



Student Laptop Loan Scheme – September / October 2020

Round 2 Applications

As part of the package of COVID supports for higher and further education institutions, the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science has allocated funding to support disadvantaged students in the higher education sector in accessing ICT devices.

Under this scheme undergraduate or postgraduate students may be eligible to receive a laptop, **on long-term loan**, in order to assist with online learning.

The St Angela's College Laptop Loan scheme is available to you this academic year if you need to borrow a laptop for your studies and meet the eligibility criteria. This scheme is open to incoming first year and continuing St Angela's students.

Eligibility:

- To be eligible for a laptop you must be registered as a full or part-time student in 2020-21 and be from a low-income household, with an annual household income **up to an annual income limit of €60,000 gross.**
- Students whose families are in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment are also eligible to apply.
- Eligibility will be on a needs basis, prioritised as appropriate by St Angela's College. In all cases, ***St Angela's College must be satisfied that a student who receives a device under this grant has demonstrated a verifiable need for such a device*** e.g. they are from one of the identified target groups and they or their family do not have the means to purchase such a device themselves.

Allocation of devices will be based on the target groups identified in the National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2015-2019:

- Students disadvantaged by socio-economic barriers
- First-time mature students
- Students with disabilities
- Part-time/flexible learning students
- Students who hold further education qualifications or former Access students
- Students who are members of the Traveller and Roma communities.
- Students who are lone parents
- Students who are members of ethnic minorities

Ineligible Students:

- Non-EU fee-paying students, Erasmus and Study Abroad students are **not** eligible to apply to this scheme.
- Students who are not taking a programme which is leading to a full St Angela's College/ NUIG award (e.g. those taking single modules only) are **not** eligible.

How to apply for a laptop loan

1. **Laptops available for distribution from mid-October. Closing date for fund – Thursday 22nd October**
2. Student must be registered as a full time or part time student in St Angela's College 2020-2021
3. Laptops will be distributed according to financial disadvantage primarily, with other disadvantage causing student to be prioritised (see eligibility criteria)
4. Student completes form to determine eligibility and provides the evidence listed below.

Financial evidence:

(a) Evidence of own/parents' income (P21 or Self-Assessment Chapter 4 for 2019 for each parent and/or for student) or Susi letter showing family income or DSP payment statement for 2019/2020.

AND

(b) Evidence of Pandemic Unemployment Payment – **if applicable**

Other disadvantage evidence: Evidence of other disadvantage also to be supplied e.g. evidence from Travellers group; DSP Lone Parent or Disability payment evidence; legal status in Ireland or letter from refugee support group; results from FE programme

The Welfare committee will make decisions on the applications, according to the following criteria:

- I. All successful applicants must prove economic disadvantage.
- II. The applicants will then be further prioritised on the basis of the target groups identified in the National Access Plan for Equity of Access to HE 2015-2019 – see groups below
- III. Part time/flexible learning students with financial disadvantage will be considered
- IV. Final allocations may be made by lottery if the students are equally eligible

(c) Please complete the online application form and upload your documents here

Here's the link to the form "Covid 19 Laptop Loan Scheme 2020 Application form":

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yVAgQAZSiEeCOQQjPFe8Ca0-Ev_ZuYFEvcJ7Sh1bqnFUMTBMQVI4TzExUjFZR0g4VEVPUExYWkVURC4u

Issuing of laptops

Laptops will be issued through the library and will be added to your student account

Student may collect the laptop in November

Laptops will be issued on for the duration of the students' course in the College – laptop loan must be renewed yearly.

Students sign a receipt form stating:

- That the college takes no responsibility for maintaining or fixing the laptops. Any laptops which get broken will not be replaced.
- If your circumstances improve during the course of your study, you may be asked to return the laptop for distribution to another student.

Please note:

Students who are not allocated a laptop may be eligible to apply to the Student Assistance Fund for help to buy a laptop – see information here: www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie/stangelas/student-services/financial-aid/