

## Youth Service Assistance to Study Scheme for Voluntary Youth Organisations 2011/12

### Introduction

This Scheme has been devised to assist voluntary youth work organisations that have full-time (ie, employed for a minimum of 16 hours per week) **Youth Work** staff on part-time courses leading to an initial professional qualification in community youth work.

### Eligibility Criteria

#### Organisations:

- Organisations must either be recognised by or registered with an ELB or funded by the YCNI.
- Organisations must be able to demonstrate that they work in accordance with the definition, values and functional domains of youth work as espoused by the **National Occupational Standards for Youth Work**.
- The Organisation must deliver a youth work curriculum which includes the promotion of acceptance and understanding of others, testing values and beliefs and preparing young people for participation.
- The Organisation should be able to demonstrate the active participation of young people in the management and delivery of its programmes.
- The Organisation must operate a Child Protection Policy.
- The Organisation must have a bank account in the Organisation's name.
- The Organisation must have annual audited accounts.
- The Organisation must have a Staff Development Policy.
- The Organisation must have policies in line with legislative requirements on Health and Safety and Equal Opportunities.
- The Organisation must have appropriate insurance cover for all aspects of its operations.

#### The Bursary Applicant:

- Recipients of the bursary must be employed in a front line youth work position and be working with young people of post primary school age or above (up to age 25) in a youth work setting for a minimum of 50% of their weekly schedule.
- The bursary applicant should normally be employed in accordance with the JNC Terms and Conditions of Employment.
- The bursary applicant must work in accordance with the National Occupational Standards for Youth Work.

#### Courses:

- All courses must be JNC recognised.
- Courses must be part-time only.
- Priority will be given to NSETS\* endorsed courses based in Northern Ireland.
- Distance learning courses will be judged on a case by case basis.

---

\* *North-South Education and Training Standards Committee for Youth Work*

## Exclusions

The scheme will not, for example, support the following:

- Organisations whose primary funding comes from sources such as the social care sector, arts, youth justice, sports bodies, etc.
- Single activity organisations.
- Staff employed in youth employment schemes, management, training or placement officer roles.

## General Conditions of Financial Support

- Funding cannot be guaranteed for the duration of a course but is for the 2011/2012 academic year only. All applicants should consider how they will fund their course in the event that future funding is unavailable.
- A maximum of one staff per organisation can be funded annually.
- Funding would normally be offered at the rate of up to 70% of course fees up to a maximum of £900 per recipient per academic year.
- The funding will be paid directly to the University/course provider.
- Funding will only be offered in respect of recipients who can provide independent evidence of having secured a place on an approved course; however, it should be noted that admission to a course is not a guarantee that financial assistance will be available.
- Application for support may be made in respect of one course and one venue only per individual.
- Applications for funding must be made on the form provided: Part A to be completed by the person seeking funding; Part B by the employing organisation; and Part C, a Certificate of Acceptance Form, by the University/course provider. No other forms of application will be considered.
- Employing organisations must enter into a Bursary Contract with the YCNI for receipt of funding.
- Funding will not be released until this Contract has been signed by the employing organisation and received by the YCNI.
- Employers must allow leave of absence from normal youth work duties for the times specified by the course.
- Assistance will not be available for parts of a course it is necessary to repeat.
- If there are any changes in the recipient's working conditions or attendance at the course (eg, deferment or withdrawal from the course) the employer must notify the Youth Council in writing immediately.
- Failure to comply with any aspect of the Bursary Contract may result in funding being withdrawn.

All enquiries about the Scheme should be addressed to:

**Michael McAlinden**  
**Training Development Officer/Bursary Manager**  
**Youth Council for NI**  
**Forestview**  
**Purdy's Lane**  
**BELFAST BT8 7AR**  
**Tel: 028 9064 3882**  
**E-mail: [mmcalinden@ycni.org](mailto:mmcalinden@ycni.org)**

**or the YCNI Training Assistant:**

**E-mail: [tmckenna@ycni.org](mailto:tmckenna@ycni.org)**