



**OPTUM HEALTHCARE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME**  
**Scéim Scoláireachtaí Sláinte Optum**

**NORTH-WEST HEALTH CARE SCHOLARSHIP 2019/20**



*Creating the Healthcare Workers of the Future*  
*Todhchaí Sláin*

# CONTENTS

OPTUM AND AIMS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME	1
ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION PROCESS	3
LETTERKENNY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	6
ULSTER UNIVERSITY	7
APPENDIX A DESIGNATED COURSES LYIT	8
APPENDIX B DESIGNATED COURSE UU	9
APPENDIX C TERMS & CONDITIONS	10



## **WHO IS OPTUM?**

Optum, the fastest growing part of UnitedHealth Group, is a leading information and technology enabled health service business based in Letterkenny and is a major employer in County Donegal. Optum established its operation in Letterkenny in 1999 with 30 employees under the 'Pacificare' brand. Today, 1,000 staff are employed in Letterkenny.

## **WHY HAS THIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND BEEN ESTABLISHED?**

Optum Ireland aims to support the enhancement of the healthcare system in the region and invest in a 21st century health workforce that meets the needs of tomorrow. Optum has a diverse work-force and wishes to promote diversity in higher education by supporting young people from less advantaged and non-traditional backgrounds. The Scholarship scheme will be delivered in partnership with LYIT and Ulster University.

- The aim of the scheme is to support young people in County Donegal, particularly those who are less advantaged, to access third-level education.
- In line with the Company's mission, the scheme will support and enhance the healthcare infrastructure in the North-West.
- The scheme will incentivize general health-care courses locally as it is proven that most graduates are more likely to work in the area where they studied.
- County Donegal has a top class IT and University in the locality- Letterkenny Institute of Technology and Ulster University.

- Optum recognize the contribution that the innovative partnership between LYIT and Ulster University has made to increasing accessibility to third-level education in the North-West. Optum wish to support and promote this strategy and will work in partnership with these local institutions to administer the scholarship scheme.
- The value of the scholarship is based on assessment of the affordability of studying locally in LYIT or in Ulster University.
- The Institutes will administer the scholarship fund on a yearly basis.
- The Scholarship award will allow successful candidates to fully participate in College life and alleviate the financial burden on students and/ or their families.
- The scheme is aligned with regional and national strategies to develop the infrastructure of the North-West.
- The scheme will provide valuable information on Health-care courses and career pathways in the area and will provide assistance to Careers' Guidance Counsellors in the Secondary School Sector in County Donegal as well as students, parents/ guardians and statutory agencies (ETB, Donegal Youth Services, Muintearas and community organisations).
- In the event that an eligible candidate cannot be identified for the designated courses in Ulster University, two additional scholarships at a value of €2,500 will be allocated to eligible candidates who secure a designated place in LYIT.

THE SCHEME WILL BE OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS FROM  
 THE **4<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH 2019** AND WILL CLOSE ON THE **3<sup>RD</sup> OF MAY 2019**.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR NORTH-WEST SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

To be considered for the Optum Healthcare Scholarship Applicants must:

- ✓ have made a formal application through CAO for a place on the first year of one of the full-time undergraduate designated programs of study at LYIT as listed in Appendix B for entry into the academic year 2019/20

