

NOTRE DAME 16+ SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

FOR ENTRY IN SEPTEMBER 2026

A limited number of scholarships are awarded to those candidates who excel in the scholarship subject areas applied for. Our scholars are expected to also positively contribute to the life of the School and be positive role models for younger students.

Information on our academic, art, drama, music and sports scholarships is detailed in this guide.

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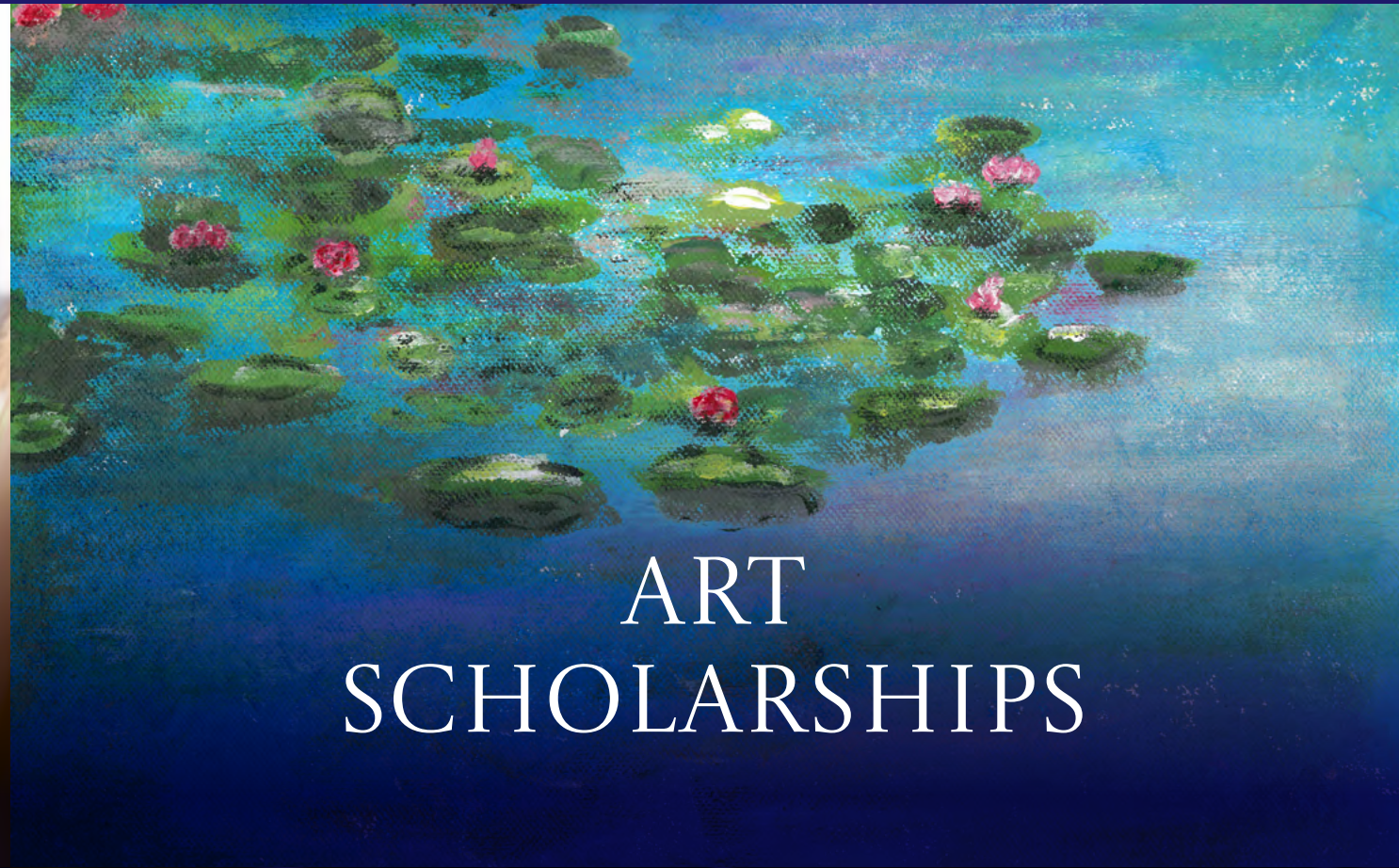




GENERAL
INFORMATION



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SCHOLARSHIPS



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SCHOLARSHIPS



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GENERAL INFORMATION

All candidates, internal and external, are welcome to apply and should review the application criteria listed for each subject. Scholarships awarded for Sixth Form (16+) are tenable until the end of Year 13 and are subject to annual review.

