

Galway student becomes first recipient of ITI scholarship award

Jessica Hayes from Gort in Co. Galway today (16 September, 2007) became the first recipient of the Irish Taxation Institute's new student scholarship programme.

Jessica, who recently completed her Leaving Certificate at Seamount College, Kinvara, Co. Galway, was awarded the scholarship by Irish Taxation Institute President, Joan O'Connor. Jessica, who attended primary school at Lurga National School in Galway, was joined at the event by her proud parents, Geraldine and Martin.

The new ITI third-level scholarship programme is a fund established to sponsor students seeking to pursue a third level degree. Jessica has commenced a degree in Law & Accounting at the University of Limerick and ultimately will pursue the AITI tax qualification. In addition to providing Jessica with full financial support for the full term of her stay in Limerick University, the ITI scholarship also provides mentoring throughout her college life from qualified tax experts.

Speaking on the scholarship, ITI President, Joan O'Connor said: "The goal of the ITI scholarship programme is to help bright and ambitious students who are interested in a career in tax and want to attain a third level qualification. We were committed to identifying a student who had the skills and qualities that would set them apart, who had demonstrated the hard work and dedication necessary to advance, and who would benefit meaningfully from our support and guidance. I am delighted to say that in Jessica Hayes, we have found a person who meets these criteria.

Commenting on the high level of interest among second level students in the scholarship, Ms O'Connor said: We had many applicants for this scholarship and the interest in taxation among second level students is very encouraging for the future."

Commenting on her award, Jessica Hayes said: "I am delighted to have been selected by the Irish Taxation Institute to be the first recipient of their scholarship programme. My ambition has been to be able to study at third level and then take my AITI tax exams and now with ITI's support, I can realise this ambition. In addition to the financial assistance, the fact that the ITI is making available its respected and highly qualified tax advisers to mentor me during my third level course is invaluable."

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