

Teagasc Student Maintenance Grant Scheme

Information on Student Grants 2016/2017



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

What is the Teagasc Student Maintenance Grant Scheme? (TSMGS)

The TSMGS is the means testing of maintenance grants for students attending Level 5 and Level 6 courses at Teagasc and Private Agricultural Colleges.

Teagasc maintenance grants are paid through Teagasc and the grant scheme is managed by Teagasc. The TSMGS will be implemented along the lines of the national Student Grant Scheme 2016 but varies in respect of items added back to determine overall reckonable income.

The application process for the 2016/2017 academic year will open on the 1st July 2016.

Who may be eligible for a Grant?

Students attending Teagasc fulltime Level 5 and Level 6 courses at the following colleges:

- Ballyhaise Agricultural College
- College of Amenity Horticulture, Botanic Gardens
- Clonakilty Agricultural College
- Kildalton Agricultural/Horticultural College
- Gurteen Agricultural College
- Mountbellew Agricultural College
- Pallaskenry Agricultural College

What does a grant cover?

A maintenance grant is a contribution towards the living costs of a student.

Maintenance Grants are paid at 3 intervals during the academic year in November/March/June and payments are calculated on daily attendance.

Students will not be paid for non-attendance unless specifically allowed under the grant scheme.

Teagasc do not pay any grant in respect of course charges to students.

Note: No grant payments are made unless the student is registered on an approved Teagasc Level 5/Level 6 course.

Some Key Eligibility Criteria

Residency – Applicants must be resident in Ireland or the EU/EEA or Switzerland for 3 of the last 5 years. **All Applicants** are required to provide evidence of their residency e.g. Leaving Cert Results or Financial Documents would suffice.

Previous Education – As with the national Student Grant Scheme 2016, you will not normally get a grant: for repeating a year/attending a course at a level that does not represent progression from what you have done before.

Income – For the TSMGS farm income or income from self-employment will be averaged over the three most recent years based on the Revenue Notice of Assessment and must fall between one of the specified thresholds in order to qualify for the grant.

Refer to the Guidance Notes at www.teagasc.ie/training for more detailed information on income calculation.

Maintenance Grant Values

The different rates of maintenance grant, depending on reckonable income can be seen below:

Adjacent Rate – Where travelling from within 45kms of college (weekly rate)

100% - €43.39
75% - €32.50
50% - €21.60
25% - €10.89

Non-Adjacent Rate – Where travelling from over 45kms to college (weekly rate)

100% - €108.03
75% - €81.07
50% - €54.10
25% - €26.96

Special Rate of Maintenance Grant

Payable to an applicant, whose household income is below €22,703 and contains an eligible Social Welfare payment on the 31st December 2015.

Adjacent Rate (weekly) – €84.82 Non Adjacent Rate (weekly) - €211.25

Note: *Eircode will be used to determine Adjacent/Non Adjacent rate.*

Renewing your grant 2016/2017 - (Level 6 Students)

Students awarded a Teagasc Student Maintenance Grant at Level 5 who are progressing onto a Level 6 programme will be requested to complete a Teagasc Student Grant Renewal form. This form will be issued to each student in early September. There will be a means re-assessment for a proportion of students who were in receipt of a grant at Level 5.

Students who did not apply at Level 5 for a Teagasc Student Maintenance Grant will have the opportunity to apply in the 2016/2017 academic year if attending a Teagasc Level 6 programme. Please refer to **www.teagasc.ie/training**

Application Procedures

Application Form and Guidance Notes for Level 5 students are available at **www.teagasc.ie/training**. Colleges will not be processing applications and will not be in a position to handle specific queries about applications.

Applicants are advised to assemble relevant information/documents required for the application process immediately.

The onus is on the applicant to complete and submit their application in a timely manner.

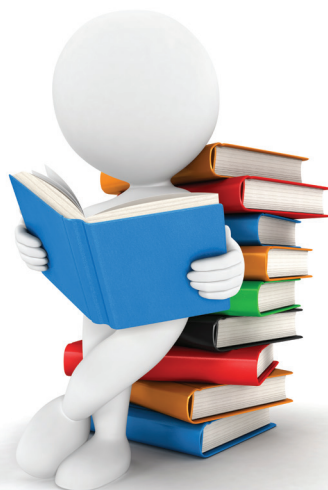
Please note that applicants cannot apply to Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) to be means tested for a Teagasc Student Maintenance Grant.

Closing Date: 23rd September 2016

Contact:

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Information contained in this leaflet should only be used as a guide.