**THE MCCARTHY BURSARY**

**APPLICATION FORM 2025-2026**

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS**

* Please complete your application in full, attaching all required and supporting documentation, and return in the same email to: [Undertreasurer@kingsinns.ie](mailto:Undertreasurer@kingsinns.ie).
* Forms that are not signed with the relevant tick boxes completed will not be accepted by King’s Inns.
* Note that signatures may be electronic signatures, but it is not sufficient to simply type a person’s name in the relevant field. Learn how to create a digital signature here: [kingsinns.ie/cmsfiles/apply-now/DIGITAL-SIGNATURE.pdf](https://www.kingsinns.ie/assets/files/entrance-examination/digital-signature.pdf)
* **All applications must be received no later than 5 pm (Irish time) on Wednesday 25 June 2025**.
* All queries must be directed to: [Undertreasurer@kingsinns.ie](mailto:Undertreasurer@kingsinns.ie).
* Applicants are shortlisted and will be invited for interview via Zoom. Interviews for shortlisted candidates are scheduled to take place on **the morning of Thursday 10th July 2025.** Candidates will need access to a device with a webcam, microphone, and reliable internet connection in order to attend the online interviews. **Please save this date.**

This application is used to assess students for the Bursary and is received in the utmost confidence. All personal data supplied on this application will be stored securely and processed only for the purpose of the application process and any related legal studies course. For further information please see the King’s Inns Data Protection Statement at [Data Protection Notice | King's Inns](https://www.kingsinns.ie/data-protection-notice).

**NIALL AND BARBARA MCCARTHY BURSARY**

Mr Justice Niall St John McCarthy (1925–92) and his wife Barbara McCarthy (née Foley) died in a road traffic accident in 1992. Mr Justice McCarthy was educated at Clongowes Wood College and UCD, admitted to the degree of Barrister–at–Law at King’s Inns in 1946, made Senior Counsel in 1959, Chairman Irish Bar Council 1980–82, appointed as Judge of the Supreme Court 1982–92. In 2002, on the tenth anniversary of the death of their parents, their sons and daughters created the Niall and Barbara McCarthy Bursary, making a generous contribution with further support provided by McCarthy friends, members of the Judiciary, the Bar, and friends of King’s Inns. At the time of the launch of the Bursary, the Irish Times recalled the description of Niall McCarthy in the newspaper’s obituary as “a man whose concern for the oppressed constituted a golden thread through his rightly acclaimed judgments”. His wife, Barbara, was equally rich in intellect and passion for life. The couple were a true team who enriched the lives of those around them, especially their children’s.” Mr Justice McCarthy’s obituary in The Independent (UK) stated that “His legal conclusions were invariably concise and delivered with an articulate certainty, sometimes passionate force. His special distinction was in presenting the law not as cold abstracted logic, but an instrument with real human consequences.”

Mr Justice McCarthy had a wide range of interests and served as the first Chairman of the National Archives Advisory Council and as President of the Medico–Legal Society of Ireland.

**BURSARY AIM AND PURPOSE:**

The aim of the McCarthy Bursary is to support financially one student who might not otherwise be able to take the degree course; its purpose is to encourage their understanding of human rights law and its increasingly complex application in the courts and elsewhere. The McCarthy Scholar may have experienced some kind of life challenge or disadvantage giving them insight into the practice of law and will have been accepted onto the Barrister at Law degree course at the King’s Inns.

**THE MCCARTHY BURSARY CONSISTS OF:**

* Full remission of tuition fees on King’s Inns course leading to the degree of Barrister–at–Law
* Maintenance grant dependant on individual need and on the funds available to the Bursary
* A six-week internship at the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg (taken in the summer following the degree course)
* Grant to cover travel and maintenance costs in Strasbourg.

