

Quercus Active Citizenship Scholarship 2019/20 Criteria and Terms of Reference

1. General Criteria

University College Cork is pleased to announce that up to 3 Quercus Scholarships for Active Citizenship will be awarded to students registered on an undergraduate/level 8 programme in 2019/20 who can demonstrate an exceptional level of excellence in this area and who have successfully been selected by the Scholarship Panel for a Quercus Scholarship.

Quercus Scholarships for Active Citizenship will be awarded by a Scholarship Panel which may consist of the following:

- The President of UCC, or nominee
- The Vice President for Teaching and Learning, UCC
- Two senior members of UCC academic staff with appropriate experience in Active Citizenship.
- Admissions Officer, UCC, or nominee
- Director of Student Experience, UCC, or nominee
- External member invited by the President.

Those applicants shortlisted for interview may submit a portfolio of their work in this field, submitted in any suitable format beforehand.

(Submitted materials may not be returned to applicant)

It is hoped that all interviews will take place in April/May 2019.

Scholarships will be offered to applicants who satisfy the Scholarship Panel (and in turn UCC) as to their suitability to the Quercus Talented Students' Programme and who can demonstrate excellence in the field of Active Citizenship. The panel's decisions will be final. However, feedback on any individual student can be requested.

The Scholarship can be renewed for subsequent years, subject to a Scholar making a sufficient contribution to the life of UCC, engaging with the activities of the Quercus Talented Students' Programme and being able to progress to the next level of study in their academic programme.

Scholars may not hold a Scholarship during an academic year spent abroad or on work placement. Renewal will be decided at the end of the academic year prior to the year spent abroad or on work placement and will be "carried forward" to the year after the academic year spent abroad or on work placement.

Scholars will be expected to act as ambassadors for UCC in terms of their participation in Active Citizenship activities and in their participation in activities designed to promote the Quercus Talented Students' Programme.

2. Applying for a Quercus Scholarship

To apply for a Quercus Scholarship you must:

- Be either a registered UCC student, or apply through CAO for a place on an undergraduate/level 8 programme at University College, Cork in 2019/20.
- Read the criteria and Terms of Reference of the Quercus Active Citizenship Scholarship.
- Apply through the online application process for Quercus Active Citizenship Scholarship and submit it by **February 8th, 2019**. Remember to include the two required references.

Successful applicants will:

- Meet the minimum entry requirements (matriculation) of their desired undergraduate/level 8 programme, while currently registered students will need to have attained higher honours in their end of year examinations to be eligible. Applicants do not need to be pursuing a related programme to be deemed eligible.
- Be able to provide evidence of sustained engagement in Active Citizenship and have demonstrated significant impact through a regional or national profile for leadership in active citizenship. Evidence of:
 - Leadership
 - Sustained commitment and
 - A discernible outcome or impact in one or more of the following domains of active citizenship: Volunteering, Advocacy, Community Engagement, Social Regeneration, Social Entrepreneurship would be required.
- Have exhibited excellence and the potential to develop that excellence in their chosen field with recognition at regional, national, or international level for their Citizenship efforts. One-off demonstrations of Active Citizenship will be insufficient to be deemed eligible for this Award.
- Be expected to act as ambassadors for UCC and the Quercus Programme in terms of their participation in their chosen field.

Where there are equivalent levels of excellence applicants deemed able to contribute most to UCC will be selected.

Please note that the Quercus Scholarships are open to students applying for any undergraduate/level 8 programme offered by UCC.

Please note an applicant will only be able to take up a Scholarship after accepting an offer of a place at University College Cork through the CAO.

Quercus Active Citizenship Scholarships

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Scholars can expect:

- A letter confirming the award of the prestigious Scholarship;
- The opportunity to work with a mentor from within or outside the University to help the development of their active citizenship;
- The opportunity to work with a mentor from within the University to help ensure that a healthy and appropriate lifestyle balance is maintained whilst at University College Cork;
- The renewal of your Quercus Scholarship on an annual basis (excepting years spent abroad or on a work placement) subject to your adherence to the terms and conditions below.

As a Quercus Scholar of UCC you must agree to abide by the following terms and conditions. Failure to abide by the following terms and conditions may result in your Scholarship being revoked with immediate effect.

Scholars will be required to:

- Engage with, and participate in, the activities of the Quercus Talented Students' Programme as advised to them from time to time;
- Be available to meet potential undergraduate/level 8 applicants at one University Open Day per academic year;
- Be available as a peer mentor where required;
- Support the University's overall student recruitment strategy;
- Play an active role in UCC where appropriate;
- Be a positive ambassador for UCC at all times including the promotion of UCC in any external interviews or publications associated with your field.

In order for the scholarship panel to consider the renewal of your scholarship you must:

- Have successfully completed the current level of study and have been allowed to progress to the next level of study.
- Provide a detailed Annual Report of no more than 1,000 words to the Scholarships' Panel by the due date (July 1st, 2020).

The renewal of Scholarships will be decided by the Scholarships Panel. The panel's decisions will be final. However, applicants may write to the Quercus Talented Students' Programme requesting the reasons for any decision made on their Scholarship.

If at any point you are unfortunately unable to meet your academic and/or your scholarship commitments your scholarship payments/benefit will be handled as follows.

Withdrawal or Suspension of Studies and Repeat Years

Withdrawal

Scholars who withdraw from their scholarship commitments or from UCC will have all future scholarship payments/benefits cancelled.

If you withdraw, at any point during the teaching term, scholarship payments/benefits which have already been made will be reclaimed on a *pro rata* basis. Under exceptional circumstances, this decision can be reviewed by the Chair of the Panel and approval given for the student to retain any overpayments.

Suspension of Studies

Scholars who suspend their scholarship commitments or academic studies will have all future scholarship payments/benefits cancelled.

If you suspend your studies at any point during the teaching term, scholarship payments/benefits which have already been made will be reclaimed on a *pro rata* basis. Under exceptional circumstances, this decision can be reviewed by the Chair of the Panel and approval given for the student to retain any overpayments. Mitigating circumstances for the re-instatement of the scholarship may be put forward for consideration by the Chair of the Panel. The remaining yearly balance will become payable on resumption of academic and scholarship commitments.

Repeating an Academic Year

Scholars who are required to repeat an academic year **will not** receive scholarship payments/benefits during the repeat year of study. Scholarship payments/benefits would recommence once the recipient has progressed to the next level of study and is meeting their scholarship commitments.

Exceptional Circumstances

Students withdrawing from, suspending or repeating their studies, due to illness, bereavement or other exceptional circumstances will be dealt with on a case by case basis.