AND/OR

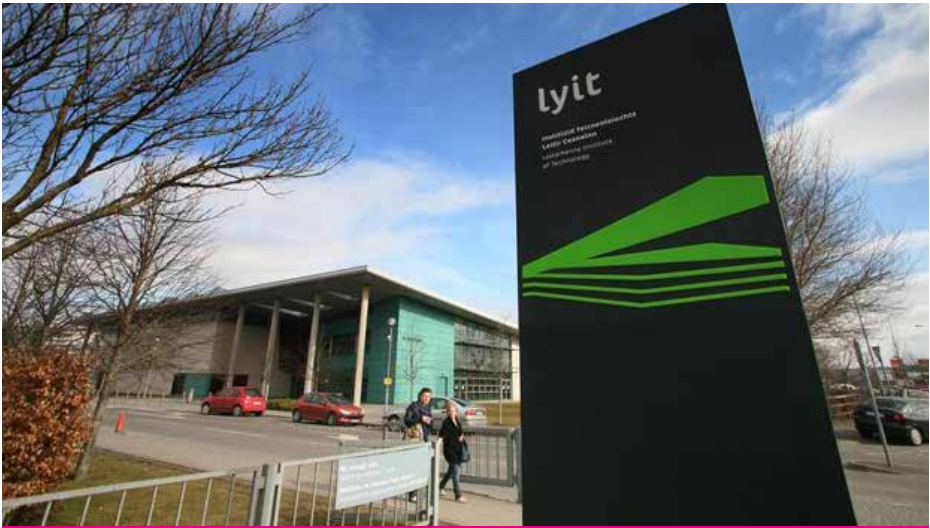
- ✓ hold a formal offer for a place on the first year of one of the full-time undergraduate designated programs of study at Ulster University as listed in Appendix C for entry into the academic year 2019/20
- ✓ have a home address in County Donegal;
- ✓ have studied in a secondary school in County Donegal for at least 2 years preceding the Leaving Certificate examinations in 2019;
- ✓ be sitting the Leaving Cert for the first time in 2019;
- ✓ be involved in community life and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to their community; and
- ✓ be recognized as being from a socio-economically less advantaged background, and provide evidence that they:-
  - qualify for exemption from payment of the Leaving Certificate Examination Fee as a result of medical card eligibility; and/or
  - are eligible for any form of 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).
- Applicants must comply with the Terms and Conditions of the Scholarship as set out in Appendix C.

## SELECTION PROCESS

- When completing the application form, Applicants must demonstrate:
  - ✓ the level of their academic achievements to date;
  - ✓ the potential impact of obtaining a Scholarship on their academic careers at the Institution;
  - ✓ their professional aspirations and how their studies will help them to achieve these;
  - ✓ financial need/hardship;
  - ✓ any other obstacles (emotional, physical, cultural or social) to accessing or sustaining a course of study at third-level as these factors will also be considered; and
  - ✓ commitment to, and willingness to contribute to the local community.
- The School Principal must complete the reference provided in the Application Pack in support of the application.
- The information that the Applicant provides in the application form is important to the Selection Panel and Applicants are advised to include as much information as possible.
- Original documents cannot be returned and Applicants are advised to save a personal copy.
- In the event that the applications of multiple Applicants for a Scholarship are of the same standard, weighting will be given to Applicants who demonstrate a greater financial need by way of Leaving Certificate Examination Fee exemption or in accordance with the thresholds as defined under the Statutory Student Grant Scheme.
- As part of the Selection Process, the Scholarship Panel reserves the right to invite Applicants to attend an informal group interview session in August 2019, to form part of the final assessment of applications.
- The Panel will operate a reserve list in the event that successful Applicant(s) opt to receive an alternative scholarship (such as All-Ireland/ Naughton/ Ernst Walton/ 1916 Bursary) or fail to provide sufficient evidence to verify their means.

- Applicants must allow adequate time for posting the application form, reference and supporting documentation to ensure that it arrives before the deadline, otherwise it will not be considered.
- The closing date for receipt of completed applications by registered post, with supporting evidence is:- **5pm on Friday 3rd of May 2019.**
- Applicants will be informed of the outcome of the application process as soon as possible in early to mid-September of each academic year.

***APPLICANTS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO MAKE AN APPLICATION TO STUDENT UNIVERSAL SUPPORT IRELAND (SUSI) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE***



**LETTERKENNY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY** was listed in October 2017 as runner-up in the Best Institute of Technology in Ireland category in the prestigious **Sunday Times Institute of Technology of the Year**.