**HOW TO APPLY AND KEY INFORMATION**

1. Applicants are required to
   1. complete a detailed application form
   2. submit a reflective piece of 1000 words **maximum**
   3. supply the names of two referees whom King’s Inns may contact
2. Applicants are shortlisted and will be invited for interview via Zoom. **Interviews for shortlisted candidates are scheduled to take place on the morning of Thursday 10th July 2025.** Candidates will need access to a device with a webcam, microphone, and reliable internet connection in order to attend the online interviews. **Please save this date.**
3. Final decision regarding eligibility is determined by the McCarthy Bursary Panel, as is the appointment of the McCarthy Scholar.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – SHORTLISTING**

1. In order to be eligible to be shortlisted for interview, applicants will have applied for and been deemed eligible to sit the entrance examination for the Barrister-at-Law degree course in 2025; alternatively, an applicant may have sat and passed the entrance examination in a previous year and deferred their commencement of the Barrister-at-Law degree course to the year in which they are applying for the Bursary. The Bursary is only available to new students who are about to commence the Barrister-at-Law degree course in 2025 and is not available to continuing students who have already commenced the course (e.g. students who are entering year 2 of the modular course)

AND

1. Applicants must meet the financial and other relevant criteria (see directions for the reflective piece, in that panel of the form)

AND

1. Applicants must intend to practise at the Bar.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – TO BE AWARDED THE McCARTHY BURSARY**

Following interview, the top ranked eligible candidate will be notified that they are the chosen McCarthy Scholar for the academic year commencing 2025. This will be conditional upon the following conditions being met:

* The first placed applicant must pass the Entrance Examination to the Barrister-at-Law degree programme at the King’s Inns in the year in which they apply for the McCarthy Bursary (or having passed the entrance examination in a previous year and deferred their commencement of the Barrister-at-Law degree course to the year in which they are applying for the Bursary **AND**
* The successful applicant must take up the place on the Barrister-at-Law degree course in the year in which they apply for the McCarthy Bursary. The status of McCarthy Scholar may not be transferred to a later year.

If the first placed applicant does not meet the above conditions, they will forfeit the Bursary and it may be awarded to a suitable runner up candidate.

\* **For information on the educational and eligibility requirements for admission onto the degree of Barrister at Law course, see** [**Degree of Barrister–at–Law | King's Inns**](https://www.kingsinns.ie/courses/degree-of-barrister-at-law)**.**

**APPLICATION FOR THE MCCARTHY BURSARY**

**Please complete EACH of the following panels; if a panel does not apply to you then please write “not applicable” in that panel.**

We treat your privacy seriously and when we collect and process your personal data, we will do so in accordance with the GDPR, the Data Protection Acts 1988–2018 and with our Data Protection Statement. You are responsible for informing King’s Inns of any subsequent changes to your personal data. For further information please see the King’s Inns Data Protection Statement at [Data Protection Notice | King's Inns](https://www.kingsinns.ie/data-protection-notice)

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Surname: |  | First Name(s): |  |
| Date of Birth  (DDMMYY): |  | Country of Birth: |  |
| Gender: |  | | |
| Home Address: |  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
| Eircode: |  | | |
| Correspondence Address  (if different): |  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
| Eircode: |  | | |
| Mobile Phone: |  | | |
| Email: |  | | |

**LEGAL EDUCATION**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Please provide details of Law courses completed by you to date\***  **(starting with most recent)**  **Please also provide a copy of transcripts for each year of this course.** | | | |  |
| Institution | Course Title | Year | Completion Date | Overall Grade |
|  |  |  |  |  |
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| --- | --- |
| **Did you receive Access funding as an undergraduate, or, if you attended the Diploma in Legal Studies, did you benefit from the Gaffney Scholarship or any other fee remission from King’s Inns?** | Yes\* o No o |
| If yes, please provide details: | |

