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University of Galway and IDEA Expand Undergraduate Scholarships for U.S. Students with Irish Citizenship Eligibility

Havertown, PA / Galway, Ireland — The Irish Diaspora Education Alliance (IDEA), an initiative of the Irish Diaspora Center (IDC), proudly announces a major expansion of its undergraduate scholarship partnership with the University of Galway, one of Ireland's most internationally engaged research universities. Beginning in Fall 2026, the University will offer up to 13 annual IDEA scholarships for qualifying U.S. students who can demonstrate both eligibility for Irish citizenship through descent and who are referred through the IDEA program and its national network of Irish centers.

The expanded agreement reflects University of Galway's longstanding ties to the United States and follows recent visits to U.S. cities by university leadership to strengthen transatlantic collaboration.

"The University of Galway has deep historic and academic links with Irish America, and this new agreement allows even more students from across the U.S. to build on that legacy," said Una McDaid, Executive Director of the Irish Diaspora Center. "Our shared goal is simple, to open doors to world-class education in Ireland for the next generation of Irish-American students."

What's New for 2026

Enhancement	Impact for U.S. Students & IDEA
Increased 15% Scholarships	Now 13 undergraduate awards annually across four colleges: Arts, Business, Science & Engineering, and Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences.
GPA-Based Scholarship Tiers	• CASSCS: A minimum 3.7 GPA • CBPPL: Meet necessary requirements • CoSE: Meet necessary requirements • CoMNHS: Minimum 3.4 GPA (School of Nursing & Midwifery) + Minimum of 3.7 GPA (School of Health Sciences). Subject specific requirements may be requested by the CoMNHS.

Enhancement	Impact for U.S. Students & IDEA
Continued Support Guarantee	Once awarded, the scholarship benefit continues for the duration of the student's degree, even if the agreement changes.
Cultural Ambassadorship	Recipients will serve as IDEA ambassadors, sharing their journey through short video reflections and participating in cultural events.

A Stronger Pathway to Study in Ireland

Under the IDEA–University of Galway agreement, students apply directly through the university portal and must be formally referred by the IDEA committee or an affiliated Irish center in the U.S. Scholarships are awarded in the following areas:

- **CASSCS** – College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies (3 awards)
- **CBPPL** – College of Business, Public Policy & Law (3 awards)
- **CoSE** – College of Science & Engineering (3 awards)
- **CoMNHS** – College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (4 awards)

Applicants must submit a completed application, academic transcripts, a personal statement, and a brief video explaining their connection to Ireland and interest in studying abroad.

"This is more than a scholarship, it's an invitation to be part of Galway's global campus and a chance to represent your Irish-American community in a meaningful way," said Caio Muller, Global Development Manager at University of Galway. "We are thrilled to expand our partnership with IDEA and welcome more students from across the Atlantic."

Currently, the University welcomes over 180 full-time North American students for the 2025 intake, making it one of the most vibrant and diverse international student communities in Ireland.

Hear From Current Scholars

Eva Stromberg, current IDEA undergraduate scholar at University of Galway, shares her experience in this video reflection.
Rachel Kelly, a recent postgraduate student, offers her perspective here.

Apply Now

Visit www.icphila.org/study-in-ireland for eligibility criteria, referral forms, and application guidance. Applications for Fall 2026 open in January.

Learn More / Apply

Visit **www.icphila.org/study-in-ireland** for eligibility details, referral forms, and application guidance.

Apply today: **Irish Diaspora Education Alliance Application and Information Sheet**

About the Irish Diaspora Education Alliance (IDEA)

IDEA is an initiative of the Irish Diaspora Center (IDC), based in Philadelphia, connecting U.S. students of Irish heritage with higher education opportunities across Ireland. Through partnerships with leading universities, including University of Galway, Dublin City University, and American College Dublin, IDEA fosters educational, cultural, and professional pathways that strengthen transatlantic community ties.

About University of Galway

University of Galway is one of Ireland's oldest and most prestigious universities, with a distinguished record in teaching and research. For over 175 years, University of Galway has been welcoming students and researchers from all over the world.

Explore our campus virtually and listen to what our students have to say about University of Galway. Ideally located in the city of Galway, the university offers a broad range of internationally recognised programmes in a welcoming academic 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. University of Galway is recognised in the top 2% Universities in the QS World University Rankings.

We are one of Ireland's top universities for graduate employability, 91% of our most-recently surveyed postgraduate students are in employment or further education within six months of graduating.

Galway is one of five global hubs for biomedicine, with 8 of the top 10 global med-tech firms based in Galway. The city is also an ICT hotspot, with Ireland being home to 8 of the top 10 global ICT companies. At University of Galway, we want to build on your passion for learning and encourage and support your desire to develop as a person, to explore new interests and to remain curious

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