LYIT is a lively and inspirational place that attracts a diverse mix of 3,000 students both from the local area, from across Ireland and 31 different countries. LYIT provides modern integrated campuses in Letterkenny and Killybegs which encourage strong academic learning and career-focused practical experience. LYIT has excellent facilities in all departments, such as a suite of graphic design studios, state-of-the-art nursing resources, special purpose laboratories, training kitchens and restaurant, and an on-campus business development centre, CoLab, to support spin-off enterprises. An Dánlann, a multi-media support centre houses our excellent sport and recreational facilities in addition to our medical centre, counselling service, careers office and chaplaincies.

LYIT is deeply committed to the people in the region and aims to enhance the economic prospects of the young people who study with us and in turn contribute to the prosperity of the wider communities into which they will graduate. The courses are tailored to meet the most recent knowledge and skills that employers demand. As part of this, we are involved in many cross-border programmes and are currently fostering a strategic alliance with the University of Ulster. LYIT is delighted to work in partnership with Optum, a major employer in Letterkenny, to promote and make more accessible, pathways into general Healthcare courses in LYIT.





**ULSTER UNIVERSITY** has two campuses in the North-West, Magee campus, located in Derry City, and in Coleraine. It is listed in the prestigious Times Higher Education ranking of the top 150 universities in the world under 50 years old.

Ulster is a cosmopolitan university, enabling a cohort of almost 27,000 students to meet their personal and professional ambitions. Students at Ulster University are among the most satisfied according to the most recent National Student Survey, in which the University achieved 88% on the overall satisfaction score

Ulster University was awarded a coveted THE Award 2016 for 'Most Improved Student Experience', based on the results of a survey which polled 15,000 students. Ulster University invests £42 million in research and innovation programmes each year and has an alumni network of over 160,000 alumni in 148 countries worldwide. Over 90% of Ulster University graduates go into work or further study within six months of graduating. The 2014 Research Excellence Framework identified Ulster University as one of the top 25% of UK universities for world-leading research, based on research power and 72% of Ulster University's research activity judged to be world leading or internationally excellent. Ulster University has created 20 spin-out companies which have a turnover of £28 million and employ over 290 staff.

The Magee campus hosts one of the top nursing schools in the UK and is home to the first degree in Stratified Medicine in the UK or Ireland, based at the Clinical Translational Research and Innovation Centre at Altnagelvin Hospital.

# APPENDIX A:

## LETTERKENNY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

- 2 Scholarships at a value of €2,500 per annum

### CAO ADMISSION PROCESS

#### KEY DATES:-

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: **1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2019**

CHANGE OF MIND: **1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2019**

#### SCIENCE

**LY818** Science - Common Entry with Degree Award options: Bioanalytical Science or Food Science & Nutrition or Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Science

**LY817** Bioscience

**LY837** Food Science and Nutrition

**LY867** Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Science

**LY806** Pharmacy Technician

**LY816** Dental Nursing

**LY728** Digital Healthcare

#### NURSING AND HEALTH STUDIES

**LY908** General Nursing

**LY918** Psychiatric Nursing

**LY928** Intellectual Disability Nursing

**LY968** Early Childhood Care, Health and Education

**LY978** Health & Social Care - Common Entry with Degree Award options:  
Ageing & Care or Disability Studies or Health & Social Care (General)

**LY906** Early Childhood Care, Health and Education

**LY916** Health and Social Care

#### BUSINESS, COMPUTING AND ENGINEERING

**LY618** Electronics & Embedded Systems

**LY607** Electronic/Computer Engineering

**LY717** Computing - Common Entry with Degree Award options: General  
Computing or Cloud Technology or Mobile Technology

**LY737** Computer Security and Digital Forensics

**LY708** Applied Computing

*Where a scholar is on a level 6 or 7 programme which has an add-on programme leading to a level 7 or 8 in the Institution the scholarship will be extended to cover the add-on programme.*

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Leitir Ceanainn  
Letterkenny Institute  
of Technology

## APPENDIX B:

ULSTER UNIVERSITY (North-West Campus at Magee)

- 1 Scholarship at a value of €5,000 per annum

to discharge tuition fees which the Student finance scheme does not cover and the balance will be administered to the student in accordance with an agreed scheme of payment before the end of each academic year.



