

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE IRISH DIASPORA EDUCATION ALLIANCE
WELCOMES APPLICATIONS FOR IRISH UNIVERSITY STUDY**

Full-time study in Ireland with reduced fee possibility for many Irish Diaspora

PHILADELPHIA (March 15, 2023) – The Irish Diaspora Center (IDC), through the work of the Irish Diaspora Education Alliance (IDEA) committee, has secured opportunities for students from the Irish Diaspora community to attend a full-time degree program at Ireland's research-led University of Galway. The cost of a four-year program in Ireland varies depending on the University; however, there are options that make studying abroad a comparable option to State and Private Universities in the United States.

Before COVID began, a group of interested parents and educators formed the IDEA committee through the IDC. The goal was to develop partnerships with Irish Universities and seek recognition for Irish Diaspora students in America with the option of earning a bachelor's degree from an accredited University in Ireland. Success came through many conversations and today, the IDEA committee is pleased to announce that University of Galway's international programs is offering accepted students the opportunity to advance to undergraduate studies in Ireland.

"This program will provide a pathway to enhance educational /academic experience and intercultural understanding that studying with an international University can provide to the involved students" stated John McDaid, Chair of the IDEA committee.

Up to nine students, selected by the University of Galway's admissions team, will obtain a 15% reduction on tuition.

Eligible students can benefit from this award beginning the school year 2023/2024 with the criteria outlined on the attached Exhibit A.

Candidates will be screened for eligibility for admission by University of Galway who shall have final and sole authority on admission and scholarship decisions.

For more information on the application process or to determine eligibility, please contact Ciaran Porter, Director of Youth Programs at the IDC via email at ciaran@idcphila.org. For information on acquiring your Irish passport based on your parent's or grandparent's birth in Ireland, please visit www.idcphila.org.

About Irish Diaspora Center

The Irish Diaspora Center (IDC), with the support of the Irish government and the local community, is a professional organization strengthening our heritage by providing the Irish Diaspora in the Greater Philadelphia area with consular, immigration and community building social services. The IIC program's focus on advocacy, community, and discovery for the Irish Diaspora and other immigrant populations through legal clinics, genealogy workshops, senior services, and youth programs.

About University of Galway

University of Galway is an award-winning university in the heart of Galway city. We are one of Ireland's oldest and most prestigious universities, with a distinguished record in teaching and research. Ranked among the top 2% of universities in the world, our courses include business, law, medicine, arts, science, and engineering and more, all built on a thriving campus centred on a strong community. We are located at the edge of Europe at the heart of a distinct and vibrant region, renowned for its unique culture, creative industries, medical technologies, marine ecology and economy, and our innovation. Our research benefits humanity, society, and the economy.

The University has a long history of welcoming international students to our campus. In fact, each year we welcome over 4,000 international students, making this university the most international in Ireland! First year undergraduate students have opportunities for placements and study abroad programmes as part of our courses, as well as access to on campus accommodation. The International Office team are committed to helping you through your journey. From wondering what course to study, through to the application and visa process, to welcoming you on campus and helping you find your home away from home. Talk to us today to find out more!

[University of Galway web site with IDEA details](#)

EXHIBIT A: UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY AND IDEA AGREEMENT FOR EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION

University of Galway agrees to implement the IDEA Student Award Agreement with the Irish Diaspora Center through its affiliated committee, the Irish Diaspora Education Alliance (IDEA), for students selected under the IDEA initiative to progress to undergraduate studies at University of Galway. The purpose of this agreement is to provide a to an enhanced educational/academic experience and the intercultural understanding that studying with an international University can provide to the involved students.

A. General

1. The purpose of this IDEA Student Award agreement is to enable, suitably qualified students to study for an undergraduate degree at University of Galway. All students will have to be assessed for their undergraduate programme at University of Galway and meet all entry criteria, and where applicable prerequisite subjects.
2. Candidates will be screened for eligibility for admission University of Galway who shall have final authority on admission decisions. General eligibility criteria set by University of Galway is a minimum 3.2 GPA on a 4.0 GPA scale, for particular programs there may be prerequisite subjects that will be mandatory for consideration for entry.
3. Under this agreement qualifying students will be eligible for 15% fee reduction on non-EU Fees for the duration of their University of Galway undergraduate programs. For the purposes of this agreement this fee reduction will form part of an annual IDC Scholarship programme.
4. University of Galway will provide up to 9 IDEA Student Awards per year, for the duration of this agreement. University of Galway will offer fee reductions to undergraduate programs in the following colleges:
 - 3 awards for The **College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies (CASSCS)**
 - 3 awards for The **College of Business, Public Policy and Law (CBPPL)**
 - 3 awards for The **College of Science and Engineering (CoSE)**
5. This agreement will commence, as a pilot, on the date of the last to sign as indicated below and will be valid for three (3) years. This Agreement may be amended by mutual, written agreement of both institutions. This Agreement may be terminated by either institution at any time by giving six (6) months' notice in writing and provided that all students enrolled in, or in process of applying to, the programs at the time notice of termination is given shall be permitted to finish their course of study. If the agreement is terminated during a student's enrollment, the 15% fee reduction on non-EU Fees shall continue for the duration of the student's University of Galway undergraduate programs.

B. Administrative Process

1. Applicants must be referred by the IDEA (Philadelphia) and this must be referenced on the application form.
2. University of Galway will confirm the applicant is eligible to be considered by contacting a designated IDC representative of the IDEA initiative, who will confirm by email that the applicant should be considered for this award. The IDC and IDEA shall have no other input or involvement in any admission decision made by University of Galway .
3. To be eligible for this programme, applicants must provide completed High School transcripts.
4. Neither IDEA or IDC are responsible for providing or certifying any information or documents provided by an applicant to University of Galway .