

LIMERICK FC TALENTED FOOTBALLER SCHEME

Deadline for applications is 24 JULY 2017

A high profile award, the Limerick FC/University of Limerick Bursary, known as the Limerick FC Talented Footballer Scheme (LTFS) is awarded to amateur association football players to support their sporting and educational development.

What is Limerick FC Talented Footballer Scheme (LTFS)?

Competing at a high level in any sport is an expensive business. Travel, equipment, training, coaching and physiotherapy – the costs soon add up. Galtee Fuels Group, in partnership with Limerick FC and the University of Limerick, offer the LTFS bursary to help reduce the financial burden on talented soccer players, men and women, and provide supplementary support for them to reach their full potential.

LTFS works at three award levels, First Team, Ladies, and U19 level (Men and Ladies), and each providing varying levels of support. Award levels are determined by specific performance standards. **See Appendix 1** for details.

Who is eligible?

The LTFS is aimed at young talented amateur soccer players, men and women. To qualify for LTFS **you must satisfy all the following criteria:**

- Be a student in good standing at The University of Limerick or have demonstrated a clear intention to study at the University by having completed a formal application to the University or selected a UL course on their CAO application form.
- Participating in association football at an appropriate level and be signed with Limerick FC or be eligible to sign for Limerick FC at the next available Registration Window. Signing with Limerick FC does not guarantee a player access to the LTFS fund. It is a condition of receipt of a bursary that if a player signs for another club during the lifetime of the bursary or fails to meet educational requirements of UL, or signs professional form the funds must be repaid in full.
- It is expected that successful applicants will become active members of the University of Limerick Football Club. It is anticipated that successful candidates will compete at senior level for the University in their intervarsity championship events. This is subject to the approval of the Limerick FC first team manager.
- Able to demonstrate that you are performing at an International or National competition standard (League of Ireland) in Association Football or have been in a National training squad, recommended by a current Limerick FC coach or recommended by a suitably qualified FAI coach or Regional Development Officer (RDO).

N.B. Performance standards will need to be verified by your respective Clubs and Coaches. We will seek endorsement to ensure that individuals are competing at the appropriate level to match the criteria and award level.

What type of support do I receive?

The following support is available through the LTFS:

- Grants up to €1,000 (First Team), up to €500 (Ladies, U-19 Level Men and Ladies)
- Access to training facilities (First Team only)
- Physiotherapy and sport science support
- Third Level based mentoring scheme

For details of the scheme support please see **Appendix 2**. Please note that benefits are subject to availability and are at the discretion of the awards panel committee.

Can I apply if I already receive other sponsorship or funding?

Yes.

Who will be on the Awards Panel?

The Awards Panel committee will be comprised of a chairman and three members who will include experts in different areas of football and education. The Awards Panel will decide the level of award, if any, to each successful applicant.

When can I apply?

Awards are made once a year with applications and re-applications open from 1 June – 24 July. The deadline for 2017 applications is the 24th July 2017 and successful footballers will become members of the scheme from 1st September 2017 – 30th June 2018. Applicants who are re-applying for support must demonstrate that they have made progress in their sport and education.

How are applications made?

Applications for LTFS should be made on the official application form, which is available from Limerick FC.

Please note, Applications that are not completed in full or not returned by the closing date will not be considered.

What additional information do I need to send with my application?

You will need to enclose ALL the following with your application:

- 4 x passport photographs with your full name printed on the reverse of each photograph. Photocopied or scanned photos will not be accepted.
- **You must** submit supporting evidence of your current performance level from your National Body, National Coach, and/or Club Coach. This can be in the form of evidence of playing for a national squad, a national school squad, previous registration with a League of Ireland team, letter of support from a coach at a Regional Elite Training Centre, a coach currently with Limerick FC or a suitably qualified FAI Coach or RDO.
- Letter of recommendation from the President of University of Limerick Football Club or from your school head teacher
- Evidence of attending UL or proof of application made to a course at UL.

What do I have to do once I receive my LTFS award?

As part of the application form, you are asked to sign a declaration that states that you have read and agreed to the terms of conditions of LTFS. This includes agreeing to reference Galtee Fuels Group, the University of Limerick and Limerick FC's support in any press releases or interviews you undertake and making yourself available for promotional opportunities where possible. Terms and Conditions are detailed on the application form.

Appendix 2: Limerick FC Talented Footballer Scheme Benefits:

Funding:

To be used for any costs incurred in relation to elite sports performance. The grant will be in line with the award level gained and is at the discretion of the awards panel committee. The funding is made available from Galtee Fuels Group in conjunction with the University of Limerick and Limerick FC.

Training:

Training facilities will be made available to students achieving an Award at First Team Award Level. This will include term membership of the UL Sports Arena.

Physiotherapy benefits

- Fast track physiotherapy appointments offered within 3 working days of your initial call - no GP referral needed
- Treatment between 9.30am to 5pm, Monday-Friday
- Onward referral and cover for podiatry if required (cost of orthotics not covered)
- Professional report following appointment giving full injury diagnosis, as well as prognosis of optimal injury recovery, a management plan, advice on special exercise, recovery training and activities to avoid.

University of Limerick Mentoring Scheme:

A number of supports will be in place as part of this scheme in order to help maximize student potential Student SWOT Analysis: - Before coming to UL one to one guidance will be provided to help select the right course for your needs and strengths.

Exam Prep: - Leaving certificate exam preparation and tutorial support is also available so that you can maximize your points and therefore your range of career choices.

Advisor Scheme: - A specific advisor scheme for UL students is available to help you successfully combine your academic and playing careers. UL staff will be available to guide you through the process of registration, study, exam preparation and the identification of learning centre supports where appropriate.

Buddy System: - Existing UL students will be available to help bursary students successfully balance the workload of life in UL and as a Limerick FC player.

Guidance Notes for Application

Before you start:

1. Ensure that you meet the following criteria:
 - a) You are competing at League of Ireland, under age Internationally, Schools Internationally or identified League of Ireland potential by a Limerick FC coach. To qualify you should be recommended by your national coach or a coach with Limerick FC.
 - b) You are studying at University of Limerick or have completed your CAO form to indicate a first preference for a course at UL.
 - c) You are aged between 17-25 years.
 - d) You are signed with Limerick FC as an Amateur or are eligible to sign with Limerick FC as an Amateur at the next available registration window.
 - e) You have a letter of recommendation from the President of University of Limerick Football Club or from your school head teacher.

During completion:

1. Ensure you complete all the sections of the application form, providing as much information as possible. Incomplete forms will not be considered
2. Ensure that the application declaration (section B) is signed by the Player and the Player's parent or guardian (if under 18yrs).
3. Ensure you have read and understood the Terms and Conditions.

After completion:

1. Once completed, check your application and complete the application checklist.
2. Ensure you have enclosed all the following:
 - a) 4x passport photographs with your name printed on the reverse.
 - b) Any national or school squad invites that can be used as supporting evidence of your performance level.
 - c) Letter of recommendation from the President of University of Limerick Football Club or from your school head teacher
 - d) Letter from coach, Limerick FC Coach, FAI Coach or RDO.

3. Return the completed form to:

LTFS Applications

Limerick FC

KOS Park

Bruff

Co Limerick

Please note that any applications received after the deadline date (24 July 2017) will not be considered.