



**United Irish Cultural Center (UICC)
Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program
2026 College & High School Scholarship Applications**

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETE APPLICATION: March 17, 2026

PLEASE READ ALL REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Eligibility Requirements:

- 8th grader continuing to high school or a high school senior entering a university or college
- Applicant's chosen school must *require tuition and/or fees* as awards are only payable to the institution. California Community Colleges are ineligible.
- Awards must be used by March 17, 2027

Application Information:

- Available online: <https://irishcentersf.org/scholarships>
- Application includes a Personal Information Sheet, Recommendation Form and Essay.
- No application documents will be accepted after the March 17, 2026 deadline.
ONLINE SUBMISSIONS are not accepted.
- Applicants will receive an email from scholarship@irishcentersf.org (check Spam) confirming the receipt of their completed application by March 31, 2026. ***It is your responsibility to respond to ensure that we have your correct email(s).***

PERSONAL INFORMATION SHEET (Attachment 1) PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

- Include an email that you and/or parent access regularly; provide additional emails if necessary.

RECOMMENDATION FORM – USE ONLY THE ATTACHED 2-PAGE FORM (Attachment 2)

- Completed by applicant's counselor, school administrator, or current teacher.
- Form can be delivered with the Personal Information Sheet and essay in a **separate, sealed envelope** or mailed directly to the UICC. **It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the recommendation is received (not postmarked) by March 17, 2026.**
- DO NOT include additional letters of recommendation, transcripts, etc. These will not be reviewed or considered in the scoring.

ESSAY – DO NOT include additional photos, artwork, etc.

- Double-spaced, typed, Arial, single-side of paper.
- Name on first page only and pages numbered (e.g., 1/3).

An independent committee evaluates the essays and applicants' names are redacted. Accuracy in answering the essay subject is essential so be certain that you clearly address the specific topic. Essays become the property of the UICC and will be available in the library at the conclusion of the program. (cont.)

ESSAY

Artificial Intelligence To ensure fairness and authenticity in the scholarship selection process, essays may be reviewed by an AI consultant and undergo an AI-assisted originality check. This review is designed to discourage the use of AI-generated content and to encourage students to submit work that genuinely reflects their own thoughts, experiences, and writing style. Essays found to be primarily written by AI may be disqualified from consideration. We value your unique voice—let it shine!

Eighth Grade Topic: (500 words or less)

Choose a place in Ireland that is connected to your family's history. Share why this place is meaningful to you. It can be where your ancestors lived or a place you've heard stories about. It may be somewhere that represents your family's traditions. Share what makes this place special to you and how it helps you feel connected to your Irish heritage.

High School Senior Topic: (750 words or less)

Choose a person of Irish heritage who has played a significant role in shaping who you are today. This could be a relative, teacher, mentor, or anyone you know personally. Share why this person is meaningful to you and describe the ways they have influenced your life, values, or sense of identity. You might reflect on stories they've shared, traditions they've passed down, or the example they've set. Explain what makes your connection to this person special and how their Irish heritage has contributed to your own understanding of your roots.

INTERVIEW/ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

Based on the combination of the recommendation (15%) and essay (60%) scores, a limited number of qualifying applicants (semi-finalists) will be invited to participate in the final stage. Interview questions will be emailed on the morning of **Sunday, April 19, 2026** and must be returned within two hours. Semi-finalists must be available to complete the questions on the scheduled date. This score will be combined with the earlier scores to determine the successful scholarship finalists. Finalists will be notified by late April at which time applicant's chosen school is requested for award check issuance.

PLEASE NOTE: Submission of award check to high school or college is the responsibility of the awardee.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, March 17, 2026: application deadline (including recommendation).

By March 31, 2026: confirmation emails sent; please respond.

By April 5, 2026: notification of semi-finalists

April 19, 2026: interview question and answer session.

Late April 2026: finalists announced, and award information requested (HS/college choice)

May 3, 2026: awards presentation; attendance is not required.



Due: Tuesday, March 17, 2026
ATTACHMENT 1

APPLICATION MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE UICC BY MARCH 17, 2026.

Mail to:

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

Drop off:

**Scholarship Application Box located at the UICC (outside the St. Francis room).
Mailbox slot is located on Wawona Street door (corner of 45th Avenue).**

Your Application Packet must include the following:

- Completed Personal Information Sheet (this page)
- Completed Essay (please follow guidelines)
- Completed Recommendation Form – included or submitted separately.

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

Student's name: _____

Preferred email: _____ Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Current school: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

Phone Number: _____ Email _____

UICC MEMBERSHIP NO. _____ (optional)



**United Irish Cultural Center
Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program
2025 College & High School Scholarship Recommendation Form (ATTACHMENT 2)**

Due: Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Student's name _____

Current school _____

Dear School Administrator, Counselor or Teacher:

This student is applying for a 2026 scholarship sponsored by the UICC Leo T. Walsh Scholarship Program. An important element of the application process is your evaluation of the student. Please complete the recommendation form and assign a numerical score for each category. Your thoughts are extremely important in the selection process. Please **do not include any additional letters, transcripts, etc.** **Only the responses on this form will be evaluated.**

All evaluation forms are **confidential**.

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, 2026 We do not accept late submissions.*****

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.