**Scholarship Eligibility Criteria and Application Information**

**Scholarship Overview**

The **Irish Women Lawyer Association (IWLA) Scholarship at Maynooth University** was established in 2024/25. The IWLA is proud to support the next generation of women in law through the IWLA Scholarship, exclusively for Year 2 undergraduate students in the School of Law and Criminology, who have demonstrated academic achievement, motivation and interest in law and criminology and who are registered wijt the MU Access Programee and may have experienced or are experiencing disadvantage in their life. This prestigious scholarship is designed to promote equality of opportunity in the legal profession and provide invaluable career-enhancing experiences. The scholarship is contingent on completing the summer internship, as its primary aim is to provide this hands-on opportunity.

**About the Irish Women Lawyers Association**

The Irish Women Lawyers Association (IWLA) aims to encourage and support women in the legal profession in Ireland. It achieves this by facilitating professional, social, and educational networking opportunities among women lawyers, as well as by advocating for their interests. The IWLA offers free membership to students enrolled in the Maynooth University School of Law and Criminology.

Through an application and review process, the IWLA will award a scholarship to one female undergraduate student in Year 2 (2024/2025) who has come through the ACCESS route and is registered with the MU MAP Office. The scholarship includes a financial award of **€6,000 to support the student in completing a 12-week legal internship during Summer 2025** with an NGO or independent law centre. This award recognises the challenges students from underrepresented backgrounds face in gaining practical legal experience and provides compensation aligned with a living wage for the placement.

In addition to financial support, the scholarship offers professional and academic mentorship, work experience, and potential pathways to graduate employment.

1. **Irish Women Lawyer Association (IWLA) Scholarship at Maynooth University**
   1. One scholarship at **€6,000 per student**
   2. Professional and academic mentorship
   3. Paid summer internship with a leading law and criminology firm in 2025
   4. Opportunities for graduate employment and accredited work placements

**Eligibility Criteria**

Through this programme, the School of Law and Criminology and the Irish Women Lawyers Association are committed to providing opportunities to support students’ progress in their studies in law and criminology and access education and professional development opportunities within the legal profession.

The awards are intended to cover the living wage cost of undertaking a Summer Placement and also to help meet the costs of attending university, including but not limited to expenses such as accommodation and food; travel; study equipment, books and materials; and health, wellbeing and leisure activities.

All applicants must:

1. **Registered Student with School of Law and Criminology**: Be a registered Year 2 student for academic year 2024/25 on a full-time level 8 qualification within the School of Law and Criminology[[1]](#footnote-2).
2. **MAP Registered Student:** Be registered with the Maynooth Access Programme (or be eligible under the criteria listed on the application form).
3. **Gender**: Identify as female.
4. **Academic Achievement**: Have successfully completed Year 1 of their course so far and demonstrated both subject learning and transferrable/transversal skills development. A minimum academic achievement of a 2.1 at the degree level during year 1.
5. **University Participation**: Have maintained satisfactory attendance for their course, including attending lectures, tutorials and any other subject related activities or opportunities. Any participation or attendance in additional or extracurricular activities will be beneficial.
6. **Motivation and Commitment**: Provide a personal statement as part of your application, including your motivation and commitment to study law and criminology at Maynooth University.
7. **Internship**: Agree to arranging a summer internship, working in collaboration with IWLA and the School of Law and Criminology to identify and confirm a suitable internship for summer 2025.
8. **Application**: Complete the online application form before the closing date, and if required, attend an interview with Maynooth University and IWLA representatives.
9. **Other Awards:** Not be in receipt of any other scholarship, excluding any supports such as SUSI grants or Maynooth Access Programme.

**Scholarship Award & Supports**

The award seek to provide the following supports:

1. **Financial support**: This award will provide financial support to one female Year 2 undergraduate students within the School of Law and Criminology who has demonstrated high academic achievement, motivation and interest in law and criminology and who has experienced/are experiencing socio-economic challenges.
2. **Professional development support**: These awards will offer potential opportunities to the students to participate in a summer internship as well as potential for graduate employment opportunities.
3. **Mentorship:** Students will also be provided with two dedicated mentors, one from the School of Law and Criminology and one from a member of the IWLA.

**Important Information**

The successful applicants will be notified in writing and required to agree to the terms and conditions of the scholarship. Funds will be transferred directly into the student’s bank account by Maynooth University.

Maynooth University will collaborate with IWLA in reviewing and assessing applications. This will involve representatives from both organisations participating in a panel review. This panel will confirm the selection for the Awards. Interviews may be held to aid this selection process.

Maynooth University will administer the promotion, application and award process with representatives from the School of Law and Criminology, and potentially Maynooth Access Programme, Admissions and Development Office. IWLA and its members will have the opportunity to meet with prospective scholarship students before any award is finalised and issued to students.

Applications will be made online with a set closing date.

Students withdrawing from the course or not engaging fully with the course maybe required to return the funds and any work experience offers withdrawn.

For more information, please contact:

* Dr Elaine Burroughs, External Relations Manager, School of Law and Criminology
* [elaine.burroughs@mu.ie](mailto:elaine.burroughs@mu.ie)

1. Course codes: **Bachelor of Laws** (LLB, MH501); **Bachelor of Civil Law** (BCL Law and Criminology, LWC, MH502); (BCL Law and Business, LWB, MH502); (BCL Law and Arts, LWD, MH502); (BCL Law and Accounting, LWA, MH502) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)