



**Children's
Disability
Network
Team**

Student Sponsorship Programme

ACADEMIC YEAR 2024 - 2025

Avista



St. Joseph's
Foundation



Student Sponsorship Programme Academic Year 2024 - 2025

Children's Disability Network Teams

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the CDNT Student Sponsorship Programme?

The Student Sponsorship Programme is to support Health & Social Care graduates from certain courses in taking up a job in a Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT).

The Sponsorship Programme showcases and promotes the Children's Disability Network Team as a good place to work and an attractive career opportunity.

See further details on [Children's Disability Network Teams](#).

2. What is the value of the Sponsorship?

The sponsorship amount is €5,000.

3. Why should I register for the Student Sponsorship Programme?

You should register so you can optimise your employment opportunities and to receive financial sponsorship for your education costs. From a career perspective it is good for you to have a career plan in place once you finish up college as the sponsorship is mapped to an actual job offer in a Children's Disability Network Team.

In Children's Disability Network Teams, team members work closely with children and their families and form strong bonds with them. Working in a Children's Disability Network Team will allow you to witness the impact your work is having on a child's life and the progress they are making first hand.

Interdisciplinary working is very much part of the culture in Children's Disability Network Team's. You will be well supported by the team, with collaboration around decision-making and the chance to learn from different professions and skill sets that will develop your clinical experience. You'll play an essential role in helping children with disabilities achieve their potential to live as independently as possible.

4. Who can register for this Student Sponsorship Programme?

Final year undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland colleges due to graduate from certain relevant courses in 2025 and pending graduation will be eligible to register with CORU in 2025.

The Student Sponsorship Programme is open to students from the academic year 2024 – 2025 and from the following courses:

- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Social Work
- Speech and Language Therapy

5. Why can't students in other courses of study register for this Student Sponsorship Programme?

The courses chosen for sponsorship are those that are most relevant to the grade of vacant jobs that we have in Children's Disability Network Teams, these are staff grade level jobs which are the entry level for new graduates.

Children's Disability Network Teams also employ Dietitians, Psychologists, Social Care Workers and Nurses- and other professions as well. We are developing recruitment initiatives for new graduates in those professions as well.

6. How can I register for the Student Sponsorship programme?

You can register your interest for the Student Sponsorship Programme [here](#).

We also encourage you to register with [CareerHub](#) to be notified of jobs in the HSE as they arise, many of the funded organisations also advertise on HSE website so you will increase your job opportunities by registering with [CareerHub](#).

7. Will the register your interest form take long to complete?

No, it is a really straightforward process and will only take a couple of minutes- you fill in a few questions such as personal details and then submit.

8. When is the closing date to register my interest?

You can register up until Friday May 2nd 2025 at 9pm.

9. How will you contact me?

You will be contacted by text and email. The details will be taken from the register your interest form you will have filled out.

10. If I need to update / remove my details after I submit the register your interest form, how do I do this?

We recommend you use a personal email address you will have access to after you leave college.

If you need to update your information after you have submitted the register your interest form e.g. change of telephone number, email address, please contact us by email on:

Workforce.Disabilities@hse.ie

If you wish to remove your details from this initiative, please email us on:

Workforce.Disabilities@hse.ie

11. I am not currently studying in Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland but am a student in a relevant course, can I register?

As a student outside of the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland you are not eligible to register for this particular student sponsorship programme.

While you can't apply for this programme the HSE welcomes applications from overseas students. Join the [HSE Career Hub](#) and start receiving custom weekly job opportunities within healthcare in Ireland. The HSE offers support to overseas candidates in terms of an international recruitment relocation package. Please visit the [HSE website](#) for further information.

12. What is the selection process?

Once you fill out the register your interest form, the details from those interested will then be reviewed. We will share your details with the Children's Disability Network Teams and their employers.

We may interview students for these roles or we may use existing recruitment panels that the 2025 graduates have already interviewed for.

We will notify you of the selection process for sponsored job after the registration process.

13. Can I take up a role anywhere in disabilities other than Children's Disability Network Teams?

This particular sponsorship is linked to roles in Children's Disability Network Teams. Please register with CareerHub to be notified of vacancies in Children's Disability Network Teams – you should also check out vacancies in the agencies funded by the HSE- see the links below. If there is no role available in a CDNT we would encourage you to take up a job elsewhere in Disabilities. The funded lead agencies website links are below:

[Avista](#)

[Co Action](#)

[Stewarts](#)

[St Gabriel's](#)

[Brothers of Charity](#)

[Enable Ireland](#)

[St Joseph's Foundation](#)

[Kare](#)

[Central Remedial Clinic](#)

[Horizon Cork](#)

[St Michael's House](#)

14. Can I choose which team I will work in?

Sponsorship and the related job offer will be for Children's Disability Network Teams where a suitable vacancy exists.

You can choose whether or not you take a sponsorship / job offer in a particular team and location.

In the **register your interest** form, you are asked to indicate which location/s you would genuinely work in. This information helps us to support the roll out of the Student Sponsorship Programme aligned to actual jobs. You can indicate your interest in more than one county location.

15. Will clinical and professional supervision be available to me on the team?

Yes, clinical and professional supervision will be available to you on the team and you will be fully supported by the team and Children's Disability Network Manager.

16. Will I have access to Continuing Professional Development?

Yes, you will have access to Continuing Professional Development.