The scholarship award is valued at 25% of tuition fees per annum spread equally across the three terms. Scholarship awards are subject to certain conditions, which are set out in the Conditions of Award document and parents' signed acceptance is taken as acceptance of those conditions.

Please note that a student may be awarded more than one scholarship; however, the 25% scholarship fee discount can be applied only once.





ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic Scholars take on a range of leadership opportunities and serve as ambassadors for our School. They play a key role in fostering intellectual curiosity, organising debates, and leading workshops and sessions that inspire and support their peers. They also play an important role in supporting and mentoring the younger children.

16+ academic scholarship application criteria

The Assessment

Academic scholarships in the Sixth Form are awarded based on the results of a scholarship examination and interview with the Headmistress and Head of Sixth Form. The one hour online examination assesses logic, comprehension and thinking skills and is not subject specific. Students will be able to draw on a range of skills and experiences from the varied elements of their GCSE courses and it is not necessary to prepare for this exam.

External candidates – those applying to join Sixth Form

All candidates who wish to apply need to sit the exam with the internal candidates in November 2025. Unfortunately, it is not possible to offer an alternative sitting for this examination. Candidates may already have a conditional offer in place or awaiting an offer following registration. Parents will be notified of the scholarship outcome in December. External candidates do not pay any additional fees to be considered for a scholarship.

Internal candidates – our Year 11 students

Year 11 families can apply for an academic scholarship from September via a form sent out through SchoolPost.

All candidates will be interviewed by the Senior School Headmistress, Mrs King and the Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Marker. The interviewers will explore how the candidates will contribute to school life, as well as their chosen specialism.





ART SCHOLARSHIPS

Art scholars are expected to contribute to and participate in multiple art, textiles and photography initiatives in School, locally and nationally. Most importantly, art scholars are role models for art, textiles and photography with younger students.

Art scholars benefit from mentoring by the Head of Department and the art, textiles and photography team. They enjoy opportunities to discuss, with their teacher, the type of artist they aspire to be and together they work towards developing and honing their skills. Art scholars are invited to take part in Notre Dame and national art, textiles and photography competitions, which widens their experience in the world of art.

There are specific extracurricular activities available for students to influence and lead, and personalised sessions to gain advice and guidance. Art scholars will be invited to join school trips to galleries, museums and, if appropriate, our art and textiles trip abroad. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the artists and designers who have come before them, adding to their experience and inspiring them as they develop as artists.

16+ art scholarship criteria

Notre Dame's Art Department is seeking scholars who have potential in and a genuine passion for art and design. In order to demonstrate this, candidates are requested to submit a creative set of work.

Candidates wishing to be considered for a 16+ Art scholarship will complete the online scholarship form and include their digital portfolio submission.

- The portfolio could include photos of original paintings, drawings, collage, printmaking, textiles, photographs and other craft work.
- The work can include art ideas produced at home, external art classes or current schoolwork.
- The work should demonstrate the candidate's knowledge of observational drawing, painting and design ideas.
- It should also demonstrate the use of colour and ability to work with a variety of materials.

All candidates will be interviewed by the Head of Art. The interviewers will explore how the candidates will contribute to school life, as well as their chosen specialism





DRAMA SCHOLARSHIPS

Drama scholars are expected to lead by example within the School's drama programme. Scholars are also expected to be creatively ambitious, aiming to fulfil roles that are more artistically demanding and to master these through attendance to all scheduled rehearsals. All roles for school productions are nevertheless cast on the strength of auditions and we look to scholars to prepare fully for an audition process, to showcase their ability and commitment to drama at Notre Dame.

Scholars benefit from being invited to attend theatre trips and events such as audition workshops and acting masterclasses to support and accelerate practical performance skills. In doing so, they can broaden their appreciation and experience of a wide range of theatrical styles and genres.

16+ drama scholarship criteria

Candidates wishing to be considered for a 16+ Drama scholarship will complete the online scholarship form and include their digital submission, which should demonstrate the candidate's abilities and experience.

The following should be included:

- A list of drama activities and productions in which the candidate has participated.
- Any LAMDA/Guildhall/Festival comments sheets, if applicable.
- A short review written by the candidate of no more than 500 words evaluating a drama production they have seen (this will form the basis for their interview).

