

Deadline is September 15, 2021

Daltachas (Fosterage) is a mentorship program managed by the Office of Gaelic Affairs for intermediate high and advanced low Gaelic speakers. The program's aim is to increase participants Gaelic speaking and comprehension abilities by focusing on conversation, idiomatic speech, grammatical structures and cultural expression through the Gaelic language. The program is for individuals who have attained the Gaelic language levels as per above through methodologies such as Gàidhlig aig Baile (Gaelic in the Community) or any others, and/or independent learning. Daltachas is intended to expand on participants' language fluency, preparing them for more advanced programming, such as Bun is Bàrr and Stòras a' Bhaile.

Daltachan Applicant Criteria

Applicants must be:

- A Nova Scotia resident
- 16 years of age or older
- Commit to a minimum of 3 hours a week of language learning for the duration of the program
- A serious Gaelic learner with an interest in seachas in Nova Scotia
- Conversant, as per levels cited above, in Gaelic language and, in addition to the hours spent in the program, be motivated and committed to independent Gaelic learning
- Willing to use Gaelic language daily and pass it on to others
- Prepared to record sessions (recommended)
- Prepared to meet regularly via online platforms and/or when required, and in adherence to COVID-19 guidelines, in person with their Oide and/or Muime
- Willing to participate in at least one Gaelic social gathering during the program period, which will include other participants, i.e. (Ban-) Daltachan and Oide and/or Muime

Application Process

Applicants must send a letter of interest to Kelly.Schlay@novascotia.ca outlining:

- Their name, age, address and phone number
- Their involvement in Gaelic language and cultural activities in their community
- The efforts made to acquire and use Gaelic language, and the language level they are currently at
- The language goals they would like to achieve (as detailed as possible)
- Their plans to maintain their Gaelic language skills and share them with others

- The name of one reference and their contact information who will support your letter of interest

Activities

Participants will engage in sessions that:

- Pertain to Gaelic Nova Scotia seachas including short stories, anecdotes, songs, local histories, proverbs and seanchaidhean (Gaelic tradition bearers).
- Focus will be on assisting with comprehension and facilitating participants' ability to share with and recite to the group and others in their families and communities.
- Topics of the day, i.e. weather patterns, contemporary events, persons of note, daily activities, routines and personal interests.
- Games and creative, interactive activities to assist with language learning
- Activities will have a focus on how Gaelic language is grammatically structured

Groups

- Two separate groups of Daltachan (participants) will be established with a maximum of 12 Daltachan per session.
- Sessions will be held online via Zoom
- Weekly sessions will commence in Fall 2021 and each session will be 3 hours in duration and run for 21 weeks

Participant Expectations

- Program participants are required to undertake and complete one volunteer activity where they will share their Gaelic language and cultural learning experience in community.
- In adherence with COVID-19 guidelines, examples of activities are: community-based visits and sharing a Gaelic story or song; doing a presentation on Gaelic language and culture in Nova Scotia for a local not-for-profit organization; creating a video and sharing what was learned in the program that can then be shared via social media.

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Other Program Details

- Past Daltachas participants may reapply.
- Participants will be reimbursed for any travel related costs associated with group gathering such as mileage, accommodations or food.