



Oireachtas Gaeilge Cheanada

Foghlaimoir Gaeilge na Bliana • Irish Language Learner of the Year Award

The Irish Language Learner of the Year Award is presented annually to the candidate judged by the Selection Committee of Oireachtas Gaeilge Cheanada to be the most deserving of the distinction. The Learner of the Year holds the office for the following year, and assumes the role of ambassador for the language in various honorary and official capacities, including: openings, launches, lectures, immersion events, festivals, press interviews, and receptions with dignitaries. The Learner of the Year receives a perpetual trophy (donated by Glór na nGael), a gold medal from Oireachtas Gaeilge Cheanada, and a scholarship to attend a month long course in the Conamara Gaeltacht (Estimated value \$3,500 Canadian, including course fees, board, and accommodation, sponsored by the Ireland Canada University Foundation).

The award recognizes that it is possible in Canada to learn the Irish Language and to provide significant service to the language at home and internationally. It recognizes the outstanding achievement of the Learner of the Year in this regard, and credits the positive influence that they have provided to their fellow learners, to their local communities, and to the wider community of the Irish Language.

Deadline for Nomination/Application: 1 June each year



To Apply

An individual may become a candidate for the Irish Language Learner of the Year Award by **application OR by nomination**. Both nominations and applications should be sent to

Foghlaimoír na Bliana
c/o Aralt Mac Giolla Chainnigh
Physics, Royal Military College of Canada
Box 17,000 Station Forces
Kingston, Ontario
K7K 7B4
or
e-mail: kenny-h@rmc.ca

Nomination

In order to nominate a candidate for the Irish Language Learner of the Year Award, the nominator must submit contact information for the nominee (see application/nomination form below), and a short description of their achievements. They must also provide the name and contact information of a second individual who can attest to the achievements of the nominee as an Irish Language learner. Nominees will be asked to provide written confirmation that they are willing to be considered as a candidate before the nomination is considered complete. In order to assist the selection committee, candidates may be asked to submitted a short essay in Irish describing their experiences as an Irish language learner (See suggested topics below).

Application

In order to apply to become a candidate for the Irish Language Learner of the Year Award, an individual must submit a written statement of their desire to be considered for the award. Personal contact information must be provided (see application/nomination form below), as well as the names and contact information for two individuals who can attest to their experiences as Irish language learners. In order to assist the selection committee, candidates may be asked to submitted a short essay in Irish describing their experiences as an Irish language learner (See suggested topics below).



Eligibility

Candidates for the Irish Language Learner of the Year Award must:

- be Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada, or have resided in Canada for at least one year;¹
- be 18 years of age or older;
- be actively involved in acquiring the Irish language in Canada;
- not have previously held the office of Irish Language Learner of the Year.

Award Acceptance

The winner of the Irish Language Learner of the Year Award will typically be announced 2 weeks prior to Oireachtas Gaeilge Cheanada. It is hoped that the recipient will be able to be present at the Oireachtas to officially accept the award. If not, an alternative Irish language event will be sought at which to make the presentation. The Gaeltacht course, which is part of the award, is run from mid-July to mid-August. The winner of the award will normally be scheduled to be attend this course the following year, in order to provide the necessary time to make arrangements to be away from home. If the Learner of the Year is unable to accept the scholarship according to the ordinary schedule, their name will be placed on a priority list, in order that they may be offered the opportunity to take up the scholarship at a later date.

Facebook and Twitter

Social media provide an excellent opportunity to promote the Irish language. The Irish Language Learner of the Year will be encouraged, and assisted, to use Facebook and Twitter under the title of their office.

Selection

The Irish Language Learner of the Year Award is administered by the Awards and Adjudication Subcommittee of Oireachtas Gaeilge Cheanada (www.oireachtas.ca), which is itself a constituent of Cumann na Gaeltachta (www.anghaeltacht.ca). The actual selection committee for Irish Language Learner of the Year Award may include additional individuals appointed by the Awards and Adjudication Subcommittee.

¹ This requirement is necessary since the Gaeltacht scholarship is provided by the Ireland Canada University Foundation.



Suggested Essay Topics

Candidates may be requested to submit essays in Irish as part of the selection process. Since learners at all levels are eligible to apply, the essays will not be judged for mastery of the language. Instead, they will be judged for the willingness of the candidates to use the written language, and for the actual information provided within the essay.

The following topics may be among those which candidates choose in order to express their experiences in the Irish Language:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Eolas Ginearálta (mar shampla, teaghlach agus caithimh aimsire)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Information (for example, family and hobbies)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Cúiseanna fhoghlaim na Gaeilge (scoileanna, cúrsaí nó múinteoireacht san áireamh)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reasons for learning Irish (include school, courses or teaching received)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Tréimhse staidéir</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Duration of study
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Eispéiris staidéir na Gaeilge</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experiences in studying Irish
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Bealaigh úsáid na teanga go dtí seo</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ways in which the language has been used
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Barrhianta agus aidhmeanna úsáid na teanga sa todhchaí</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hopes and aims for the use of Irish in the future



Foirm Iarratais/Ainmniúcháin (Application/Nomination Form)

Ainm/Name:

Seoladh/Address:

Ríomhphost/Email:

Uimhir Ghutháin/
Phone Number:

Ainmnithe ag
/Nominated By:

Ríomhphost/Email:

