One Step Up Information Booklet
Find your education and training options
hello...

What’s ahead in
One Step Up
Find your education and training options
Where do I start?

- Making a decision about what course is right for me (Page 06)
- Improving my reading, writing, spelling or maths (Page 14)
- Finding additional supports (Page 33)
- Understanding qualifications (Page 07)
ONE STEP UP
AONTAS is Ireland’s National Adult Learning Organisation. As well as providing information to adults we promote the value and benefits of adult learning. AONTAS has worked with adult learners for 50 years and we know it can be hard to take the first step back into education, especially if you have been away from formal education for many years. Although many adults say it can be daunting to enter the classroom again after years out of education often when they do take that step, they find a class full of adults in the same position. Each year in Ireland over 300,000 adults take part in education and training courses or programmes. We hear from many adult learners about their positive experiences of returning to learning.

“We will learn something new and meet new people who are feeling the same emotions - together you will reach the mountain top of achievement.”

One Step Up Learner, Age 48

We have worked with many learners who have returned to learning for different reasons: to learn something new, to get a job, to help their kids with homework, to make friends or because they wanted to get a qualification. Whatever your reason for doing a course, there are a variety of options available. We also know that sometimes it’s hard to find information about the opportunities that are available. That’s why AONTAS has developed the One Step Up Information Booklet (www.onestepup.ie) to make it easy for you to find options quickly. In developing this booklet we have spoken to many organisations who are providers of courses, information, advice or support in adult and community education, so that we can provide the most useful information for you.

This booklet aims to provide you with information on adult learning options whether it’s a course, funding information or local service contacts.
Increasing access to education and training

AONTAS believes that all adults in Ireland have a right to quality learning throughout their lives, and at European level the European Union believes that ‘access to learning and training opportunities must be a right for everyone at every stage of life’ so that adults can get the skills they need.

About 70 million Europeans need help with basic skills such as reading, this can make it difficult for people to find a job or to live comfortably. As a result, the European Union is supporting Member States, including Ireland to help adults get the skills they need in reading, writing, spelling, maths, and computers. This programme is called ‘Upskilling Pathways’ - many different organisations will work closely together in order to reach out to learners to help them get involved in further learning and gain skills.

AONTAS would like to thank all those who contributed to this booklet, especially the learners. We hope that you find this booklet useful in finding the information or course that you need to get One Step Up.
Introduction

Did you know?
✓ You don’t need your Leaving Certificate to go to college
✓ Over 300,000 adults do Further Education and Training (FET) courses each year
✓ There are lots of courses and supports available for adults

This information booklet aims to help you find your education and training options quickly and easily.

What’s included in this booklet:
• Find your options quickly with our visual overview
• Jargon buster for explaining terms
• Adult Education Guidance and Information Service contacts
• Qualifications
• Where to find courses
• Further Education and Training (FET) explained
• Steps to third level education and contact details
• What funding is available
• Local education contacts

This information booklet was published by AONTAS, the National Adult Learning Organisation who also manage the One Step Up (www.onestepup.ie) website.

Next Steps

Download an online version of this information booklet 🌐 www.onestepup.ie

Find further information 🌐 www.onestepup.ie

Contact the Freephone Helpline ☎️ 1800 303 669

Please note that the information contained in this booklet was up to date at the time of publication in January 2019 but may change in the future.
**Jargon Buster**

**Adult Learner:** anyone who is over 16 years (left school early) or wants to further their learning.

**Adult Education Officer (AEO):** works within adult education services in the Education and Training Boards (ETBs) across the country.

**Adult Education Guidance and Information Service:** provides information and guidance to support people to make learning choices. There is an Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in each Education and Training Board (ETB).

**Adult Literacy Organiser (ALO):** responsible for managing the delivery of the adult literacy service in the ETBs.

**Award:** Recognises achievement in learning. Usually awarded by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

**Back to Education Initiative (BTEI):** provides part-time further education programmes for young people and adults.

**Back to Education Allowance (BTEA):** allows qualifying persons to return to full-time education in approved courses while continuing to get income support.

**Central Applications Office (CAO):** looks after all applications for first year undergraduate degrees.

**Education and Training Boards (ETBs):** provide education and training programmes across the country.

**External Applicant:** a person who is not a recognised pupil of a secondary school but is given permission to sit the Leaving Certificate examination (criteria applies).

