



Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme 2025

Guidelines for applicants



Please note the key dates for the Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme are as follows:

Opening date for submission of application:
Friday 29th August 2025 at 9am

Closing date for submission of application:
Friday 26th September 2025 at 5pm

1. Introduction

BnM's Cloncreen Wind Farm is located on Cloncreen bog in Co. Offaly. The windfarm consists of 21 turbines with a blade tip height of 170 meters and generates 75 megawatts (MW) of green electricity for the national grid. There are 21km of trails for cycling, walking, and running open to the public, as well as a Sensory Garden, outdoor exercise equipment and interpretative signage installed around the amenity trails.

This is the third year of the Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme. To date 21 students in total were funded for 2023 and 2024 to the value of €140,000. These students are studying a wide range of courses from Science, Engineering, and Apprenticeships to Education and Law.

2. Overview of the Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme

As part of the Cloncreen Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, we want to ensure that people living in the vicinity of the Wind Farm benefit the development. The cost of studies and student life can be a barrier for potential students. To help reduce this barrier Cloncreen Wind Farm DAC has created an Educational Scholarship Scheme to support local students in accessing further education. The Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme will be funded directly from the renewable energy generated at Cloncreen Wind Farm through its Community Benefit Fund.

The Scholarship may be used towards course fees, accommodation, tools, transport costs etc.

The 2025 Scholarship includes a monetary grant to the value of €2,500 for each year of study, up to a maximum of 4 years, for four successful applicants living in the vicinity (up to 5km) of Cloncreen Wind Farm. The Scholarship may be used towards course fees, accommodation, tools, transport costs etc.

The RESS 1 Rulebook places an emphasis on the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Put succinctly, these are the goals that have been set by the UN for all countries to deal with the challenges that are faced worldwide in order to grow sustainably over the 21st century. The use of Funds to help address these challenges for local communities is important in developing sustainable communities in

Ireland and in the achievement of a variety of national targets such as those pertaining to energy and climate. Fulsome delivery of the SDGs will enable a fundamental change to a greener, more inclusive economy and, more resilient communities.

3. Scholarship Eligibility

To be considered for the Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme applicants must:

- Be currently studying or hold an unconditional offer of a place for entry into the next academic year;
- Have a principal primary residence address up to 5km from a turbine on Cloncreen Wind Farm;
- Submit a valid application via the online portal.

3.1 Scholarship Criteria

- The Scholarship includes a monetary grant to assist local students with further education studies, including course fees, accommodation, tools, transport costs etc.
- Points will be awarded to students against a predefined set of evaluation criteria including proximity of their principal primary residence to a turbine at Cloncreen Wind Farm.
- All programmes of third level study and further adult education will be considered, provided they are Level 6 and upwards, as per the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), including apprenticeships.
- Applications are welcomed from all courses however bonus points will be awarded to courses which are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related and contribute to Sustainability, in particular the UN Sustainable Development Goals 4, 7, 11 and 13.

4. UN Sustainability Development Goals explained



Goal 4 - Quality Education

Such as courses which support knowledge and skills needed in communities to promote sustainable development, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, or projects which provide up-skilling within communities.



Goal 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy

Such as courses which support energy efficient projects or initiatives that encourage and deliver renewable electricity generation projects.



Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

Such as courses which strengthen efforts to protect and enhance the cultural and natural heritage of the local community or which support the implementation of policies and plans for communities towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaption to climate change.



Goal 13 - Climate Action

Such as courses which aim to improve education, awareness raising and improve capacity on climate change early warning, mitigation, adaption and impact reduction.

For further information on these Goals please visit <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

5. How to Apply

Applications can be made online via www.cloncreenwindfarm.ie. All documentation for the Educational Scholarship Scheme including the Scholarship guidelines will be made available on the application portal home page. Please note only applications submitted via the online portal referenced above will be considered.

Applicants should allow approximately to complete their application. We recommend you take the following steps when completing your application:

1. Read this briefing document thoroughly.
2. Register an account on the online application portal via www.cloncreenwindfarm.ie to register your interest in the Educational Scholarship Scheme and to ensure you are notified of any updates or clarifications made.
3. Submit any queries you have on the Educational Scholarship Scheme by sending a message to the project team via the messaging option on the online application portal. The FAQ page on the online application portal will be updated regularly to reflect these queries.

