

Learner Fund Bursary

The Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA) will re-open the Learner Fund Bursary (announced early 2017) to Early Years practitioners who have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 7, Level 8, or Level 9 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications since the inception of the Learner Fund (2013). This qualification must be on the DCYA Early Years Recognised Qualifications list. The bursary amount will be €750. The local City/County Childcare Committees (CCC) will process/appraise Learner Fund Bursary applications.

To be considered eligible for the Learner Fund Bursary, an applicant must:

- Have graduated with a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 7/8/9 on the National Framework of Qualifications in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 or 2017;
- Have a Qualification which is on DCYA Early Years Recognised Qualifications list, evidenced by a graduating certificate;
- Have been working in a registered Early Years Service prior to beginning their course;
- Be currently working in a registered Early Years Service;
- Have submitted a completed application form (along with all relevant documentation) to their local CCC no later than **5 pm on Wednesday 14th March 2018**.

In addition:

- The applicant cannot have received the Learner Fund bursary previously;
- The applicant cannot have received any public funding in support of their completing the award relating to this application;
- A letter of eligibility to practice will also be accepted by DCYA providing the individual has received same on foot of an application made before the end of September 2017;
- The qualification for which the bursary is paid must be that which qualifies the person to work in the Early Years sector. (DCYA is aware that an increasing number of qualified practitioners choose to pursue post-graduate education to further advance their practice, but is not in a position to provide funding in respect of this)

Timeframe for applications:

Wk beg 19 th Feb 2018	Notice of LF bursary application process opening will be published/disseminated by CCCs at local level – CCCs can provide the guide/application form to interested practitioners
26 th February	Call for applications open by CCCs
14 th March	Deadline for applications – close at 5 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE:

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

The DCYA will make the decision on funding and all decisions are final.

Application for Learner Fund Bursary

Current Early Years service:		DCYA reference number :	
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Name:		Award for which bursary is claimed:	
Phone:			
Email:			
		Graduating Year:	

Beneficiary Pay Details: If approved, the bursary will be transferred to your bank account. In order to facilitate this, please provide the following details.			
Account name:			
BIC:		IBAN:	

Please ensure you have attached a copy of your graduating certificate and photographic identification

Declaration: I, _____, declare that:

1. I was working in a registered Early Years service at the point when I began the above course
2. I am currently working in a registered Early Years service.
3. I have not previously received public funding in support of my completion of this award.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

All forms must be fully completed and returned BY POST OR BY HAND to your local CCC no later than 5PM on Wednesday 14th March 2018. Late applications will not be accepted. Incomplete application forms will not be accepted. All required documents must be attached to the application form. Information provided by the applicant will only be used for the purpose it was intended and will be retained by the CCC for recording purposes.