**Further Education and Training (FET):** provides courses that lead to awards from levels 1 to 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

**Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOU):** works at local and national level on issues affecting unemployed people.
Intreo/Department of Social Protection: a single government point of contact for all employment and income supports.

National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA): helps people with literacy and numeracy difficulties so they can fully take part in society and have access to learning opportunities that meet their needs.

National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ): an Irish system of 10 levels where each level grades learning from beginner to advanced. The NFQ is used to classify and compare qualifications.

Post Leaving Certificate (PLC): courses are full-time and generally lead to qualifications at NFQ levels 5 and 6.

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI): awarding body of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and certifies education and training programmes in further education and training, and third level education.

SOLAS: The Further Education and Training Authority, responsible for planning, funding and the coordination of FET programmes that are delivered by ETBs and other FET providers.

Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI): the body that awards student grant applications.

Springboard: provides free courses in third level education from certificate, to degree, to post-graduate level for jobseekers.

Springboard+: provides free courses in third level education at certificate, degree and masters level leading to qualifications in areas where there are employment opportunities in the economy.

Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS): is a full-time course leading to a range of awards on the NFQ including the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate.
I need help making a decision about what course is right for me

Many people are unsure of where to start when returning to education and often the first step is the hardest. The Adult Education Guidance and Information Services delivered by the Education and Training Boards (ETBs) provide information and guidance on learning options. The service:

- Supports people to explore their Further Education and Training (FET) options while developing a personal progress plan
- Provides one-to-one educational guidance, information on local and national courses, help with college applications and information on funding sources
- Is available to people over 18 years of age (and to those over 16 years, who are not in full-time education)
- Gives priority to those who are currently unemployed
- Provides a professional service that is free and confidential

Contact the Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB, find contact numbers on Page 52.

Contacts for these services can be also found on the websites of the Adult Educational Guidance Association of Ireland www.aegai.ie and National Centre for Guidance in Education www.ncge.ie

If you are looking for web based guidance tools Careers Portal (www.careersportal.ie) has useful information and advice, as well as many career sector videos.
I need help understanding qualifications

The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

- The NFQ is a system of 10 levels
- Levels represent all learning from beginners to advanced, for example the Junior Certificate is level 3
- Includes qualifications achieved in school, Further Education and Training (FET) and third level education

- Learners receive a QQI award when they successfully complete a course, this award is recognised nationally and internationally

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) look after the NFQ and make awards in further education and training and third level education
- A qualification may be awarded for a component (part) or a complete (full) award at any level
- You can find your qualification level on the diagram on the next page. For an interactive map go to www.nfq-qqi.com
The QQI website has a section for learners on:

- Replacement certificates for further and third level education
- Recognising foreign qualifications in Ireland and Irish qualifications abroad
- Getting professional recognition and progression routes into third level education
I need help understanding qualifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) awarded by QQI</th>
<th>Awarding Bodies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1 Certificate</td>
<td>NFQ Level 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 Certificate</td>
<td>NFQ Level 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3 Certificate</td>
<td>NFQ Level 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Certificate</td>
<td>NFQ Level 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4 Certificate</td>
<td>NFQ Level 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 5 Certificate</td>
<td>NFQ Level 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaving Certificate</td>
<td>NFQ Level 4/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Certificate</td>
<td>NFQ Level 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Certificate</td>
<td>NFQ Level 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary Bachelor Degree</td>
<td>NFQ Level 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honours Bachelor Degree</td>
<td>NFQ Level 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Diploma</td>
<td>NFQ Level 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Degree</td>
<td>NFQ Level 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Graduate Diploma</td>
<td>NFQ Level 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral Degree</td>
<td>NFQ Level 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Doctorate</td>
<td>NFQ Level 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The State Examinations Commission makes school awards. Current awards include the Junior Certificate at NFQ Level 3 and the Leaving Certificate at NFQ Levels 4 and 5.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutes of Technology</td>
<td>Institutes of Technology make their own awards, ranging from NFQ Level 6 to 10 (under delegated authority from QQI).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universities</td>
<td>Awards are also issued by seven universities in Ireland. Awards are made from NFQ Level 7 to 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. University College Dublin |
2. University College Cork |
3. National University of Ireland Galway |
4. Maynooth University |
5. University of Limerick |
6. Trinity College, Dublin |
7. Dublin City University |
An award recognises an achieved level of learning. A certificate is given to learners who successfully complete a major award or minor award. This is known as an accredited award/course. Non-accredited courses don’t lead to a recognised award, although you may receive a certificate from the course provider or centre.

