



CALAFORT ÁTHA CLIATH
DUBLIN PORT

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT REPORT

BACKING LOCAL POTENTIAL FOR 25 YEARS

“

The Dublin Port Scholarship
meant I was given a chance
to succeed and not be
at a disadvantage.

ABBIE

East Wall, Computer Science



FOREWORD

For 25 years, the Dublin Port Scholarship Programme has been backing local potential, operating as an educational catalyst across Dublin's port communities. Established in 2001 by Dublin Port Company, the initiative has awarded over €1.5 million through approximately 1,500 bursaries, supporting local residents in overcoming economic barriers to enter third-level education.

This impact report confirms that the bursary is not merely a financial grant. It serves as a bridge to intergenerational social mobility, with over 80% of respondents indicating that they were the first, or among the first, in their family to attend college. The scholarship is seen as a personal vote of confidence and a practical source of support, reducing acute day-to-day hardship, fostering professional careers in essential industries, and reinforcing a strong sense of community pride.

Dublin Port's mandate is to enable international trade for Ireland. Over the 25 years that our scholarship programme has been running, the Port has fulfilled that mandate, growing and developing in line with the Irish economy. Alongside our communities, the Port has operated around the clock to keep our island nation moving through Icelandic ash clouds, Brexit, COVID-19, and more.

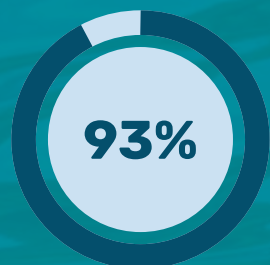
Now, Dublin Port is continuing to develop and advance in ways that will safeguard future trade while creating new opportunities for businesses and young people.

At Dublin Port, we are here for Ireland, and we are here for our communities. Congratulations to the Dublin Port Scholars of 2026, and to the 1,500 prior recipients whose achievements we celebrate this year.

BARRY O'CONNELL

Chief Executive of Dublin Port

Dublin Port Scholarship KEY IMPACT METRICS



Now working or studying



First or one of the first in family
to go to college



Confirmed the scholarship directly
transformed life trajectory



Completed their course or
are still studying



Acknowledge Dublin Port as a
good community neighbour



Progressed to postgraduate
study i.e. Masters or PHD

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The survey captures alumni and current recipients from across the dockland communities, spanning early recipients from the 2000s to the current 2025/2026 academic cohort. All students for whom contact details were available were contacted, and 145 responded to the survey, providing a high level of statistical reliability.

Geographic Distribution of Respondents

Community District	Primary Neighbourhoods Represented	Share of Respondents
Dublin 3	East Wall, North Strand, Fairview, Clontarf	39%
Dublin 4	Ringsend, Irishtown, Sandymount, South Lotts	39%
Dublin 1	Docklands, Sheriff Street, North Wall, Commons Street	11%
Dublin 2	Pearse Street, Grand Canal Dock, City Quay	10%
Greater Dublin Areas	Other	1%

Breaking Generational Barriers

The programme continues to achieve its founding purpose of educational equity. A total of 80% of scholars were pioneers in their families:

48% were the very first person in their family (including parents, siblings, and grandparents) to ever attend third-level education.

32% were among the first generation in their family to attend.

20% came from families where others had previously attended third level.

“

The Dublin Port Scholarship changed my education, my career trajectory and ultimately my life. Without the opportunity afforded to me by the Scholarship I would not be in the financial position I am in now. I, along with my husband, bought my first house at 26. We have decent savings and 2 children whom we will be able to put through third level education without assistance.

— Post-Primary Teacher & Mother, East Wall

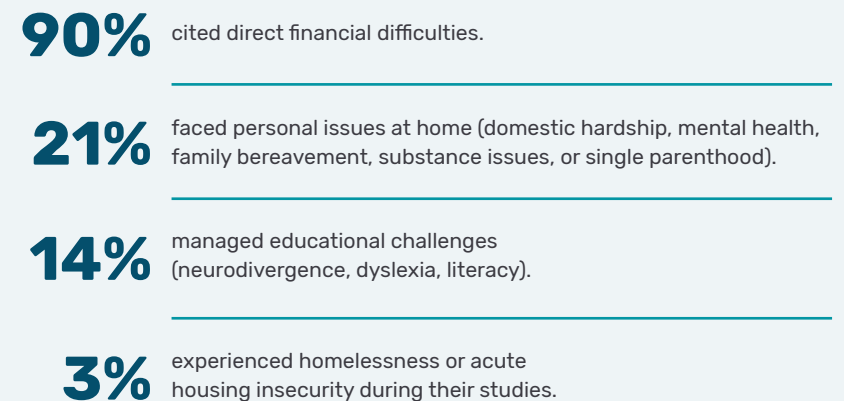
Academic Destinations

Scholars attended Ireland's leading universities and international institutions, including:

- **Trinity College Dublin (TCD):** European Studies, Human Health and Disease, Medicine, Law, Physics, Philosophy, Nursing, History.
- **University College Dublin (UCD):** Medicine, Engineering, Sociology, Linguistics, Arts, Nursing, Psychology.
- **Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin / DIT):** Mechanical Engineering, Product Design, Marketing, Youth Work, Computer Science.
- **Dublin City University (DCU):** Education (St Patrick's), Mechatronic Engineering, Biomedical Sciences, Accounting, Nursing.
- **National College of Ireland (NCI):** Computing, Technology Management, Human Resource Management, Data Analytics.
- **Maynooth University:** Social Science, Law and Psychology, Community Studies.
- **International Institutions:** University of Cambridge (MPhil), Imperial College London (PhD), Queensland University of Technology.

