



## University of Galway Youth Academy

### Application and Selection Policy: Primary School

#### Application Process

- The Youth Academy currently offers three intakes per academic year;
  - Autumn intake (class commencing in October)
  - Spring intake (class normally commencing in January/February)
  - Summer camp (one week in July)
- Applications for each intake of the Youth Academy will open approximately one month before the course start date. Each intake is often oversubscribed, in particular the Autumn intake.
  - Applications for the Autumn intake will open to the public in early September.
  - Applications for the Spring intake will open in late December/early January. Applications will be opened first to eligible applicants to the Autumn intake who were not offered a place due to limited places.
- Parents/guardians of applicants will be able to access the application portal via the Youth Academy website on the University of Galway website.
- The window to make an application will remain open for normally five days.
- The closing date and time will be clearly visible on the Youth Academy webpage alongside the link to the application portal.
- The following pieces of information are collected as part of the application:
  - Personal details of the applicant
  - Contact details of parent/guardian
  - Course preferences (with options to choose one, two or three course preferences [maximum three])
  - Supporting documentation (proof of test results)
  - Privacy and Data Protection consent questions
- The application portal facilitates applicants who wish to complete part of the application, save their changes and come back at a later stage to complete the application (e.g. and submit documents) provided the application in full (including supporting documents) are received by the published closing date and time.

#### Eligibility

- Applicants must demonstrate high academic ability and present evidence of one of the following to attend our programmes:
  1. Be in the top 5% (STEN 9 or 10, standardised score of 123 or above, or in the 95th percentile) based on standardised tests carried out annually in primary schools (Drumcondra, SIGMA-T or MICRA-T). Students need to get this score in **either** English, Maths or Gaeilge. Eligibility is based on the most recent test result.  
These results are usually noted on your child's report card. Your school will also have the results of these tests and can tell you if your child is eligible to apply. You will need to submit proof of their test results for our records.



2. A copy of an educational psychologist's assessment with ability scores included and demonstrating high ability. Reports must be submitted no later than 4 years after the date of the educational psychologist's assessment.

### Selection Process

- Youth Academy typically attracts a high volume of applications each year. In the event of there being more applications than places available, places will be offered following a random selection process:
  - All applicants will be weighted equally via the application system and assigned a random ranked position on the applicant list.
  - From this ranked list of applicants, the system will begin to fill the places available in each of the courses available, starting with 1<sup>st</sup> preference course choice, followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> preference course choice, followed by 3<sup>rd</sup> preference course choice. The allocation process will continue to fill places on basis of 1) randomly assigned rank and 2) course selection and place availability.
  - Once all places are filled, all allocated applicants will be checked for eligibility (most applications received by Youth Academy are from eligible applicants) and if any places become available, the application system will adjust allocations and continue down the randomly ranked list of applicants until eligible applicants fill all places.
  - Eligibility of applicants will not be checked in advance of allocation due to the large volume of applications usually received.
- The random approach to the selection process means the **following will not be taken into consideration** in the allocation of places.
  - The timing of applications within the open window (5 days). The timing of making an application is not relevant to the selection process (being the first to apply does not guarantees a place).
  - Sibling applications. There is no guarantee that if two siblings in a family applied that they will both be accepted, even if the two applications are made at the same time.
- The Youth Academy has long been committed to creating opportunities for children from disadvantaged backgrounds to join the programme. Youth Academy continues to offer 25% of places available on a scholarship basis to disadvantaged students. The random selection process has been configured to **accommodate these scholarship places** by dividing the overall pool of applicants into two pools:
  - The general pool of applicants will be processed (through the random selection process outline above) to fill 75% of places available for that cohort.
  - The pool of applicants applying on the basis of need for economic scholarship will be processed (through the random selection process outlined above) to fill 25% of places available for that cohort.
  - Within the 25% of scholarship places, special allocation will be made for the 8 DEIS schools in Galway city where they will be guaranteed a limited number of places each.
- For intakes where applications exceed places available, unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waitlist and notified if a place becomes available.
- The Youth Academy reserves the right to make additional allocation decisions in cases where there are exceptional circumstances.