



MAR Scholarship Guidelines

The Mid-Atlantic Region is proud to launch the inaugural MAR Scholarship Program, created to recognize dancers in our region who demonstrate strong dedication, character and heart while balancing Irish dance and academics.

Eligibility:

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be actively enrolled in Irish dance classes in the Mid-Atlantic Region with a teacher(s) registered with MAR, CLRG, and IDTANA.
- Be an Oireachtas-level dancer who has previously competed at an Oireachtas in any competition category, including solo, traditional set, or céilí and plans to compete at the Mid-Atlantic Region Oireachtas 2026.

The program will award multiple scholarships, with the number of recipients determined based on available funding. Up to \$10,000 in scholarships will be distributed to Oireachtas-level dancers. **The applicant must be one of the following as of January 1, 2026:**

1. High School Junior or Senior who will be attending an undergraduate institution in Fall 2026 (proof required) as of January 1, 2026.
2. Current college student enrolled in an undergraduate institution and continuing in the 2026–2027 academic year (proof required) as of January 1, 2026.
3. Young Scholar ages 10-13 as of January 1, 2026

Requirements:

- **Submit one essay** by selecting one of the three topics for your age group and adhering to the specified word count guidelines.
- Submit a Teacher Verification Form, **signed by your teacher** confirming active student status, Oireachtas-level eligibility, prior Oireachtas participation, and intent to enter MARO 2026.
- Provide **proof of college enrollment or acceptance**, if applicable.
- Applicants under 18 years of age must have a parent or legal guardian complete and submit the application on their behalf.
- Applications must be submitted in full **by Monday, August 17, 2026.**

Important Application Dates:

Applications will open on Monday, June 1, 2026 and close on **Monday, August 17, 2026.** Winners will be notified and announced in early November and will receive their scholarship award at the Mid-Atlantic Region Oireachtas 2026 in Philadelphia.

Essay Instructions

Please select one topic from your age group and respond using specific examples. As applications will be reviewed anonymously, please do not include any identifying information, such as references to your dance school.

Word Count Guidelines

Young Scholars: 450-600 words

High School: 650-950 words

College: 700–1,000 words

College

A current college student (as of January 1, 2026) enrolled in an undergraduate institution and continuing in the 2026–2027 academic year (proof required) as of January 1, 2026.

Pick 1 topic:

1. How do you **balance** your academic responsibilities with your commitment to Irish dance, and what have you learned from managing both?
2. The Claddagh represents love, loyalty, and friendship. How do you embody these **values** in your life?
3. What lessons from Irish dance will you carry with you beyond the stage, and how do you expect them to **shape your future**?

High School

A High School Junior or Senior who will be attending an undergraduate institution in Fall 2026 as of January 1, 2026.

Pick 1 topic:

1. What does **dedication** mean to you, and how has Irish dance helped you develop that quality?
2. Describe a time you took initiative to support or lead others in your dance school or **community**. What did you learn from that experience?
3. Describe a meaningful experience in Irish dance that has had a lasting impact on you. How did it influence your **growth** as a person, student, and dancer?

Young Scholars

Ages 10-13 as of January 1, 2026

Pick 1 topic:

1. What do you **love** most about Irish dance, and why is it important to you?
2. Describe a time you showed **kindness** to another dancer. What did you do, and how did it make you feel?
3. What is something important you have **learned** from Irish dance? Why is it important to you?

If you have any questions, please contact mar.scholarship.program@gmail.com.