

# The Liam McCarthy Scholarship Application Form 2025



PCI College

Established 1991

PCI College advocates lifelong learning and to support this, the Liam McCarthy Scholarship offers a second chance at higher education for the scholarship winner. This is a **full Scholarship** for the 4-year programme and it is open to those who have not completed a primary undergraduate degree. By applying for this scholarship, you are giving yourself an opportunity to gain a professional qualification in counselling & psychotherapy through the principle of second chance education. The scholarship winner will be a PCI Ambassador, which includes participating in a profiling interview, a photo session and attending some PCI events such as open evenings, class visits and external events.

## Entry Requirements:

- Applicants should possess a maturity to reflect on their own development as a person.
- Applicants need to have successfully completed one of the following:  
Certificate Course in Counselling & Psychotherapy (or similar) - 60 Hours  
**OR**  
Show evidence of personal development /substantial life experience (for e.g., proof of volunteer work, community work, experience of counselling and/or portfolio of prior learning).
- Entry is by application form, which must include a **1,000 word composition** by the applicant entitled:

## VENUES:

Athlone

Belfast

Cork

Dublin

Kilkenny

Limerick

Carrick on Shannon

*The theme of World Mental Health Day 2024 was 'It is time to prioritize mental health in the workplace'. Please discuss how work can be both a protective and risk factor for mental health and explore the role of counselling and psychotherapy in improving mental health in the workplace.*

- Applicants must also be nominated by someone within the helping professions (e.g. GP, priest, nurse, guidance counsellor, social worker, counsellor, liaison officer). The applicant's nominator cannot be a family member or affiliated with PCI College in any way. As part of the application, the nominator is required to submit a 500 words endorsement, outlining why they think the candidate should be awarded the Scholarship.
- Applicants must also submit a 500 words written statement on why they think they are deserving of the Liam McCarthy scholarship, as well as their plans for the qualification and their vision for the mental health field in Ireland.

**Deadline is Wednesday 16th of April 2025 at 12:00pm**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to be interviewed by a panel of experts based on the principle of second chance education.

## Terms & Conditions

- The purpose of the scholarship is second-chance education and is not open to anyone with a primary degree.**
- The Scholarship covers course fees only and does not cover costs associated with additional course requirements such as Personal Therapy & Supervision. Fees for Supervision and Personal Therapy are decided by negotiation between you and your Supervisor and Therapist. As a guideline, the cost for Supervision and Personal Therapy may both average approximately €60.00 per session.
- The College makes every effort to avoid altering course times, course commencement and conclusion dates. However, should any changes be necessary, you will be notified at the earliest opportunity. All courses run subject to demand and the formation of a viable class cohort. Please note that classes may be merged if necessary.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that he/she fulfils the minimum entry requirements for a chosen course, and to ensure that the chosen course is suitable for his/her needs and ability level. Students with a disability may require adjustments to facilitate their learning. These adjustments are thoroughly evaluated by PCI College and the principle of creating a level playing field rather than a more favourable position is rigorously observed.
- Each application must be accompanied by 1,000-word composition (by the applicant). See title in the Entry Requirements section above.
- The applicant must submit a 500-word endorsement (by the nominator) on why they think the candidate should be awarded the scholarship.
- The applicant must submit a 500 word written statement on why they think they are deserving of the Liam McCarthy scholarship, as well as their plans for the qualification and their vision for the mental health field in Ireland.
- The deadline for applications is **Wednesday the 16th of April 2025 at 12:00pm**. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to be interviewed by a panel of experts.
- The Scholarship is for entry to Year 1 of the BSc (Hons) Counselling & Psychotherapy. Students already enrolled in the BSc programme are not eligible to enter.
- Applicants are to be nominated by someone within the helping professions e.g. GP, priest, nurse, guidance counsellor, social worker, counsellor, liaison officer. Nominators cannot be a family members of the applicant or affiliated with PCI College in any way.
- The Scholarship and it's associated benefits are non-transferable. The award must be used by the winner during the year that it is awarded, e.g. the winner of this year's Scholarship cannot defer for a year and begin their studies in September 2026, they must begin their studies in September 2025, or else they risk losing their prize.
- Applicants must not have a primary degree, as this is a second chance to gain a professional qualification in counselling & psychotherapy.**

