



Adam Smith Scholarships

Part of Fife College

Cath Cunningham Community Learning and Development Scholarship



Student Guidelines

What is the Cath Cunningham Community Learning and Development Scholarship?

Cath Cunningham was born and brought up in Methil – she was passionate about education and opportunities for lifelong learning for all ages and backgrounds, especially women and children in Fife.

Cath worked in various leadership roles in the community and voluntary sectors before joining Fife College as Department Manager in Community Learning and Development in 1998. For over 15 years Fife College benefited from Cath's expert knowledge, community experience and network contacts; she inspired many people's progression into education and employment. Before retiring Cath worked within Fife Council supporting vulnerable families and parents in the community.

Cath passed away in 2024 after a short illness. In her memory Cath's family have set up this scholarship to give students an opportunity to maintain their studies to get the resources and recognition they need to encourage them to make a difference.

What Do Successful Applicants Receive?

There are two awards available of £500. Successful students will also gain the opportunity to receive regular mentoring for one year to support them during their course.

Being recognised for this award is an achievement in itself which would enhance your CV and boost your further study and employment prospects.

What Can You Spend the Scholarship On?

The scholarship should be used for resources or materials to assist you with your studies or take that next step in to future learning or employment such as books, materials, laptop, software, travel, home study items. The award can also be used on general living costs and bills that may affect your ability to study or attend college.

Who Can Apply?

Students should be people with caring responsibilities for children or other family members. You should currently be studying/or just have successfully completed in 2025/26 an entry level programme. You should also have applied and been accepted (with an unconditional offer) to a full-time course at Fife College after the summer, academic year 2026/27.

Students who have completed one of the following courses successfully will be eligible to apply:

- Step In/Step Up
- Skill Up
- Access to Education

If you have any queries regarding eligibility for this scholarship, please get in touch scholarships@fife.ac.uk

How to Apply

A link to the application form is available on the Fife College website on the [Scholarship apply page](#) – if you require a hard copy form please get in touch. Please remember to explain clearly why you should be considered for the Cath Cunningham Community Learning and Development Scholarship.

What Happens Next?

Your application will be considered and if you are shortlisted, we will contact a staff member who knows you best for feedback. All applicants will be notified if successful or not and an event will be held to present successful applicants with their scholarships.

Key Dates

Closing date for applications is **Wednesday 3 June 2026 at midnight**.

Got a question?

If so, just drop us an email, scholarships@fife.ac.uk

If you need any help completing the application form, please email employability@fife.ac.uk

Last Year's Winners:

Legacy of Learning: Scholarship Honours Cath Cunningham

► Adam Smith Scholarships was proud to host the first ever presentation of the Cath Cunningham Community Learning and Development Scholarship this month, in memory of Cath who was passionate about education and opportunities for lifelong learning for all, especially women and children in Fife.

The scholarship, generously sponsored by Cath's family, offers two awards of £500 each alongside one year of mentoring to support students as they continue their studies. This year's recipients, who both studied the Princes Trust Employability and Personal Development course, are Teigan Connelly and Chloe Patrick and they were both recognised for their dedication and ambition.

The presentation took place at The Academy Restaurant in the Kirkcaldy Campus, where Principal Jim Metcalfe joined Cath's husband Harry Cunningham and friend and former colleague Carol Humbert, to present certificates to the students.

After receiving her award, Chloe said: "It means a lot to me and



I am very grateful to receive this scholarship. It will help me support myself and my family and I will spend the money on items for College such as books and a new laptop."

Cath sadly passed away in 2024 after a short illness. This

scholarship in her name gives students an opportunity to maintain their studies to get the resources, recognition and mentoring they need to encourage them to make a difference.