



UICC Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program 2019 College & High School Scholarship Applications

Leo T. Walsh founded the Scholarship Program in 1994 to benefit the educational needs of children in the Irish community. Since its inception, the program has awarded more than 437 scholarships to students entering the next level of their education. This year's awards will be \$1,000 to graduating high school seniors and \$750 to graduating eighth graders. New this year are two special achievement scholarships of \$2,000 and \$1,500 for the top finalist at each grade level.

***Applications available online: <https://irishcentersf.org/scholarships>**

Eligibility requirements include the following criteria:

1. Applicants must be 8th graders continuing on to high school, or graduating high school seniors entering a university or college in the summer or fall of 2019. Children of the Scholarship Committee are not eligible to apply to the Scholarship Program.
2. Applicants must be enrolling in an institution **requiring tuition and/or fees** in the fall. Each scholarship award check is made payable to the school, not the finalist.
3. Application, recommendation form and the essay must be completed and received by the United Irish Cultural Center (UICC) by March 17, 2019 to be qualified. Applicants will receive an email confirming the receipt of their completed application.

Absolutely no application documents will be accepted after the March 17, 2019 deadline, no exceptions

RECOMMENDATION FORM

The applicant's counselor, school administrator, or current teacher must complete the attached two-page recommendation form. It may be delivered with the application and essay, or it may be mailed directly to the UICC, Attn: Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program, but must be **received (not postmarked)** by Sunday, March 17, 2019. The person evaluating the applicant may be contacted to confirm submission. Recommendations count for 15% of the application process so be mindful in your selection of a person who is familiar with your standards of conduct, leadership skills and commitment to education.

*****PLEASE NOTE***: The attached Recommendation Form is the only document that will be will be accepted and rated. No additional letters of recommendation, transcript etc. will be considered.** It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the recommendation is received by the deadline.

ESSAY

Each applicant must submit an acceptable double-spaced, typed essay with the application, using Arial, 14 point font.

Applicants are encouraged to utilize the resources at various libraries such as the Patrick J. Dowling Library located in the United Irish Cultural Center. An independent committee will evaluate the essays. The essays will count for 60% of the application process. Essays become the property of the UICC.

Eighth Grade Topic: (500 words or less)

A surname, also known as a last or family name, is a fixed name shared in common with the members of a family and is passed down from generation to generation. If the surname of the applicant is not Irish, then the applicant may instead write about the Irish surname of a parent or grandparent. Write an essay about the meaning of your family name; how it was derived; place of origin in Ireland, and its history. Then select a historical personality with the same surname and write about his/her place in history.

High School Senior Topic: (750 words or less)

Select a specific place in Ireland located in the same county as any of your ancestors. Describe the location, including its historical significance, familial importance and your reason for choosing it.

INTERVIEW

Based on the combination of essay (60%) and the recommendation evaluation (15%) scores, a limited number of qualified applicants (semi-finalists) will be invited to appear before an interview panel on **Sunday, April 7, 2019** at the United Irish Cultural Center.

Semi-Finalists will be contacted by April 1st.

- A semi-finalist who cannot appear for the in person interview on April 7th during the allotted hours will not be eligible for an interview.
- All interviews will be conducted only on Sunday, April 7, 2019.

The interview will count for 25% of the application process and will be combined with essay and recommendation evaluation scores to determine the successful scholarship winners. Finalists will be notified in late April. The scholarship awards presentation will be held on Wednesday evening, May 1st at the United Irish Cultural Center.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **March 17, 2019 – Application Deadline**
- **April 7, 2019 – Panel Interview for Semi-Finalists**
- **May 1, 2019 – Awards Presentation (Finalists will be contacted in mid-April)**



Applications Due: Sunday, March 17, 2019

Drop off or mail to:

**United Irish Cultural Center
Attn: Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program
2700 45th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116**

Complete Application Packets include:

- Completed Personal Information Form (this page)
- Completed Recommendation Form (all sections must be answered and scored)
- Completed Typed Essay (Arial, 14 point font, double-spaced)

Please email scholarship@irishcentersf.org if you have any questions.

Student's Name: _____

Student Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Home Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Current school: _____

School(s) applicant wants to attend in the fall:

PARENT INFORMATION:

Parents Name(s): _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____



**United Irish Cultural Center
Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program**

2019 College & High School Scholarship Recommendation Form

Student's Name: _____

Current School: _____

Dear School Administrator, Counselor or Teacher:

This student is applying for a 2019 scholarship sponsored by the UICC Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program. In addition to the student's requirement to write an essay, another important element of the application process includes your evaluation of the student and your scores on page 2. We ask your assistance in completing the recommendation form. Your thoughts are extremely important in the selection process and a single numerical score is necessary in each category. All evaluation forms are **confidential**.

Only the responses on this form will be evaluated. No additional letters, transcripts, etc. will be considered.

You may return the form to the student in a sealed envelope or you can mail it directly to:

United Irish Cultural Center
Attn: Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program,
2700 - 45th Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94116

*****Must be received by March 17, 2019*****

Name of school administrator, counselor, or teacher: _____

Academic relationship to applicant: _____

Email address: _____

Student's Name: _____

Please evaluate the applicant in each of the following three categories using a scale of 10 to 1 (Ten (10) being "Outstanding" and One (1) being "Fair".)

*****Please fill in a numeric score for each category**

1) Standards of Conduct:*Score: _____

Please comment on student's commitment to upholding the mission of your institution.

2) Leadership Skills:*Score: _____

Please comment on student's interest/ability to lead peers. Please list specific examples and/or positions the student holds.

3) Commitment to Education:*Score: _____

Please comment on student's interest in learning, both inside and outside the classroom.