### UCAS ADMISSION PROCESS

**KEY DATE:-**

UCAS APPLICATION DEADLINE: **15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019**

### COMPUTER SCIENCE

**G401** Computer Science

**G601** Computer Science (Software Systems Development)

**Q131** Irish with Computing

**G501** Information Technologies

**GH56** Electronics and Embedded Systems

**GA50** Artificial Intelligence

### HEALTHCARE

**L500** Social Work

**8H21** Stratified Medicine

*The Scholarship will cover an additional year for Scholars who successfully progress from a BSc/ BEng onto the MSc in Data Science*

## APPENDIX C: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The Scholarship 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 prioritized in the case of multiple applications of the same standard. The Scholarship Panel's decision is final. Successful Applicants will be notified as soon as possible in September.
- As part of the selection process, the Scholarship Panel reserves the right to invite Applicants to attend an informal group session in late August 2019, to form part of the final assessment of Applications.
- Successful Applicants will not be permitted to hold or receive any other Scholarship such as the All-Ireland/ Naughton/ Ernst Walton and may therefore have to elect which scholarship to receive.
- 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 Applicant will be given 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/or Tuition Fee Grant is submitted to the Selection Panel. Optum reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a Scholarship if supporting evidence is not furnished.

- Detailed feedback is not available in the case of an unsuccessful application.
- Each Scholarship is for the named person on the application only.
- The Scholarship will be processed as per the specified schedule following registration of the recipient with the Institution.
- The Scholar will be notified of the schedule of payments either by Optum and/or the Institution.
- The Scholarship fund will be retained by **Ulster University** to cover the cost of tuition fees and the balance will be paid directly to the recipient to be used for living expenses.
- The Scholarship 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 their Institution for their course. Optum reserves the right to withdraw a scholarship where a student is deemed not be of good academic standing by the Institution.
- The Scholar must commence his or her programme of study during the academic year of 2019/20. The Scholar must successfully complete their programme of study within the standard time-frame. 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 the Donor elects in its sole discretion to extend the Scholarship period. Authorised postponements will be considered only in exceptional circumstances, and for a valid reason. In the event that no reasons are provided, it will remain within the discretion of Optum to withdraw the Scholarship.
- Payment of the Scholarship will not be made if the Scholar is out of the Institution on a placement year.
- Where a Scholar is on an eligible level 6 or level 7 programme in LYIT which has an add-on programme leading to a level 7 or 8 programme, the Scholarship will be extended to include the add-on programme. The commitment to a Scholar will not extend beyond four years for this combination of courses.

- The Selection Panel reserves the right to award the 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 Student Universal Support Ireland (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 Scholar will be expected to attend a Scholarship Awards Ceremony organized by Optum (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 to attend.
- The Scholar will be expected to take part in the promotion of this 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 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.) with other parties within the Institution as required.
- This Scholarship is not open to friends or family members of Optum senior employees including Senior Director and above.
- Optum reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions on notice to the Institutions and Scholars where necessary.

For further information contact: [nodlaig.brolly@optum.com](mailto:nodlaig.brolly@optum.com)



# OPTUM SCHOLARS 2018/19

With Katie Mullan, Irish hockey Captain and Pádraig Monaghan CEO of Optum Ireland



Optum Healthcare Scholars (L-R front row)

**Jodie Gallagher**, St Columba's Stranorlar (General Nursing, LYIT)

**Sophie Carlin**, St Columba's Stranorlar (Stratified Medicine, UU Magee)

**Liam Orr**, Loreto Milford (Medicine, NUIG)

**Caoilinn Diver**, Carndonagh Community School (MPharmacy, UU Coleraine)

**Rónán Hegarty**, St Columba's Glenties (Computing, LYIT)

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