

NO MIND LEFT BEHIND

NO MIND LEFT BEHIND IS AN INITIATIVE DEVELOPED BY THE IRELAND FUNDS AND LONGTIME IRELAND FUNDS' DONORS JOHN AND PAULINE RYAN TO GIVE PROMISING YOUNG PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE THIRD-LEVEL EDUCATION BY PROVIDING AN ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP TO COVER THE COSTS OF BOOKS, ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER KEY EXPENSES.

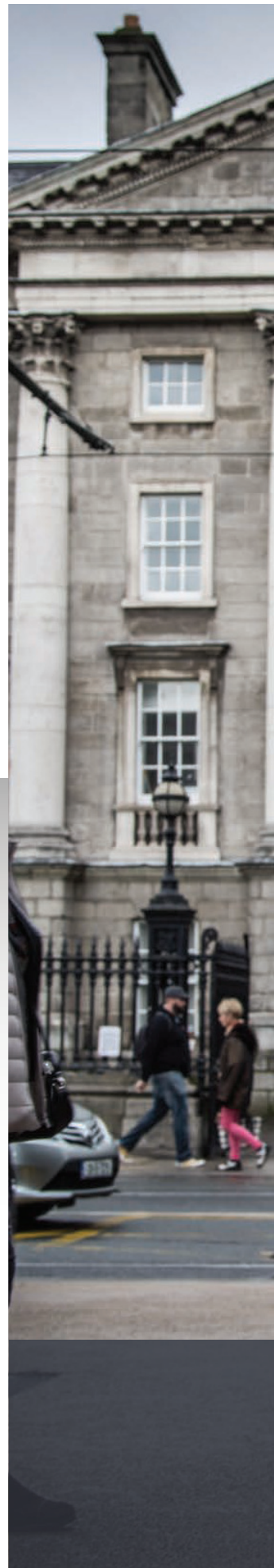
All across the island of Ireland there are promising young people from areas of severe social disadvantage who need an opportunity to enter third-level education.

Although undergraduate tuition fees are covered by the Irish government, the current reality for students is that the additional expenses associated with pursuing third level studies are both extensive and burdensome. These unacknowledged expenses are often the cause for a promising student from a lower socio-economic background to abandon their studies. Once selected for the NMLB scholarship, the progress of the scholars is monitored as they must demonstrate successful progression through each year of their course.

The Ireland Funds is proud that over 110 scholarships, to the value of €1,680,000, have been funded to date by our donors giving young people a chance to build strong foundations for their futures.

The No Mind Left Behind Program provides €3,000-€4,000 per academic year to ensure a student's full potential is met.

In 2019-2020, The Ireland Funds has 97 No Mind Left Behind Scholars in 23 colleges and universities across the island of Ireland.





Photos: Aengus McMahon

FROM DONEGAL STUDYING BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AT TRINITY COLLEGE

ADAM

“I COME FROM A FAMILY OF 5 KIDS.


We live in a small town called Buncrana in County Donegal. I'm currently studying biological and biomedical sciences here in Trinity. Hopefully after that I'd love to specialize in genetics and ideally go into research. I first heard about the No Mind Left Behind scholarship through my secondary school. In Buncrana there's just not a lot of job opportunities for people my age, because it's such a small town.

I applied and a couple weeks later my principal called me. I was over the moon. My parents couldn't believe it. I was thinking I was going to have to take out a student loan, I had already made an application and everything.

Coming from a family with five kids, my parents will eventually have to put four others through university. It's a weight off their shoulders and it has meant I can immerse myself fully in the college experience. It also means I can afford everything from books to a lab coat and occasionally go home and see my family.

I've heard from a lot of my fellow students that they find it extremely hard to balance studies with work, particularly in our course as it's very information-heavy. In that way the scholarship has benefited me as I'm able to focus solely on my studies without having to work long hours at night.”

“I’M JUST SO GRATEFUL THAT SOMEONE OUT THERE WAS WILLING TO DONATE TO GIVE ME A BETTER COLLEGE EXPERIENCE. IT’S A REALLY HEARTWARMING THING TO KNOW THAT SOMEONE WOULD DO THAT.”



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"YOU DON'T THINK THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE THAT GENEROUS IN LIFE, BUT HERE IS SOMEONE GIVING FOR ME TO HAVE A BETTER EDUCATION. IT MAKES ME SO HAPPY. SO SOMEDAY, I JUST WANT TO GIVE IN RETURN. IT IS A FLOW."



WURAOOLA

FROM DROGHEDA
STUDYING HEALTH SCIENCES AT
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

“I WAS BORN IN NIGERIA

and came to Ireland when I was three years old when my family was seeking asylum. My family lives just outside Drogheda. In secondary school I got good grades, was involved with sports and I just loved school! At the end of my time there, my principal contacted me and said, 'I was talking with your teachers and they tell me you are a great student. There is a scholarship for you...' I hadn't been working hard thinking it would result in that. The fact that my work had been noticed was so meaningful. I had always hoped to continue my studies but the logistics and cost of everything from accommodation to costs was overwhelming. I hadn't wanted to stress my family out with it.

When I told my mom about the scholarship, she cried. She knew how hard I'd been working. She knew how late I would stay up to finish just one more chapter. There is no way my parents would have been able to pay for my accommodation and expenses for college. The No Mind Left Behind scholarship allows me to focus on my academics rather than having to work during the weekends.

One day I was just thinking about this scholarship, 'Imagine. Someone I don't know is actually giving their money for people like me to study.'"

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ENABLE A DESERVING IRISH STUDENT TO FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION?

Donors can select the city, county, secondary school or university in Ireland or Northern Ireland to which they would like the scholarship to be awarded. It is an opportunity for donors to not only invest in a deserving student, but to honor their area of ancestry.

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