

Sample letter to Minister Simon Harris

Simon Harris, TD,
Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science,
Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 RC96.

Sent via email simon.harris@oireachtas.ie

Dear Minister Harris,

I am contacting you to let you know of my support for Nasc, Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre's *I Dream* campaign to expand access to the SUSI grant for children and young people from migrant and asylum-seeking backgrounds.

The 'nationality' criteria imposed by SUSI restricts young people, including those who have grown up in Ireland, from achieving their education dreams by denying the financial support they need to go to college or university. The restrictions are poorly thought out and it seems anomalous that a young person who is the child of a naturalised Irish citizen is permitted to access support through SUSI but a young person who is the parent of an Irish citizen child is not permitted to access support through SUSI.

It is shocking that the current regulations underpinning the SUSI grant, do not allow children and young people who have been taken into the care of the State and who are routinely granted an 'exceptional Stamp 4' to access SUSI. These are children and young people for whom the State has a direct duty of care. Taking away their education choices severely limits their futures.

The best way to secure the future of Ireland, and the futures of Ireland's diverse new population of young people, is to amend the Student Support Regulations to open up access to education and allow young people who have been resident in Ireland for three years or longer to access SUSI grants.

I look forward to your reply assuring me that you will take action.

Kind regards,
