



An Roinn Cultúir,
Cumarsáide agus Spóirt
Department of Culture,
Communications and Sport

Monaghan County Council – Commemorations History Bursary 2026

Monaghan County Council Cultural Services is pleased to announce this new Bursary Scheme, to support the Monaghan County Council Commemoration programme. The Bursary is supported by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport fund to support commemoration 2026.

Topic: Women's Stories in County Monaghan: Voices, Experiences and Influence in the Early Years of the State

Background

Monaghan County Council invites proposals from suitably qualified historians, researchers, and local history practitioners for a history bursary project exploring the lives, experiences and contributions of women in County Monaghan during the formative years of the Irish State.

While political and military histories of the period have been extensively researched, the experiences of women in everyday life, community development, agriculture, education, business, politics, religion, culture, and voluntary organisations are often less visible in the historical record. This project seeks to address that imbalance by documenting and interpreting the stories of women who shaped life in County Monaghan during the period from approximately 1910 to 1950.

Aim of the Bursary:

The bursary will support original research that:

- Examines the experiences of women in County Monaghan during the early decades of the Irish State.
- Identifies significant individuals, groups, and organisations.
- Explores women's roles within family, community, economic, cultural, educational and political life.
- Highlights previously overlooked or underrepresented stories.
- Enhances understanding of women's contribution to the social and cultural development of County Monaghan.

Research Scope

Researchers may consider topics including, but not limited to:

- Women's involvement in local government and public life.
- Participation in agriculture, business and employment.
- Education and educational leadership.
- Community and voluntary activism.
- Religious and charitable organisations.
- Healthcare and welfare provision.
- Arts, literature and cultural development.
- Women's experiences of social change during the early years of independence.
- Oral history and family memories where appropriate.

Expected Outputs

The successful applicant will be required to provide:

- A fully researched report of approximately 8,000-15,000 words.
- Appropriate citations and bibliography.
- A selection of images or illustrations (with permissions identified where necessary).
- A summary article suitable for publication or public dissemination.
- Recommendations for future research where relevant.
- Public Engagement Requirement: The bursary recipient will deliver a minimum of two public talks in County Monaghan during the project period or following completion of the research, presenting the project's key findings.

Eligibility

Applications are invited from:

- Professional historians.
- Independent researchers.
- Postgraduate researchers.
- Heritage practitioners with demonstrable research experience.
- Individuals with a strong track record in local history research.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed on:

- Quality and originality of the proposal.
- Research methodology.
- Relevant experience and expertise.
- Ability to deliver the project within the specified timeframe.
- Value for money.

Bursary Value

€7,000

Bursary is inclusive of all expenses incurred such as time spent on development, research, writing, preparation of public events, attendance at meetings, reporting and administration. The bursary will be paid in two instalments. Applicants must be Tax Compliant and hold their own insurance cover.

Project Timeline

- Application Deadline: **21st August 2026**
- Project Commencement: **14th September 2026**
- Final Report Due: **11th December 2026**

Submission Requirements

Applicants should submit:

1. A project proposal (maximum 1,000 words).
2. Curriculum Vitae.
3. Examples of previous relevant work.

Applications to be submitted through online form only.

Queries to moncolib@monaghancoco.ie