\*If you received Access or other funding, please enclose a letter from the relevant institution confirming same.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Did you apply for or receive a SUSI or Local Authority funding as an undergraduate?** Please type YES or NO |  |
| If yes, please provide details: | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Have you availed of any other means tested funding towards your education in the past?** Please type YES or NO |  |
| If yes, please provide details: | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Have you been awarded any other scholarship, prize or bursary in respect of the Barrister-at-Law degree course?** Please type YES or NO |  |
| If yes, please provide details: | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Secondary schools attended (starting with most recent)** | Dates of Attendance | |
| From | To |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
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**EMPLOYMENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Are you currently employed?** | Yes o Part-Time o Full-Time o  No o |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Please provide details of your employment / self-employment history (starting with your most recent role); please also include details of any unpaid work experience / volunteer work which may be relevant to this application.** | | | |
| Place of Work | Role | Dates | |
| From | To |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
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| --- | --- |
| **Are you an EU National?**  **OR**  **Have you been granted Refugee Status?** | Yes o  No o  Yes o Year Granted: \_\_\_\_\_  No o |
| **If not, do you require an education visa to study in Ireland?** | Yes o  No o |
| **Are you permitted to work in Ireland?** | Yes o  No o |

**FAMILY DETAILS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Family Member (e.g. Mother, father, guardian, child, sibling – **please do not give the name of the family member**) | Indicate (yes/no) whether you currently reside with this person | Highest level of education achieved to date (i.e. Primary Education, Group/Inter/Junior/Leaving Certificate, PLC, Adult Education, Certificate Diploma, Degree, Masters Programme etc.) | Current Occupation or current place of study |
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**\***Additional information can be added on an extra sheet attached to the application if required. Information about related parties should only be provided if this information is relevant to your application and you are in receipt of financial support or other benefit from them. All related parties must provide their consent separately on this form to have their personal data included on this application.

**CURRENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Please type YES in the appropriate box:** | |
| Home Owner |  |
| Private Rented Accommodation |  |
| Local Authority Tenant Purchase Scheme |  |
| Local Authority Rented Housing |  |
| Local Authority Rented Flat |  |
| Other non-permanent accommodation (please give details) |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Do you own additional property?**  **Please type YES or NO** |  |
| If yes, please provide details: | |

**PLACE OF RESIDENCE DURING CHILDHOOD**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Please type YES in the appropriate box:** | |
| Home Owner |  |
| Private Rented Accommodation |  |
| Local Authority Tenant Purchase Scheme |  |
| Local Authority Rented Housing |  |
| Local Authority Rented Flat |  |
| Other non-permanent accommodation (please give details) |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Address:** |  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
| Eircode: |  |

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION - SECTION A**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars of income from paid employment (including self-employment). If you are residing with parents, please give details of their income.\* Where applicable please ensure that this section is completed by the relevant persons. There is a separate consent section at the end of this form that must be completed by each person referenced in this section.** | | | | | |
|  | Estimated total income for the year ended 31 December 2024 | | | | |
| Self | Spouse/Partner | Parent / Guardian 1 | Parent / Guardian 2 | **Documents Required** |
| Occupation (be as specific as possible) |  |  |  |  | **N/A** |
| Income from employment e.g. PAYE – salary, wages, fees etc. |  |  |  |  | **Revenue documentation e.g. employee details summary** |
| Income from pension (from former employer or pension scheme) |  |  |  |  | **Notice of Assessments and Accounts** |
| Income from self-employment |  |  |  |  | **Revenue documentation** |
| Income from land: profits from farming activities |  |  |  |  | **Notice of Assessments and Accounts** |
| Income from any other source. (Please specify) |  |  |  |  | **Relevant evidence** |