PCI College

PCI College, Corrig House, Old Naas Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.  
Tel.: 01 464 2268 • scholarship@pcicollege.ie • www.pcicollege.ie

In partnership with  
 **Middlesex  
University  
London**

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## APPLICATION FORM

### 1. Personal Details (please fill in all fields in Block Capitals):

Name (for registration—as appears on passport/utility bills):

Forename: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

(This is for Middlesex University registration—please leave blank if you prefer not to say)

Telephone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you see details of this Scholarship advertised? \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. If I Win The Scholarship, I Would Like To Study In The Following Venue For The Duration of The Course:

<b>Dublin West</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Thursdays</b> 14.00 - 20.00 - September 2025 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Saturdays</b> 9.30 -17.30 - September 2025
<b>Dublin City</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Saturdays</b> 9.30 -17.30 - September 2025 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Thursdays</b> 14:00 - 20.00 - September 2025
<b>Kilkenny</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tuesdays</b> 14.00 - 20.00 - September 2025 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Saturdays</b> 9.30 -17.30 - September 2025
<b>Athlone</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Saturdays</b> 9.00 -17.30 - September 2025 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tuesdays</b> 14:00 - 20.00 - September 2025
<b>Limerick</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Saturdays</b> 9.00 -17.30 - September 2025 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tuesdays</b> 14:00 - 20.00 - September 2025
<b>Cork</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Saturdays</b> 9.00 -17.30 - September 2025 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Thursdays</b> 14.00 - 20.00 - September 2025
<b>Belfast</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Saturdays</b> 9.00-17.30 - September 2025
<b>Carrick on Shannon</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Saturdays</b> 14.00-20.00 - September 2025

\*Saturday programme: The course runs every second Saturday.

\*\*Weekday programme: The course runs five consecutive weeks followed by a week break.

Have you ever attended Counselling/Psychotherapy?  Yes  No

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## APPLICATION FORM

### 4. Education Background

Primary Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Educational Achievements (arts, music, hobbies, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

#### Details of Your Introductory Course in Counselling & Psychotherapy Qualification (Completed or In-Progress)

Name of Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Award & Level: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please attach copy of Certificate/Transcript (if completed). You will be required to produce original at interview.)

If you have a disability or special need, will you require extra learning support?

Yes  No

If yes, please give details?

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Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence?  Yes  No

If "Yes", please give details: \_\_\_\_\_

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Have you previously applied for the 'Liam McCarthy Scholarship'?  Yes  No

Why PCI College? (please note this a compulsory question and must be answered as part of the Scholarship)

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## APPLICATION FORM

### 5. Referees

Please give names and addresses of **your nominator and one other referee** who would attest to your competence to undertake a challenging BSc (Hons) Counselling & Psychotherapy. (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

<b>1</b>	<b>Name:</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>Name:</b>	
	<b>Address:</b>			<b>Address:</b>	
	<b>Tel</b>			<b>Tel</b>	

### 6. Submission Checklist

I wish to apply for the Liam McCarthy Scholarship and I attach the following:

- A completed application form
- A 1,000 word composition written by the applicant entitled:

*The theme of World Mental Health Day 2024 was 'It is time to prioritize mental health in the workplace'. Please discuss how work can be both a protective and risk factor for mental health and explore the role of counselling and psychotherapy in improving mental health in the workplace.*

- A 500 word nomination endorsement from a relevant helping professional that is **written by the nominator**
- A 500 word written statement by the applicant stating why they think they are deserving of the Liam McCarthy scholarship, as well as their plans for the qualification and their vision for the mental health field in Ireland.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Submission Guidelines

Please ensure that you return your completed application, 1000-word composition, 500-word nomination endorsement and 500-word written statement **together** to PCI College when submitting. It is not allowed to have your nominator submit their nomination essay separately to PCI College from the applicant's other supporting documents.

Please email scans of each required document to

[enquiries@pcicollege.ie](mailto:enquiries@pcicollege.ie)

before the deadline of

**April 16th 2025 at 12:00pm**

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