Removing Barriers: The Tangible Impact of Financial Aid

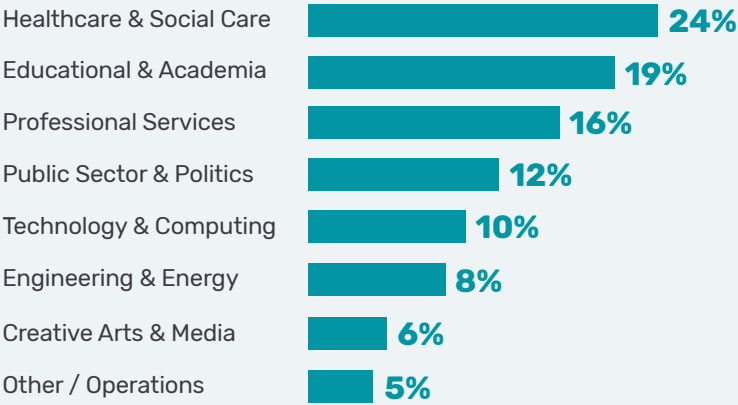
When asked what challenges they faced when considering third-level education:



Professional Trajectories and Career Impact

Today, Dublin Port scholars work across high-value sectors, public service, healthcare, and community development.

ALUMNI INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION



Exemplary Career Paths

Sector	Representative Job Titles Among Alumni
Healthcare	Medical Doctor, Candidate Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Clinical Neuroscience, Fertility Midwife, Medical Scientist, Student Psychotherapist
Public Service & Civic Leadership	Dublin City Councillor, Civil Service Executive Officers, Firefighter / Paramedic, Child Protection Trainer, Local Authority Housing Officer
Education	Primary School Assistant Principal, Secondary School Teacher, Higher Education Coordinator, PhD Music Education Director
Technology & Industry	Aviation Captain, Energy Systems Engineer, EMEA Social Impact Lead, Module Engineering Intern (Semiconductors), IT Systems Administrator
Business & Professional	Senior Associate (Restructuring and Debt Advisory), Quantitative Risk Consultant, Trainee Accountant, Corporate Banking Assistant Vice President

Community Connection and Social Reciprocity

The data demonstrates a clear cycle of social return. Scholars do not leave their communities behind; they reinvest their skills locally.



Local Civic Participation

Scholars are actively involved in community organisations across the docklands, including:

- Youth Services and Education:** East Wall Youth Club, Swan Youth Service, East Wall Leaving and Junior Cert Grinds, St Andrews Resource Centre, North Wall Community Development Project.
- Sporting and Community Clubs:** Stella Maris Rowing Club, St Patrick's CYFC, Clanna Gael Fontenoy GAA, East Wall Watersports Club, Cambridge FC, Ringsend Girl Guides.
- Health & advocacy:** Community First Responders (Dublin Bay North), Aware mental health charity, Belong To LGBTQ+ Youth, SARI (Sport Against Racism Ireland).

25 years of scholarships, 25 years of Dublin Port.

Dublin Port
Company
incorporated

1997



DUBLIN PORT
SCHOLARSHIPS
START

2001

2006

Dublin Port
Tunnel opened



2010

Dublin Port
connects Ireland
to world during
ash cloud from
Iceland's
Eyjafjallajökull
volcano

2012

Dublin Port
Masterplan
2040 first
published

2015

ABR
permission
granted



Dublin Biosphere
Partnership
launched –
with the Port as
founder member

Dublin Port Diving
Bell opened as a public
heritage attraction



2018

World's largest short sea Ro-Ro
vessel MV Celine – new routes
to central Europe commence



Ro-Ro freight volumes
exceed 1 million Ro-Ro
units handled for the first time



2020-21

Covid-19
pandemic

2020

MP2 Project
planning
permission
granted

2021

Brexit –
new trading
arrangements
commenced

2022

Dublin SafePort
launched with seven
terminal operators



2023

Dublin Port Substation
officially opened



Terminal 4
Ro-Ro freight
terminal opened



2024

Dublin Port Tolka
Estuary Greenway –
Phase One officially opened



2025

Record
Lo-Lo and
car import
volumes

2026



CELEBRATING
25 YEARS OF
SCHOLARSHIPS



D CALAFORT ÁTHA CLIATH
DUBLIN PORT



dublinport.ie