Major Awards (full awards or certificates)

- Main class of award (for example the Leaving Certificate)
- 16 major awards in the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) see the fan diagram page 8
- Major awards usually comprise of 8 minor awards/modules

Minor Awards (component (part) certificates)

- Awards are single modules which can be completed and certified individually
- All minor awards are linked to a major award
- Learners can build on their minor awards and work towards gaining a major award
I need help finding a particular course

There are lots of course options, but before you decide on a course it may be useful to get in touch with the Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB, page 52.

Further Education and Training (FET) Courses (Levels 1-6)

- Courses lead to awards from levels 1 to 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)
- Courses are offered by the 16 ETBs in collaboration with SOLAS, the Further Education and Training Authority
- Courses can be full-time or part-time and are delivered in a wide range of ETB settings including further education colleges, Youthreach, adult education centres and training centres
- Different centres may offer minor (component) or major (complete) awards
- Courses are also provided through community and voluntary groups, commercial training providers and in workplaces

www.fetchcourses.ie or find contact details for Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB on page 52

www.onestepup.ie/calendar/ to find open days near you

Third Level Courses (Levels 6-10)

Third level institutions offer full-time and part-time courses. You can search for courses on www.qualifax.ie or www.springboardcourses.ie.

www.qualifax.ie, the National Learners’ Database provides information on a range of further education and third level education courses and allows you to:
- Find and compare courses
- Create a personal account and save your favourites
- Check out the subject choice module for Junior and Leaving Certificate
- Gather information on mature student entry
- Do an interest assessment to see what suits you

The term third level will be used throughout this booklet to describe universities or higher education colleges
Community Education (Non-Accredited and Levels 2-5)

Community education takes place in local community projects and centres and offers the following:

- Courses for all adults in a welcoming environment
- A positive, informal, non-threatening first step back to education
- A wide range of part-time courses generally levels 2 to 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). Some organisations may offer courses at level 6 or above
- Non-accredited courses for people who wish to learn a new skill, meet new people and/or develop their confidence
- Courses including everything from computers skills, personal development, professional skills and hobby based courses

Find contact details for Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB on page 52

Find contact details for local community education providers on page 41

National Learning Network (NLN)

- Flexible courses and supports for people who need extra help (job seekers, unemployed, and people with an illness or disability)
- Class sizes are small so that students receive individual attention and can work at their own pace
- All courses include work experience and lead to levels 1-6 on the NFQ, other awards include ECDL (European Computer Drivers Licence) or City and Guilds qualification and help people to get a job or go on to further education
  - 1890 283 000
  - www.nln.ie

“I started with a one year Return to Learning (RTL) course which was challenging but it gave me the learning bug and I was eager to progress.”

Community Education Learner
What’s an Education and Training Board (ETB?)

The Education and Training Boards (ETBs) (formally Vocational Education Committees or VECs) are the main providers of Further Education and Training (FET) in Ireland.

There are 16 ETBs throughout the country that manage second-level schools, further education centres, training centres, multi-faith community national schools and a range of adult and further education centres delivering education and training programmes. The ETBs work in collaboration with SOLAS, the Further Education and Training Authority. The following table shows the programmes run by the ETBs. They also run open days and information days to showcase the range of courses on offer. To find out about local events visit [www.onestepup.ie](http://www.onestepup.ie).

Who are SOLAS?

SOLAS is the Further Education and Training (FET) authority and an agency of the Department of Education and Skills. SOLAS manage, coordinate and support the delivery of FET services by the Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and other FET providers. SOLAS manages the National Apprenticeship system, eCollege, Safe Pass (the Construction Skills Certification Scheme).

01 533 2500
[www.solas.ie](http://www.solas.ie)

What is PLSS (Programme Learner Support System)?

