



Atlantic Youth Trust

Corporate Bursary

Programme

Transforming Young Lives through Ocean Adventure, Leadership & Resilience.



About the Spirit of Shackleton



The Legacy

Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1914 to 1917 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition stands as one of the greatest stories of endurance in human history. The expedition did not complete its intended crossing of Antarctica, but Shackleton's extraordinary leadership ensured the survival of every member of his crew against overwhelming odds. That legacy, defined by resilience, teamwork, adaptability and optimism lies at the heart of everything the Trust does.

Atlantic Youth Trust Corporate Bursary Programme

The Atlantic Youth Trust is the dedicated bursary fund established to ensure the Spirit of Shackleton programme remains genuinely accessible to every young person with the motivation to participate. The Trust exists to ensure that offshore adventure and leadership opportunities are not reserved for the privileged few.

This Corporate Bursary Programme invites organisations, philanthropists and partners to support the Atlantic Youth Trust bursary fund, ensuring that every young person in Ireland who has the courage to go to sea has the opportunity to do so, regardless of financial circumstance. We want to inspire and empower a new generation of resilient, adventurous and ocean-connected young leaders through challenge, exploration and transformational maritime experience.

The Vessel

Spirit of Shackleton is a powerful, purpose built 70-foot clipper race yacht acquired to serve as an active platform for youth development, education and exploration. She operates as a mobile learning environment, combining offshore sailing with leadership development, science and adventure education. Each voyage carries a crew of 15 to 16 people, led by a professional Skipper and Mate, supported by experienced volunteer sailors and carrying up to 12 trainees.

Sailing Programme

The programme transforms Shackleton's values into real-world experience through offshore voyages, sail training, leadership development and environmental engagement.

Voyage Destinations Include:

- Ireland and the UK
- Spain and Portugal
- The Azores and Canary Islands
- Ascension Island
- Uruguay and Argentina
- The Falkland Islands
- Chile and Peru
- The Galápagos Islands
- Panama and the Caribbean
- Bermuda



What the Programme Delivers

The Spirit of Shackleton programme promotes youth development, leadership in science and exploration. It is designed to produce a measurable and lasting impact on the young people who sail aboard her, building confidence, teamwork, environmental awareness and a sense of what becomes possible when you commit fully to something genuinely difficult.

Participants develop:

- Resilience
- Confidence
- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Practical seamanship
- Environmental awareness
- Self-belief
- Adaptability under pressure



The programme involves:

- Multiple crew rotations across the full voyage schedule
- Scientific research at sea
- Youth access to offshore sailing and adventure education
- Global outreach and storytelling, reaching audiences in Ireland and internationally
- Development of the next generation of Irish explorers and leaders

Why the Trust matters:

The Atlantic Youth Trust is the dedicated bursary fund established to ensure the Spirit of Shackleton programme is accessible to every young person with the courage, motivation and potential to participate. Many young people today face increasing social isolation, anxiety, low confidence, economic disadvantage, limited access to outdoor challenges, leadership opportunities, making meaningful connections with nature and community. The Trust exists to remove those barriers, opening pathways to adventure, resilience, personal growth and transformational experiences at sea.

We support:

- Young people aged 16 - 25
- Residents on the island of Ireland
- Unable to fully fund participation independently
- Nominations by a school, youth organisation, youth worker or community group
- Or applications directly with a personal statement of motivation

The Atlantic Youth Trust operates with full transparency and within the governance framework required of registered Irish charities.

Corporate Bursary Partnership Levels

Corporate donations to the Atlantic Youth Trust are welcomed at any level. The tiers below are offered as a guide. Contributions at any level within a tier are fully acknowledged and allocated with the same care.

Founding Patron [€15,000 or more] Funds three or more full voyage bursary places.

- Named bursary fund acknowledgement on the website [if desired]
- Premium acknowledgement across all programme materials and digital channels
- Vessel branding
- Individual annual impact reports for each bursary place funded, with participant consent
- Media acknowledgement in programme press activity

Principal Sponsor [€10,000] Funds two full voyage bursary places.

- Named bursary fund acknowledgement on the website [if desired]
- Prominent acknowledgement on the Spirit of Shackleton programme materials
- Annual impact report covering both bursary places funded

Voyage Sponsor [€5,000] Funds one full voyage bursary place.

- Named bursary fund acknowledgement on the website [if desired]
- Acknowledgement in programme materials and annual report
- Written impact report on the young person supported, with their consent

Supporting Partner [€2,500] Contributes to a shared bursary place.

- Acknowledgement on the website
- Acknowledgement in the Atlantic Youth Trust annual impact report
- Letter of appreciation from the programme Director

Community Bursary [€1,000] Contributes to a shared bursary place.

- Acknowledgement in the Atlantic Youth Trust annual impact report
- Formal letter of thanks

Multi-year commitments are warmly welcomed and allow the programme to plan with greater confidence. We can organise a call to discuss a tailored arrangement.

Corporate Support Translated

Social Impact: A bursary place on the Spirit of Shackleton can be the pivotal moment in a young person's life. The experience of crossing an ocean, of being tested to the edge of your capacity and finding more than you thought was there, does not leave people unchanged. The Trust exists to ensure that experience is not rationed by income.

Environmental Awareness: Every participant spends extended time at sea, engaging directly with the ocean environment as part of the programme's science and exploration strand. The Spirit of Shackleton produces young people who understand the ocean, care about it and will be equipped to speak about it.

ESG Alignment: A donation to the Atlantic Youth Trust delivers clear and demonstrable value across the social and environmental dimensions of any ESG framework. It is a contribution to social mobility, youth development and environmental education through a programme with a transparent governance structure and global reach.

Tax Relief: Charitable donations made by Irish-registered companies to eligible charities may qualify for full deductibility against corporation tax, subject to applicable thresholds and conditions. The Spirit of Shackleton team will provide all documentation required to support a claim. Donors are encouraged to seek independent tax advice.

How to Make a Donation

We welcome contact from any organisation that wishes to discuss supporting the Atlantic Youth Trust. The process is straightforward and our team will guide you through each step.

- **Step One: Get in Touch**

Contact us at naomh@atlanticshackleton.org. We will arrange a call or meeting at your convenience to discuss the programme, the Trust and the level of support that works for your organisation.

- **Step Two: Agree the Terms**

We will issue a formal Bursary Agreement setting out the amount, duration, recognition and reporting commitments. For multi-year partnerships we will tailor the agreement to the full term of the relationship.

- **Step Three: Transfer Your Donation**

Donations are accepted by bank transfer or such other method as may be agreed. Bank details are provided in the formal agreement. A receipt and acknowledgement letter confirming the charitable purpose of the donation will be issued upon receipt of cleared funds.

- **Step Four: Receive Your Impact Report**

At the close of each voyage season, all donors at Voyage Sponsor level and above will receive a full impact report setting out how many young people were supported, what they experienced, and where consent has been given, personal accounts from participants.



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