

SCOLÁIREACHT CHUIMHNEACHÁIN OONAGH BEAN UÍ SHÚILLEABHÁIN (NÍ CHÉILLEACHAIR)

OONAGH BEAN UÍ SHÚILLEABHÁIN (NÍ CHÉILLEACHAIR) MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



Oonagh Bean Uí Chéilleachair
Inaugural Irish Language Officer
with Mayo County Council



'Sonas Ort'

Background

This scholarship celebrates the enormous contribution of Oonagh Bean Uí Shúilleabháin (Ní Chéilleachair) to the promotion of the Irish language in her role as inaugural Oifigeach Gaeilge with Mayo County Council. Oonagh was deeply committed to enhancing positive engagement with the Irish language through inclusive, creative and most of all, enjoyable events which fostered community connections and built social relationships. Oonagh was a champion of the arts and understood the value of creative mediums such as song, drama and literature for fostering engagement with the Irish language. Throughout all her work, Oonagh maintained a strong focus on inclusion and on making sure that opportunities to engage with the language were open to all members of the community. She worked tirelessly for communities and for the Irish language.

Drawing from Oonagh's achievements and areas of interest, the aims of this scholarship are as follows:

- To recognise excellent contributions to Irish-language based arts and Irish-language community work by Mayo students
- To financially support these students to continue with their studies and endeavours with a view to making positive and impactful contributions in their communities
- To encourage and support the further development of students' skills through mentoring and community connections
- To support students in showcasing their skills to the wider community, and to act as ambassadors for the Irish language in Mayo

Mayo County Council has partnered with Creative Communities Mayo to fund this scholarship, which has participation and creativity at its core.

Award Elements

This award will be granted to a student who has demonstrated commitment and potential in the area of Irish-language community development or Irish-language based arts, and who would benefit from financial support.

The award will consist of three elements which will be tenable for 12 months:

- A monetary award to the value of €3,000, funded by Creative Communities Mayo
- Perpetual Trophy
- Development support from Oifig na Gaeilge/ Creative Communities Mayo/ Mayo Arts Service to produce a creative output or participatory initiative during the period of the Award

Eligibility

1. Applicants must be actively involved in the promotion of the Irish language in the community, or in Irish-language based arts.
2. 'Irish-language based arts' for the purpose of this scholarship includes all art forms in which the Irish language is a key component. This includes, but is not limited to, Irish-language song, poetry, creative writing, script writing, digital media, theatre, and film. Queries in relation to eligible art forms can be addressed to gaeilge@mayococo.ie
3. Students must have a strong competence in, and commitment to, the Irish Language.
4. Students must be registered in a full-time 3rd level programme of education for the academic year 2024-2025. This includes SUSI approved post-leaving certificate courses, undergraduate degrees and postgraduate degrees at both masters and PhD level. Further information on SUSI approved courses is available [here](#). If you have any queries in this regard, please contact gaeilge@mayococo.ie
5. Students must be from County Mayo and/or living in County Mayo.

Application Process

Assessment will be undertaken by an external panel of judges, based on a **written application** and **online interview**.

A) Online application forms are to be submitted by **14 October 2024** at [this link](#).

You may also wish to submit a sample of your community or artistic work to date. This may take the form of:

- Promotional material (e.g. poster, social media, webpage) for a community event, initiative or activity
- Photography or video from a community event or initiative
- A sample of your Irish-language based artistic work

If you have questions about what may be submitted in this section, please contact gaeilge@mayococo.ie

B) Shortlisted applicants will be called to interview in early November 2024.

Assessment

Entries will be assessed based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Basis of Assessment	Marks
Contribution to date	The dedication of the applicant to their community or artistic work, the quality and creativity of the work, and the degree to which it has engaged others.	40
Value of the award to the applicant	The value this award will have in terms of supporting the applicant's personal development and work, considering their personal background and any financial challenges they have faced in reaching their full potential.	40
Creative ambitions	The degree to which the applicant's proposed creative output or participatory initiative, produced as part of the Award, will foster engagement with the Irish language or Irish-language arts.	20

Responsibilities of the Successful Applicant

The scholarship recipient will be required to undertake the following as a condition of the award:

- A. Creation of a small-scale participatory or creative output representative of the scholarship's values and learnings. This can be interpreted broadly and may include production of an art piece or digital content, submission to further funding applications, organisation of a community event, teaching or mentoring, or entry to competitions.
- B. Participation in an element of a) Mayo County Council's Seachtain na Gaeilge programme in March 2025 and b) Cruinniú na nÓg Mayo (the national day for youth creativity) in May 2025. Further information on Cruinniú na nÓg can be found [at this link](#).

The awardee will be supported by Oifig na Gaeilge, Creative Communities Mayo and/or Mayo Arts Office in both of the above endeavours as appropriate.

Closing Date and Queries

Completed application forms and supporting documentation should be submitted via the Consult platform at the link below by **12:00 noon on Monday 14th October 2024**.

Application platform link: [Oonagh Bean Uí Shúilleabháin \(Ní Chéilleachair\) Memorial Scholarship | Application Form](#)

Queries on any aspect of the application may be addressed to gaeilge@mayo-coco.ie



Pictured at the launch of the Oonagh Bean Uí Shúilleabháin Memorial Scholarship at Mayo County Library are members of Oonagh's family, along with Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council and Council staff.

Back Row (L-R): Austin Vaughan, Mayo County Librarian, Skyler Kelleher (niece), Ita Kelleher, Seán Kelleher, Siobhán Kelleher (siblings), Fionnuala Nic Phóidín, Irish Officer.

Front Row (L-R): Ann Marie McGing, Arts Officer, Caoimhín Ó Súilleabháin (husband), the Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Councillor John O'Hara, Pat Kelleher (father), Joanne Grehan, Director of Services.