This is an online system used to collect and share information. This includes a national programme database known as [www.fetchcourses.ie](http://www.fetchcourses.ie) which lists all FET courses.
I need help improving my reading, writing, spelling or maths

If you want to improve your basic skills or want to progress but don’t feel confident enough, the Adult Literacy Service may be able to help:

- Courses are designed to meet each person’s ability and aimed at supporting people to return to learning
- Courses are offered in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and most centres offer one to one or small group tuition
- This free and confidential service is open to anyone over 16 years, who is no longer at school, but wants to improve reading, writing, spelling, numeracy skills or learn about computers
- Adult literacy centres also offer courses in personal development, basic computers and family learning
- Courses are available in Irish in adult literacy centres in Gaeltacht areas

Distance Learning Service

If you can’t travel to one of the centres on a regular basis, the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) offers a distance learning service. This option allows you to study online by yourself or you can work with a tutor over the phone. You can study at your own pace and in your own time to improve your skills or get a national qualification.

If you would like information about your options the National Adult Literacy Agency can help. Freephone 1800 20 20 65 or Freetext ‘LEARN’ to 50050

www.writeon.ie

www.takethefirststep.ie
What Further Education and Training (FET) courses are on offer? 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Course</th>
<th>NFQ level awarded by QQI</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>PT/FT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Literacy</td>
<td>Level 1,2,3</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apprenticeship</td>
<td>Level 5,6, (7,8,9)¹</td>
<td>2-4 years</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back to Education Initiative (BTEI)</td>
<td>Level 1-6</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridging/Foundation</td>
<td>Level 3,4</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Education</td>
<td>Offers non-accredited courses and Level 2,3,4,5 (in some cases Level 6,7,8)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Training Centre (CTCs)</td>
<td>Level 3,4</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eCollege²</td>
<td>Industry standard</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Flexible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)</td>
<td>Level 1,2,3, in some cases Level 4</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Leaving Certificate (PLC)</td>
<td>Level 5,6</td>
<td>1-2 years</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills for Work</td>
<td>Level 1,2,3</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialist Training Providers</td>
<td>Level 1-6</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Skills Training (SST)</td>
<td>Level 4,5,6</td>
<td>Over 6 months</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traineeships</td>
<td>Level 4,5, 6</td>
<td>4-9 months</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS)</td>
<td>Level 4,5,6</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youthreach</td>
<td>Level 3,4</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Apprenticeships at levels 7, 8, 9 are offered through third level institutions. Visit www.apprenticeship.ie
2. eCollege is offered by SOLAS
**FETCH**  
*(Further Education and Training Course Hub)*

FETCH ([www.fetchcourses.ie](http://www.fetchcourses.ie)) allows learners to find out information on over 4,000 Further Education and Training (FET) courses in one place. These programmes are delivered by a range of FET providers across 26 counties, and online through SOLAS eCollege. [www.fetchcourses.ie](http://www.fetchcourses.ie) was developed by SOLAS, the Further Education & Training Authority in partnership with Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) and other FET providers.

To find out if you qualify for any of the programmes contact your local ETB. See contacts page 52.

MFQ levels for each programme may vary depending on the ETB or provider.

Most Education and Training Boards have open days and Information events. To find when your next event is taking place visit: [www.onestepup.ie/calendar](http://www.onestepup.ie/calendar)
I’m looking for a second chance at learning

NFQ levels for each programme may vary depending on the Education and Training Board (ETB) or provider.

Second chance and further education gives people another opportunity to learn in a safe environment that is adult learner centred. There are a number of programmes that you can do including Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses, Youthreach, Back to Education Initiative (BTEI), and community education. If you want support in exploring your Further Education and Training (FET) options you can contact your Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB or you can find courses on www.fetchcourses.ie

Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses - Full-time

PLCs offer a mixture of practical work, academic work and work experience. These courses can be a step towards skilled employment and so they are closely linked to industry and its skills needs. Courses are delivered in a wide range of subjects, such as business studies, childcare, community care, computers, horticulture, multimedia production, sport and leisure and tourism. The courses generally lead to qualifications at NFQ levels 5 and 6. PLC courses are full-time and last for one to two years. There may be a contribution fee depending on your situation and you can contact Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) to find out if you qualify for a grant.

Youthreach - Full-time

Youthreach is a programme for young people aged 15 to 20, who left school early and are not working. Learners are supported to develop individual learning plans aimed at increasing their self-esteem, skills and knowledge and ability to get a job. Youthreach programmes lead to awards typically at levels 3 and 4 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). Depending on the centre, Youthreach may offer Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) accredited, Junior Certificate or Leaving Certificate Programmes. Youthreach is a full-time programme, which usually take place over two years.

