

A Gift in Your Will



Supporting
our future
generations



Since the founding of the Royal Dublin Society, legacies have played an important role in its development, helping to transform the Society over time and enabling it to grow, flourish and achieve its important mission.

Members from throughout the country, and for many reasons, have left gifts to the RDS in their Wills. The 1772 Proceedings of the Society noted receipt of a legacy from Henry Jesse of Co Tipperary, of £300 for the "encouragement of agriculture". In the 1883 Proceedings, it was agreed that the bequest of Major General White be used to construct a drawing school and gallery, while in 1905, Anne Winter made a bequest to the RDS Library. Over the years, participants of our Foundation programmes have benefited from these and many other gifts.

Indeed, the history of the RDS is the history of the engagement and benevolence of its Members. Having looked after your loved ones, I am asking you, as a Member, to consider remembering the RDS in your Will so you can join this tradition of giving that stretches back three centuries - and help the generations to come.

Wills are not always easy to talk about, but they are important. By making a Will, you can be certain that your wishes are known and will be acted on. Gifts left to the RDS in Wills can play a vital role in making sure we have the funds we need to deliver our Foundation programmes and achieving our mission of helping Ireland thrive culturally and economically.

If You Haven't Yet Made a Will

We strongly advise that you contact a solicitor to make your Will. If you decide you would like to make a gift to the RDS, the solicitor will ask if you want to leave a fixed sum of money (a pecuniary gift) to the RDS, or a percentage of your estate once all specific gifts have been made and all debts and costs paid (a residuary gift). The solicitor will

need the following details of our address and registered charity number:

- Royal Dublin Society, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
- RCN 20002008.

If You Have Already Made a Will

It is sensible to review your Will every few years or when your circumstances change. In either event, we advise you to contact a solicitor to make any changes. If you want to leave a fixed sum (a pecuniary gift) to the RDS, you can make a simple addition to your Will called a codicil. More substantial changes might make it necessary to make a new Will. Your solicitor will be able to advise what is best for you.

Making the Most of Your Gift

While every gift to the RDS is gratefully received, the best way to support the work of the Foundation is with a residual gift – a percentage of your estate after your loved ones have been provided for. Residual gifts have the advantage over a specific sum of money as inflation will not reduce their value over time.





The RDS works across five programme areas: agriculture, arts, enterprise, equestrianism and science and technology. We also support academics and researchers through our Library & Archives projects. The Foundation has two main objectives that a gift in your Will could help us achieve:



Investing in Talent

A priority is to significantly benefit standout Irish talent through our bursary and awards programme, helping the brightest thinkers and creators at an early stage of their education and careers.

This diverse range of merit-based awards are not just financial support at a vital time in formative careers. They also generate confidence and credibility derived from competition, give access to new audiences, trigger networking, build profile and create opportunities for learning. Our aim is to significantly develop our Visual Art Awards, Music Bursary, Craft Bursaries, and Library & Archives Bursary into the most powerful platforms possible.

Investing in Skills Development

Significant investment in skills development for the most hardworking and talented teachers, students, entrepreneurs, and sports people, is key to the future economic competitiveness of Ireland. Numeracy and literacy skills, teamwork, creativity, participation, competition, confidence-building, fulfillment of potential – these are the hallmarks of established RDS projects like ESB Science Blast, the Entrepreneurs' Club, Course Design Bursary and Equestrian Rider Training Programme.



On the cover: Amy Gillen, flautist, winner of the 2019 RDS Jago Award.

Above: (top) Lucy Cushley, Collar, Harness & Saddle Maker, winner of a 2020 RDS Craft Award; (left) Ellen Duffy, winner of the RHA Graduate Student Award at the 2019 RDS Visual Art Awards; (right) Sophie Bagnall and Kathlyn Heavy from Scoil Naoimh Pio, Meath, participants in ESB Science Blast 2019.

Left: Séamus Hickey, violist, winner of the 2020 RDS Jago Award.

In 2019, more than 12,000 students, artists, farmers, entrepreneurs and other talented individuals participated in RDS Foundation programmes. Can you imagine the impact of your gift on skilled and talented young people by 2031, 2051 or even 2081?

Talk to us

If you are considering making a provision for the RDS in your Will, we are very grateful. Your Will is a private document but if you choose to inform us of your intentions, that will give us the opportunity to thank you for your support, keep you informed about developments in the Society, and ensure that any specific wishes in your Will can be followed. Any information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence and is not binding in any way. Even if you are only at the very early stages of planning, we do encourage you to discuss your wishes with us. Please contact:

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