

ALL IRELAND SCHOLARS



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Summer Newsletter

SUMMER SOCIAL

AWARDS CEREMONY

CREATIVE WRITING

MEMBERSHIP

FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ALLIRELANDSCHOLARS.IE

WELCOME

A note from the *Executive Committee*

Welcome to the summer edition of the All Ireland Scholars Newsletter! In this edition, we are delighted to share the latest news from across the All Ireland Scholars community including our Summer Social, Awards Ceremony, Creative Writing Awards, and the continued growth of our membership campaign.

To all scholars who recently completed exams, we hope they went well and that you now have the chance to pause, recharge, and enjoy a well-deserved summer break!

As our network continues to grow, we also encourage you to become a member of the All Ireland Scholars. It is deeply important to JP McManus and his family that past scholars come together to support the next generation and ensure the future of this organisation for years to come. By signing up and paying your membership fee, you can help support future scholars, give forward, and stay connected with fellow members across Ireland.

Sign up today at allirelandscholars.ie and help us continue building a strong and supportive community together.

*Wishing you all the best for the summer months ahead,
All Ireland Scholars Executive Committee*

BECOME A MEMBER

Sign up and pay your membership fee at allirelandscholars.ie — and help fund the next generation of All Ireland Scholars.

The AIS Summer Social



All Ireland Scholars

Summer Social & BBQ

When?
Saturday 11th July,
5pm

Where?
The Odeon, Dublin

More information? Email: alumni@allirelandscholarships.com

Following previous successful events in Belfast and Galway, this year we are returning to Dublin City Centre.

The annual summer social is a terrific opportunity to meet fellow scholars and tickets include food and two drinks tokens.

Early access is currently open for **paying members of the All Ireland Scholars only**. General admission for non-paying members goes on sale on Friday 5th June via Eventbrite.

MEMBERS

Members go free — please email alumni@allirelandscholarships.com to reserve your place.

NON-MEMBERS

We will be in touch this Friday 5th June with an Eventbrite link.

PLUS ONES

Open to scholars only in the first instance; plus ones will be invited subject to availability.

This event is likely to sell out, so please reserve your ticket as soon as possible. For early access, sign up to become a member at allirelandscholars.ie

COMMUNITY · ON CAMPUS

An evening at *University College Dublin*

Scholars gathered on campus this spring to connect, swap stories, and celebrate a community that keeps on growing.

We hosted a networking evening for our scholars at UCD in April, bringing students together to connect and share experiences on campus.

We were delighted to welcome UCD President Orla Feely for the occasion. A highlight of the evening was hearing from 2023 Scholar, Paddy Falvey (Kerry), who spoke about his journey in Economics & Finance and his role on the AIS Executive Committee, encouraging scholars to give forward and support one another.

**2,050+**

SCHOLARS ACROSS IRELAND

85

CURRENTLY STUDYING AT UCD

The AIS community continues to grow and thrive across a wide range of disciplines, campuses, and career paths.

A sincere thank you to President Feely and the UCD Foundation Team for their assistance in hosting this wonderfully rewarding event.

AWARDS

AIS Awards Ceremony

Our 2025 winners were honoured at the All Ireland Scholarships Awards Ceremony on Saturday 4th April in University Concert Hall, University of Limerick.



Through the introduction of a membership campaign for all All Ireland Scholarship holders from 2008 to present, an additional scholar-funded All Ireland Scholarship was awarded for the first time. Isobelle Hendry from County Monaghan was presented with her award by Chair of the All Ireland Scholars Executive Committee, Colette Scariff-Lalor.

“One person can make a difference. You don't have to be a big shot. You don't have to have a lot of influence. You just have to have faith in your power to change things.”

COLETTE SCARIFF-LALOR, CHAIR, AIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

If you have not done so already, please sign up and pay your membership fee at allirelandscholars.ie

AWARDS • CREATIVE WRITING

Creative Writing *Awards Ceremony*

We were delighted to host the sixth iteration of the AIS Creative Writing Awards in Adare Manor on the 28th of April, celebrating the talent and imagination of our scholars.



This year's stellar judging panel included **Paul Lynch** (Booker Prize Winner 2023), **Donal Ryan** (Orwell Prize Winner 2025), and **Dr Emily Cullen**. The judging process was chaired by **Professor Sarah Moore Fitzgerald**, Head of Creative Writing at the University of Limerick.

PROSE

POETRY

1ST *Primordial Soup*
HOLLY LANGAN

2ND *An Stad Deireanach*
DANIELA RANA

3RD *A Half Decent Bottle of Wine*
CHRIS MCGRILLEN

1ST *Calling Back*
ROSS GALLAGHER

2ND *Autumn*
LAURA REYNOLDS

3RD *After The Last Box*
GRACE CARTHY

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all scholars who submitted entries in this year's competition.

[Read all the winning entries →](#)

SCHOLAR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

★ FORBES 30 UNDER 30, EUROPE

Aghogho Okpara

2017 All Ireland Scholar

Founder, Achieve with Aghogho (AWA)

Medical Student, University College Dublin



Aghogho Okpara is a 2017 All Ireland Scholar and the founder of Achieve with Aghogho (AWA) and an award-winning medical student at University College Dublin.

Aghogho was recently named in Forbes 30 Under 30 for young people in Europe making social impact.

“This is truly a lifetime honour. Since I was as young as I can remember, I’ve held a deep inner belief that something in me could radically change the world. Through our work at Achieve with Aghogho, that belief took shape. And we are only just getting started.”

AGHOGHO OKPARA

“I hold a deep vision of one day seeing a world where girls and boys have equal access to education and opportunity. A world where talent is never inhibited by background, finances, gender, or geographical location. A world where young people believe in themselves no matter what.”

AGHOGHO OKPARA

Aghogho is a member of the All Ireland Scholars and recently spoke on our scholar panel at the annual All Ireland Scholars panel about her experience and the importance of giving forward.

Huge congratulations, Aghogho, from everyone at the All Ireland Scholarships.

Find out more about Aghogho and her work at www.achieewithaghogho.com

UPCOMING DATES

6 Jun · 3 Oct

Queen's University Belfast Open Days

All Ireland Scholarships will have a stand at QUB Open Days. If you know of anyone attending, let them know some of our scholars will be there with information on the scholarship programme and how to apply in Northern Ireland.

16–18 Sep

Higher Options Exhibition

We are back in the RDS in Dublin for this year's Higher Options Exhibition. Direct anyone attending to the All Ireland Scholarships stand to learn more about the programme.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN



Since last October, we have been delighted to welcome many of you as paying members of the All Ireland Scholars. Building on the vision and generosity of our Sponsor, Mr. JP McManus, we are asking you to join and contribute through a modest annual membership fee.

1. Fund a new All Ireland Scholarship, sponsored entirely by the Alumni Association
2. Support scholar networking and social events
3. Enable scholar mentorship and professional development programmes

Sign up to become a member [here](#).

President's Volunteer Award (PVA) — University of Limerick

The PVA Programme at UL recognises and celebrates students who make meaningful contributions through volunteering on and off campus, encouraging active citizenship, leadership, and community engagement. Students can achieve Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Plassey awards depending on volunteer hours completed, while developing transferable skills and enhancing their CV and employability prospects. We would encourage any UL Scholars to get in touch with the PVA team.

Website: www.studentvolunteer.ie/ul • **Email:** studentvolunteer@ul.ie or PVA@ul.ie