



Criteria for the Press Council's new Lyra McKee Bursary

This new annual Lyra McKee Bursary will help launch a journalistic career by providing financial support to enable a post graduate student to pay the fees for a Master's Degree in Journalism at one of four participating Irish universities. Valued at €3,000, the Bursary consists of €1,500 from the Press Council of Ireland and the Office of the Press Ombudsman and €1,500 from the university at which the student has been offered a place on the Master's Degree in Journalism programme.

The Bursary is named after the brilliant young journalist Lyra McKee (29) who was shot dead while observing rioting in Derry in 2019. Lyra believed strongly in promoting opportunities in journalism for people from a working-class background. The Bursary is aimed at helping a student who wants to enter the journalism profession and who might not otherwise be able to afford to get a postgraduate qualification.

1. The Bursary will offer the recipient the opportunity to undertake a Master's Degree in Journalism at one of the four universities in the Republic of Ireland that offer such a degree, and to be mentored by a senior journalist. The universities supporting the Lyra McKee Bursary are the University of Galway, Dublin City University, the University of Limerick and the Technological University Dublin. It cannot be provided for any other course in any other institution. Once awarded, the amount of the Bursary will be put towards the cost of the fees at the university which the winner is to attend. It will be up to the student to make up any shortfall.
2. Applicants should demonstrate that they would not be able to afford the programme without financial assistance. They must either be able to demonstrate that they previously qualified for a SUSI Maintenance Grant (either Special Rate or Bands 1-4) in their most recent attendance at third level or provide other evidence if this does not apply.

The Press Council and the Press Ombudsman believe that a proactive approach to diversity and inclusivity is important in redressing imbalances of representation in our media landscape. As such we strongly encourage applications by journalists from underrepresented areas of society.

3. In order to qualify, applicants must have applied for and have been accepted onto a recognised postgraduate journalism programme in one of the four participating institutions.
4. Applicants should demonstrate a strong commitment to journalism through their academic record, extracurricular activities, or work experience.

5. To apply, applicants should write a 500-word personal statement explaining their motivation for pursuing a Master's Degree in Journalism, and how receipt of the Lyra McKee Bursary will help them achieve their career goals. Applicants should also provide one sample of writing (400-500 words), which may be published or unpublished.
6. Applicants should also include their one-page CV and two letters of recommendation from relevant referees.
7. Applications must be received by email at the Office of the Press Ombudsman by the 12th of July 2023 and the winner of the Bursary will be notified on or before the 9th of August. Please include your full contact details as we may need to contact you in the course of assessing your application.

Please use subject line **Application for Lyra McKee Bursary** and send your application to administrator@pressombudsman.ie

The judging panel will include distinguished journalists and will be chaired by Susan McKay, the Press Ombudsman.

*We reserve the right to vary the conditions for this competition and to adjudicate on any materials provided by way of evidence of eligibility. Please address any questions about the Bursary to the Press Ombudsman using the email address above and subject line **Lyra McKee Bursary**.*