying for the fund should contact the Trinity Access Programme by October of their first year.
UCD PATH 5 Bursary Available to all Traveller and Roma students in UCD, aimed at supporting access and retention by helping with college costs. Open to both part-time and full-time students.	- Awards vary case-by-case - Apply by the 23rd of each month during the academic year - Must be registered at UCD, either full-time or part-time - Financial need, with household income of less than €50,840 a year - Entered UCD through an Access Admissions Pathway - Funding is limited and is not guaranteed	See HERE for more information

UCD Cothrom na Féinne Scholarship A scholarship supporting students from Traveller, Roma, asylum seeker and refugee backgrounds to attend UCD.	● Must Apply in the first year of study ● Over 100 Scholarships of varying award levels ● Applications Open Thursday 27 August ● Applications Close Friday, 9 October	See HERE for more information
DkIT Bernard Duffy Scholarship There are two scholarships available. Each scholarship is worth €3,000 per year up to a maximum of four years.	● Must apply in first year of study ● Students must have attended one of the following Second Level Schools in Dundalk: ○ Coláiste Chú Chulainn, Coláiste Rís, De La Salle, O’Fiaich, Louis Secondary School, Mary’s College, Vincent’s Secondary School ● Have been deemed eligible for the HEAR Scheme ● Opening Date: October 2026. Students will be notified once Online Application Form opens	See HERE for more information
DCU DkIT Maynooth University TUS Athlone Campus The KickStart Scholarship Fund The KickStart Scholarship Fund, established by the Probation Service and supported by the Irish Prison Service, helps individuals with a criminal justice history facing socio-economic disadvantage access higher education.	● Usually opens late September, early October each academic year ● Available in DCU, DkIT, Maynooth University and TUS Athlone ● Awards one bursary of €5000 per academic year per institution ● Award one bursary of € 1,250 per academic year per institution.	Contact the relevant Access Office in DCU, DkIT, Maynooth University and TUS Athlone for more information.

Access Offices and Traveller and Roma support workers

Below is a list of the contact details, where applicable, for Traveller and Roma education worker/s in each institution. Or, where not the relevant access office

Institution	Contact Name	Contact Details
Atlantic Technological University	Sinead Campbell Traveller and Roma Education Officer	Mail: travellerandroma@atu.ie Phone: 0868302418
Dublin City University	Harry Mallon Traveller and Roma Education Officer	Mail: harry.mallon@dcu.ie Phone: 0873936231
Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art and Design	Deirdre Walsh Access Officer	Mail: access@iadt.ie Phone: 01 239 4628
Dundalk Institute of Technology	Martin O'Donnachadha Traveller And Roma Communities Outreach	Mail: Martin.ODonnachadha@dkit.ie Phone: 042 9370200
Mary Immaculate College	Access & Disability Office	Mail: AccessOffice@mic.ul.ie
Maynooth University	Natasha Wall Traveller and Roma Outreach Officer	Mail: natasha.wall@mu.ie Phone: 0871454522
Munster Technological University- Cork	Leanne McDonagh Traveller Education Coordinator	Mail: Leanne.mcdonagh@mtu.ie Phone: 021 433 5140
National College of Art & Design	Finola McTernan	Mail: mcternanf@ncad.ie

	Student Support Officer	Phone: 01 6364217
Royal College of Surgeons Ireland	Celeste Golden Access Officer	Mail: admissions@rcsi.ie Phone: 01 402 2228
South East Technological University	Shane Hamilton Traveller & Roma Education Support Worker.	Mail: Shane.Hamilton@setu.ie Phone: 059 917 5653
Technological University Dublin	Annemarie McDonagh Traveller and Roma Community Engagement	Mail: Annmarie.mcdonagh@tudublin.ie Phone: 01 220 8612
Technological University of the Shannon- Midlands Midwest	Mary Treacy Traveller Support Worker (Athlone)	Mail: mary.treacy@tus.ie Phone: 090 646 8123 Mail: access.midwest@tus.ie (Limerick)
Trinity College Dublin	Trinity Access Programme	Mail: tapadmin@tcd.ie
University College Cork	Access Office	Mail: access@ucc.ie Phone: 021 490 4807
University College Dublin	Vanessa Paszkowska Traveller & Roma Access Officer	Mail: vanessa.paszkowska@ucd.ie
University of Galway	Elaine Ryan Traveller & Roma Access Officer	Mail: elaine.m.ryan@universityofgalway.ie

University of Limerick	Edel O'Donnell Mincéir-Traveller programme Co-ordinator	Mail: edel.odonnell@ul.ie Phone: 061 233240