All candidates will be interviewed by the Head of Drama. The interviewers will explore how the candidates will contribute to school life, as well as their chosen specialism.

Auditions

Following an evaluation of all submissions, candidates may be invited to audition. The auditions are informal and relaxed as we want candidates to enjoy the experience and perform at their best.





MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Music scholars are expected to take an active role within the Senior Music Department. All scholars must attend at least one ensemble each week and be ready to perform in concerts, assemblies or other school events at the request of the Director of Music.

Scholars of music benefit from ample opportunities to perform and improve their musicianship. Annually, there are two scholars' concerts, two teatime concerts, an Easter concert, masses, Prize Giving and assemblies, which all offer the opportunity to perform. Scholars also enjoy the value of social interactions as part of a wider music community.

16+ music scholarship application criteria

Candidates who apply for a 16+ music scholarship will complete the online scholarship form and include their accompaniment scores required for their audition. Further submissions such as certificates are not required prior to audition.

Students will be asked to perform unaccompanied or use their submitted accompaniment score. For the audition, each candidate should be prepared to:

- Perform two contrasting solo pieces on their **FIRST** instrument.
- If more than one instrument, perform a solo on their **SECOND** instrument/voice.
- Undertake some simple aural tests.
- Provide information on their level of skill (for example, grade exams) and involvement in music in or out of school.

All candidates will be interviewed by the Head of Music. The interviewers will explore how the candidates will contribute to school life, as well as their chosen specialism.

Auditions

All candidates will be invited to audition. This process is informal and relaxed as we want candidates to enjoy the experience and perform at their best. During the auditions, candidates will discuss their music interests and activities, as well as general interests both inside and outside school.





SPORT SCHOLARSHIPS

Our sports scholars are expected to take part in training and to represent Notre Dame in a variety of sporting fixtures. They will also have the opportunity to participate in our Elite Sports Development Programme. As part of this programme, scholars will be assigned a specialist sports mentor from our staff team, who will support and advise them individually. They are also expected to take part in weekly tailored strength and fitness sessions in the Gym Suite.

16+ sport scholarship application criteria

Sport scholarships are awarded to students with a proven high level of sporting ability and potential. Candidates are expected to offer at least one sport to a high standard and must demonstrate a flair for acquiring new skills, as well as a passion for and commitment to sport in general. It is expected that sport scholars will play a full role in the sporting life of the School.

Candidates applying for a 16+ sport scholarship will complete the online scholarship form and include their supporting evidence.

All candidates must submit a written record of their sporting achievements and may include scanned or photographed awards and certificates, as well as details about any cups or medals received. Please do not submit cups, medals, DVDs or original certificates or awards.

The written record could include:

- How long the candidate has been participating in their chosen sport or sports.
- School/club/county or national participation and level.
- Courses attended; awards gained (along with awarding body/level/year achieved).
- Details of positions of responsibility (e.g. captain).
- References from sports club coaches (if applicable).
- Candidate's aspirations.
- Any other relevant information to support the candidate's application.

All candidates will be interviewed by the Head of Sport. The interviewers will explore how the candidates will contribute to school life, as well as their chosen specialism.



APPLICATION PROCESS

How to apply

Applications are completed online through our admissions portal, OpenApply; external candidates can complete this at time of registration. Internal candidates will be invited to apply for scholarships through SchoolPost.

When to apply

Applications for all scholarships will open at the beginning of the Autumn Term, when an invitation and link to apply will be shared. The form will require the submission of supporting evidence as referenced in this document; therefore please do have these to hand before starting the form. Regrettably, where a student is unable to attend a scholarship assessment, we will not be able to offer a second date.

Key dates

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| Scholarship applications open: | Monday 1st September 2025 |
| Exam registration & scholarship application deadline: | Thursday 16th October 2025 |
| 16+ Academic Assessment: | w/c 17th November 2025 |
| Art scholarship Assessment: | w/c 17th November 2025 |
| Drama scholarship Assessment: | w/c 17th November 2025 |
| Music scholarship Assessment: | w/c 17th November 2025 |
| Sport scholarship Assessment: | w/c 17th November 2025 |
| 16+ Scholarship Offers: | December 2025 |
| Offer & scholarship acceptance deadline: | February 2026 |



Please contact our Registrar,
Mrs Jenny Slaymaker
with any questions.

01932 869993
admissions@notredame.co.uk

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