The application portal will close on **Friday 26th September at 5.00pm**. Late applications will not be accepted. Please note, canvassing or lobbying of any Scholarship Panel member will result in automatic disqualification.

5.1 Application Documentation

For your application to be considered eligible for evaluation you will need to ensure you have the following in place before applying to the Educational Scholarship Scheme.

- Eircode for your principal primary residence
- Proof of address – this can include, document issued by a government department that shows your address or copy of CAO documentation showing your address. Your proof of address must be less than 6 months old (or 12 months for an insurance policy).
- Course code – in line with the National Framework of Qualifications (www.nfq-qqi.com).
- Proof or confirmation of course acceptance/ attendance – this can be a letter of registration from your academic institution.
- Personal statement – this can be in the form of a written paragraph or can be uploaded as a short video.



6. Evaluation of Applications

1. All applications will be screened for eligibility. If an application does not pass the eligibility criteria phase, it will not proceed to the evaluation phase.
2. Eligible applications will be marked against the Evaluation Criteria.

The Scholarship Panel will be responsible for assessing all applications.

6.1 Evaluation Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed and scored under the following evaluation criteria:

Criteria	Description
Proximity to a turbine on the Wind Farm	As part of the Cloncreen Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, we want to ensure that people living in the area benefit the most from the development of the wind farm. For this reason, applicants residing closest to a turbine on Cloncreen Wind Farm will receive highest marks under the proximity criterion. Distance will be calculated based on proximity to the nearest wind turbine.
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) related course	Cloncreen Wind Farm DAC is a climate solutions company helping lead Ireland towards a climate neutral future. For this reason, applicants studying STEM-related courses will be awarded bonus points under this criterion.
Sustainability	A core goal of the Cloncreen Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund is to fund projects which align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. A Scholarship application will receive bonus points if it demonstrates alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
Robustness of Application	The application is complete. All questions have been provided with a response and all required documentation has been submitted with application.
Personal Statement (300 words max or short video which can be attached to application)	Outlining why you think you should receive the Educational Scholarship Scheme

The decision to award the Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme depends on the outcome of the evaluation process. Clarifications and additional information may be sought by the Scholarship Panel. Scholarships will be awarded to the highest-ranking applications. Decisions made by the Scholarship Panel are final.

7. Scholarship Offer

Applicants can expect to be informed of the outcome of their application by the end of 2025. Please note, if we are experiencing any delays due to the volume of applications received, we will inform you of same.

7.1 If your application is successful

If your application is successful, a Letter of Offer containing the terms and conditions of the Educational Scholarship Scheme will be issued to you. Accompanying this letter will be:

- A letter of acceptance to be signed by the successful applicant and/or parent/guardian accepting the terms of the offer. This agreement must be entered into between Cloncreen Wind Farm DAC and the individual receiving the Scholarship, or their parent/guardian as applicable.
- A request for further documentation such as Bank Account details
- Any additional documentation requested by scholarship panel.

The agreement must be signed by successful applicants and all requested documentation submitted prior to receiving the funds.

7.2 If your application is unsuccessful

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing.

As the Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Support Scheme will open for new applications in 2026 unsuccessful applicants will be able to re-apply to subsequent Educational Scholarship Scheme funding rounds. All decisions of the Scholarship Panel are final and cannot be appealed.

8. Important Dates

Phase	Details	Date
Educational Scholarship Scheme opens for Applications	The Educational Scholarship Scheme opens for applications and all information is made available on the application portal: www.cloncreenwindfarm.ie	Friday, 29th August 2025 at 9am
Educational Scholarship Scheme closes for Applications	No applications will be accepted after this time.	Friday, 26th September 2025 at 5pm
Notification	Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application. Successful applications will be provided with a Scholarship Letter of Offer and a Scholarship agreement.	No later than 14 th November 2025
Scholarship Offers	Applicants must accept the Scholarship offer and submit all documentation required.	

9. Contact information

Please get in touch with the Cloncreen Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund team if you have any questions via cloncreenwindfarm@bnm.ie. Alternatively, please contact our Community Liaison Officer Enda Kelly on 087 0579141.