



THE REV. LIAM SWORDS FOUNDATION BURSARY

2026

PROGRAMME PRESENTATION

1. Background to The Rev. Liam Swords Foundation Bursary

Fr Liam Swords was born in Swinford, Co. Mayo, Ireland in 1937. As a young cleric in the 1960s he realised the power of media and was very involved in the popular TV series 'Radharc'. Radharc is the Irish for 'view' or 'vision'. This series of programmes, filmed in Ireland and in over 75 countries, explored issues such as human rights, social injustice, faith, religion, persecution, famine and Christian heritage. Fr. Swords was an active historian and accomplished author whose many publications included histories of the Irish in Paris during the French Revolution. In the 1970s he became the first Irish priest to take up residency in the Irish College in Paris since the 1950s as chaplain to the Irish in Paris. He was a much loved chaplain who was instrumental in creating a strong Irish cultural community in Paris and encouraging national interest in the development of the Irish College into a vibrant cultural centre and residency for Irish students, now known as the Centre culturel irlandais.

In 1995 Fr. Liam Swords returned to Dublin where he continued working as a priest and a researcher, authoring a series of books on the history of the Irish church and on the Achonry diocese.

Fr. Liam Swords valued his time abroad and sought before his death in 2011 to establish a Foundation which would help other Irish students or researchers spend time in Paris as part of their studies. This Foundation is being administered by Trustees in Ireland.

2. Aims of the Foundation

In the words of the Rev. Liam Swords 'the aim is to establish a grant for a student of talent from the Irish Higher education sector in Ireland to pursue his/her studies/research/training for 3 months in Paris and to immerse themselves in one of the most culturally diverse cities in the world. Candidates will be chosen from the widest possible groups, e.g., musicians, artists, sculptors, writers, scientists, engineers, scholars, craft-workers, theologians, architects, students of haute cuisine or haute couture, cinematographers etc.'

3. Criteria for Applicants

- The applicant must be a student or researcher from any discipline at post-graduate level or higher in an Irish University, Institute of Technology or of Higher Education.
- He/she is required to be resident in Paris for the 3 month period for the purposes of access to research sources, attendance at a French centre of learning or an apprenticeship.

- He/she must reside at the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris during this period.
- He/she must present work at a public event in the Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris entitled 'The Rev. Liam Swords Foundation Presentation 2024'. Date to be decided.
- He/she may present work at a public event in the Royal Irish Academy (RIA), or an alternative venue entitled 'The Rev. Liam Swords Foundation Presentation 2026'. Date to be decided.
- He/she must provide digital copy of work for inclusion on the official Foundation website.

4. Value of Bursary

The scholarship will pay for accommodation at the Centre Culturel Irlandais (CCI), currently costing €1200/month approximately for a room with a study. This will be paid directly to the CCI. A further stipend of €700/month for living expenses will be offered to the winning applicant. This will be paid by bank transfer at the end of each month. A further €400 will be given to cover travel expenses. The final amount will be paid after the Fr. Liam Swords Foundation Presentation at the CCI.

5. Application Process

The application for the Bursary for 2026 must be submitted by email before 17.00 on **Friday 24th of March 2026** to the following email address: mhenry@dhbarchitects.ie

It should include:

- A cover sheet clearly identifying the Rev. Liam Swords Foundation Bursary along with name address, email, mobile phone number of applicant.
- A curriculum vitae.
- A 200 word proposal which clearly indicates the activity being proposed; the reason why this must be carried out in Paris; the anticipated outcomes of the activity and their benefits to the area of study/practice in question.
- A written reference from a suitable person within the applicant's Irish educational establishment attesting to the applicant's academic background and character.

6. Selection Process

All applications will be screened for compliance with the criteria above. Compliant applications will be assessed by the Trustees or persons nominated by the Trustees who will choose the most suitable candidate or shortlist a number of candidates who must be available for interview at a time agreed by both the candidate and the Trustees. Results will be available in April 2026 on the Foundation website: www.liamswordsbursary.ie. Emails will be sent to all applicants. Confirmation of the Bursary may in some cases be dependent on academic results being submitted in May/June 2026. The Trustees' decision will be final and cannot be appealed.

7. Key Dates

- Announcement of Bursary: Jan. 2026
- Deadline for receipt of applications: **Friday 24th March 2026**
- Publication of results: April 2025
- Timeline for study/activity in Paris: 1st June 2026 - 31st August 2026
- Public presentation entitled 'the Rev. Liam Swords Foundation Presentation 2026' in Paris and in Dublin. Dates to be decided.