**\* If neither you/your spouse/partner/your parent(s) are in paid employment please go to Section B.** **NB you need only provide information on spouse / partner and parents if you are living with them or are financially supported by them, or you are supporting them.** All related parties must provide their consent separately on this form to have their personal data included in this application.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION - SECTION B**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars of income from Department of Social Protection (DSP) (Complete where applicable)** | | | | | |
|  | **Estimated total income for the year ended 31 December 2024** | | | | |
| Self | **Spouse/Partner** | **Parent /**  **Guardian 1** | **Parent / Guardian 2** | **Documents Required** |
| Current or most recent occupation (be as specific as possible) |  |  |  |  | **N/A** |
| DSP – Jobseekers Benefit (short-term) |  |  |  |  | **Revenue documentation and Social Welfare Statement** |
| DSP – Jobseekers Allowance |  |  |  |  | **Revenue documentation and Social Welfare Statement** |
| DSP – Jobseekers Transitional payment (JST) |  |  |  |  |  |
| DSP – Supplementary Welfare Allowance |  |  |  |  | **Revenue documentation and Social Welfare Statement** |
| DSP – Pension Payment (please specify) |  |  |  |  | **Revenue documentation and Social Welfare Statement** |
| DSP – Rent Supplement |  |  |  |  | **Revenue documentation and Social Welfare Statement** |
|  | **Estimated total income for the year ended 31 December 2024** | | | | |
| **Self** | **Spouse/Partner** | **Parent /**  **Guardian 1** | **Parent / Guardian 2** | **Documents Required** |
| DSP – Mortgage Interest Supplement |  |  |  |  | **Revenue documentation and Social Welfare Statement** |
| DSP – Illness Benefit |  |  |  |  | **Revenue documentation and Social Welfare Statement** |
| DSP – Disability Allowance |  |  |  |  | **Revenue documentation and Social Welfare Statement** |
| DSP – Partial Capacity Benefit |  |  |  |  | **Revenue documentation and Social Welfare Statement** |
| Other DSP payment (please specify) |  |  |  |  | **Revenue documentation and Social Welfare Statement** |

Information about related parties should only be provided if this information is relevant to your application and you are in receipt of financial support or other benefit from them. All related parties must provide their consent separately on this form to have their personal data included on this application.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

|  |
| --- |
| **If you wish to provide any additional information on your financial circumstances please do so here (NB this is entirely optional): 200-300 max words.** |

**REFLECTIVE PIECE**

The late Mr Justice McCarthy was one or Ireland’s leading jurists. His judgments reflect his commitment to justice, fairness, and the rule of law. The McCarthy Scholar is expected to share these values. It is expected that the McCarthy scholar will be an intelligent and highly motivated individual who is committed to a legal career at the Bar, and who would, in the absence of being awarded the Bursary, experience significant financial challenges in terms of achieving that aim. The McCarthy Scholar may have experienced personal adversity making access to a career as a barrister more challenging than his or her peers.

Please enclose a typed reflective piece (max. 1,000 words) with this application form, explaining how you might be a worthy recipient of the McCarthy Bursary. You should include any reference to your legal career to date, your personal circumstances, and the benefit you believe you would derive from being awarded the Bursary. **Please note that pieces in excess of 1000 words will not be considered.**

In your reflective piece, you must address the following questions and may add any other additional information you would like the Panel to consider:

* + What do you want the McCarthy Bursary Panel to know about your early life or upbringing that is relevant to the stated ethos of the Bursary?
  + You have provided data about your academic career. What in particular from your studies so far will have impact on your practice at the Bar, and be relevant to the legacy (both implicit and explicit) of Justice Niall McCarthy?
  + At the Bar you will eventually be able to choose between areas of practice. What do you currently know about the practical working role of a barrister, and what steps have you already taken to advance your own progress to the Bar? Please give specific details.
  + The McCarthy Scholar will go to the ECHR in Strasbourg for 6 weeks in the summer of 2026. What do you know of its role, and if you are chosen are you available for those weeks?

Reflective Piece

**REFEREES**

Please provide the details of two referees eg. a tutor / teacher from a course you have attended or supervisor from a place of work. You must have the permission of the referee before including their name in this application. You acknowledge that we may contact any referee included here directly.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Referee 1** | |
| Name |  |
| Job Title |  |
| Relationship to you |  |
| Address |  |
|  |
|  |
| Telephone No. |  |
| Email |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Referee 2** | |
| Name |  |
| Job Title |  |
| Relationship to you |  |
| Address |  |
|  |
|  |
| Telephone No. |  |
| Email |  |

**CHECKLIST**

Please ensure the following documentation is enclosed with your completed application form

* Letter from your former institution confirming that you received Access funding or financial support (if applicable)
* Financial Information to support Section A and/or Section B (where applicable)
* Reflective Piece (max. 1000 words)
* Transcripts of all law degree/diploma results
* Completed consents by all related parties referenced on this form

**DECLARATION**

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided is true and accurate.

Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

**EXPLICIT CONSENT FOR PROCESSING PERSONAL DATA / SPECIAL CATEGORY PERSONAL DATA – APPLICANT**

We require your explicit consent to obtain and process the personal data that you are providing on this form, particularly in relation to special categories of personal data relating to health, race, or ethnicity. King’s Inns are committed to the protection of personal data that you provide, and we will only use it for the purposes of considering your application. For further information please see our Data Protection Statement available at [Data Protection Notice | King's Inns](https://www.kingsinns.ie/data-protection-notice).

I consent to the processing of my personal data and special categories of personal data as set out in this form and provided to King’s Inns, by King’s Inns and by the McCarthy Bursary Panel. I understand that my results in the entrance examination will also be shared with the Panel by King’s Inns, and I consent to that. I understand that information provided in connection with this application will be treated in the utmost confidence and will be used only for the purposes of deciding the McCarthy Scholar for 2025. Information supplied will be destroyed following the decision of the Panel, which will be final. I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time by contacting [data.privacy@kingsinns.ie](mailto:data.privacy@kingsinns.ie).

Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

**RELATED PARTY DECLARATION**

This section should be completed by any Related Party included in this application

**RELATED PARTY NO. 1**

**Explicit consent for processing Personal Data/Special Category Personal Data**

We require your explicit consent to obtain and process the personal data provided on this form, particularly in relation to special categories of personal data relating to health. King’s Inns are committed to the protection of the personal data that you provide, and we will only use it for the purposes of considering your application. For further information please see our Data Protection Statement that is available at [Data Protection Notice | King's Inns](https://www.kingsinns.ie/data-protection-notice).

**Consent**

Please tick:

I consent to King’s Inns processing the personal data and special categories of personal data submitted with this application. I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time by contacting:  [data.privacy@kingsinns.ie](mailto:data.privacy@kingsinns.ie).

Name of related party: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of related party: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

**RELATED PARTY NO. 2**

**Explicit consent for processing Personal Data/Special Category Personal Data**

We require your explicit consent to obtain and process the personal data provided on this form, particularly in relation to special categories of personal data relating to health. King’s Inns are committed to the protection of the personal data that you provide, and we will only use it for the purposes of considering your application. For further information please see our Data Protection Statement that is available at [Data Protection Notice | King's Inns](https://www.kingsinns.ie/data-protection-notice).

**Consent**

Please tick:

I consent to King’s Inns processing the personal data and special categories of personal data submitted with this application. I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time by contacting:  [data.privacy@kingsinns.ie](mailto:data.privacy@kingsinns.ie).

Name of related party: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of related party: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

**RELATED PARTY NO. 3**

**Explicit consent for processing Personal Data/Special Category Personal Data**

We require your explicit consent to obtain and process the personal data provided on this form, particularly in relation to special categories of personal data relating to health. King’s Inns are committed to the protection of the personal data that you provide, and we will only use it for the purposes of considering your application. For further information please see our Data Protection Statement that is available at [Data Protection Notice | King's Inns](https://www.kingsinns.ie/data-protection-notice).

**Consent**

Please tick:

I consent to King’s Inns processing the personal data and special categories of personal data submitted with this application. I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time by contacting:  [data.privacy@kingsinns.ie](mailto:data.privacy@kingsinns.ie).

Name of related party: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of related party: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Forms that are not signed with the relevant tick boxes completed will not be accepted by King’s Inns.**

**Note that signatures may be electronic signatures, but it is not sufficient to simply type a person’s name in the relevant field.**