17. I am an undergraduate/ postgraduate who also works as an agency worker; can I register for a student sponsorship?

Yes and we encourage you to register.

18. I am already in a HSE apprenticeship but this offers higher financial support, can I register?

No, you cannot apply if you are already on a pathway to employment and currently in receipt of an apprenticeship, bursary or sponsorship.

19. How long will I have to stay with the Children's Disability Network Team once I take up a position?

You will need to stay a minimum of 1 year to meet the sponsorship programme requirements. We encourage you to stay longer and to build your career in disabilities.

20. What will happen if I don't take up the Children's Disability Network Team position I am offered once I am CORU/ registered?

When you are offered a job, you will be given time to consider it. From there you will decide to accept or decline the job offer extended to you.

If you do not take up a position then you will be required to payback any money received by that date. See appendix 1 for further information.

21. I only study part time; will the job offered be full time?

There is likely to be a mixture of full time and part time roles (with the majority being full time). The health service supports flexible working through a range of statutory leave and non-statutory leave options, which can be discussed with your future employer (in line with the terms & conditions of employment of your employer). You can discuss any flexible working requirements when you are offered a job or after you start employment.

The tenure (part time or full time) of the job will be made known to you at job offer stage.

22. How will I receive this payment?

We will update you on the way sponsorship money will be received. It is likely that you will receive this payment as part of your first pay check.

23. Will I be taxed on this payment?

Under Revenue updated rules February 2023 there is no tax exemption for scholarship income linked to employment, therefore the scholarship will be liable to income tax, while may result in a reduction in the final amount you receive dependent on your own liabilities under tax.

Please see [Revenue](#) for further information.

24. Will I get a permanent contract of employment from this?

There will be a mixture of job offers available - permanent and Specified Purpose (temporary) contracts.

They will be mainly permanent.

25. Who will my employer be?

The contract of employment offered will be to the HSE or a HSE funded Children's Disability Network Team Lead Agency.

See the list of agencies and the links to their websites below.

[Avista](#)

[Co Action](#)

[Stewarts](#)

[St Gabriel's](#)

[Brothers of Charity](#)

[Enable Ireland](#)

[St Joseph's Foundation](#)

[Kare](#)

[Central Remedial Clinic](#)

[Horizon Cork](#)

[St Michael's House](#)

26. Do I need to have my own car to work in different locations?

Access to appropriate transport may be required dependant on the specifics of the role. Further details will be available at job offer stage.

27. If so, will I be paid for travel?

You will paid travel and subsistence costs incurred on necessary absence from your base on official business, in line with the employer's travel and subsistence policy.

28. What are the hours of work if I am offered a job?

Clarity on hours will be as part of job offer and you be offered the standard hours of work for your profession. You will know the hours of work before you accept the job offer.

29. Will I be offered a position immediately after I finish my course?

We expect you will be conditionally offered a job before you graduate/ are CORU registered and the employment clearances will have already started. This means you can start in your new job close to your CORU registration date. The actual start date will be agreed between the employer and you.

We may prioritise appointments from those who are already registered with the CORU.

30. What happens if I fail my exams?

If you fail your exams we may be able to work with you on possible solutions such as giving you an opportunity to repeat your exams.

If it is the case that you do not repeat or pass your exams, you do not take up a position then you will be required to payback any money received to date. See Appendix 1 for further information.

We recommend you keep in communication with us. We may prioritise filling jobs with people who are able to take up a job in the fastest time frame.

31. What happens if I am pregnant before I take up the position; will it wait for me?

If you have started your employment then you will be entitled to your maternity leave.

Please visit the [Citizens Information website](#) for further information.

32. What will happen if I become ill before taking up a position?

Depending on the stage you are at in the recruitment process there are various outcomes. You will be supported in the form of an occupational health assessment. If you are declared medically unfit to work we would not progress with the recruitment process.

In relation to other supports, please visit the [Citizens Information website](#) for further information.

33. How will I prepare for the interview?

If you are being called to interview we recommend that you visit the [recruitment process](#) page on the HSE website for some helpful information when preparing for an interview.

34. Is there a time limit from when I finish my course to when I take up a position?

You must be CORU registered to start in your new job. It is anticipated that once all your recruitment clearances are on file that a start date will be agreed as soon as possible.

We may prioritise appointments from those who are already registered with the CORU.

35. Do I have to payback sponsorship money received if I take a position in another part of publically funded health and social care services?

This would be subject to the decision of sponsoring Children's Disability Network Team and the Health Region.

36. Can I move to another team when a vacancy comes up during my "payback" period?

"Payback" is where you must pay back the amount given to you as part of this sponsorship agreement. Payback of any monies received would be subject to the decision of sponsoring Children's Disability Network Team and the Health Region.

37. Can I move to another location when a vacancy arises during my payback period?

This would be subject to the decision of sponsoring Children's Disability Network Team and the Health Region.

38. Can I continue to work on the Children's Disability Network Team if I wish once I have completed my payback period?

Yes, you will continue to work on the Children's Disability Network Team in line with your contract of employment.

39. I have further queries that are not answered above, where can I go?

If you have further queries you can email Workforce.disabilities@hse.ie

APPENDIX 1

Cessation of course or cessation of employment post sponsorship:	Sponsorship Fees to be repaid:
During their study	100%
Cessation of employment between 0 months and 12 months after sponsorship end date	100%
Cessation of employment after 13 months after sponsorship end date	0%