Find out about PLCs through the Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB contacts on page 52.
Traineeships - Full-time
Traineeships provide job-specific training and combine formal classroom training and workplace coaching with a host employer. Traineeships are full-time and usually take 4-9 months to complete. All programmes lead to an award at levels 4-6 on the NFQ or another awarding body. There are a wide range of traineeships on offer including Hairdressing and Aircraft Maintenance.

Back to Education Initiative (BTEI) - Part-time
BTEI is designed for learners who need to balance their return to learning with family, work and other commitments. Courses are offered on a flexible part-time basis throughout the year. Courses lead to a range of accreditation at levels 1-6 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). Priority will be given to those who do not have a Leaving Certificate.

Specialist Training Providers (STPs) – Full-time
STPs offer a range of flexible training programmes for people with disabilities. Courses are generally one to two years in duration, and lead to accreditation at levels 1-6 on the NFQ. Courses include Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Vocational Multi Skills. Additional support may be provided such as adapted equipment and transport arrangements for a person with a disability.

Community Training Centres (CTCs) – Full-time
CTCs provide training and education for early school leavers, primarily aged between 16 and 21. All programmes offer personal and social skills development along with vocational training. Courses are generally one year in duration, are full-time and lead to major awards on the NFQ at levels 3 and 4. Examples of programmes offered include employability skills and communications skills.

Local Training Initiative Programmes (LTIs) – Full-time
LTIs provide project based training and work experience for people who are 18-35 years, unemployed and who are finding it difficult to gain employment. These programmes are run locally by community groups and offered all year round. Training on LTIs lead to awards on the NFQ at levels 3, 4 and 5.

Find out about these programmes through your local Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB, contacts on Page 52.

“When I came to Youthreach I could be the real me with no labelling or stereotyping.”
Youthreach Learner
Do I need my Leaving Certificate

I want to go to third level

Are you over 23 years of age?

Yes

No

I need Leaving Certificate subject(s) to access a certain course.

If you are over 23 you can apply as a Mature Student and don’t always need your Leaving Certificate. See page 29/49 of this booklet.

Find Leaving Certificate Subjects
Search www.qualifax.ie to find out if the subject(s) you require are on offer. If not, there are a number of private colleges that offer the Leaving Certificate programme or you may consider applying as an external applicant.

Contact the Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB, contacts page 52.

External Applicant
External applicants must get permission from a school authority to sit the exam at their chosen venue. External candidates register for the exam by using the online application form. Visit www.examinations.ie
I want to get a job

Yes

I need certain Leaving Certificate subjects to access my chosen job or career.

No

Often employers will seek a person with a Leaving Certificate or an equivalent qualification, which means a QQI Level 4 or 5 may be acceptable for applying for the position. Check with the employer.

I want to do the leaving Certificate because it’s a personal goal

There are plenty of FET options available, for example a QQI Level 4/5 is equivalent to the Leaving Certificate level. Visit www.nfq.ie

Visit www.fetchcourses.ie

What are my Leaving Certificate options?

Finding A Course
To search for Leaving Certificate courses visit: www.fetchcourses.ie

Advice
For advice on Leaving Certificate options:
Contact the Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB, page 52.

Programmes offering Leaving Certificate
VTOs and BTEI Programmes often offer Leaving Certificate courses for those in receipt of social welfare payments.
Contact the Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB, page 52.
I want to do the Leaving Certificate - where do I start?

If you are looking to do the Leaving Certificate it is best to contact your local Education and Training Board (ETB). The Adult Education Guidance and Information Service (AEGIS) in the ETB will advise you about the Leaving Certificate and other options. ETBs offer the Leaving Certificate as part of various programmes and initiatives.

Leaving Certificate Options

- The Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) offers a range of full-time courses designed to meet the education and training needs of unemployed people.
- The Back to Education Initiative (BTEI) provides part-time courses, aimed at those who have not completed their Leaving Certificate. Further education colleges also offer full-time and part-time Leaving Certificate options.
- If you are looking for a specific Leaving Certificate subject check with the Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB, page 52 to find out if the subject(s) you require are offered. If not, they will advise you further.
- A number of private colleges offer the Leaving Certificate programme and you may consider applying as an external applicant.

Criteria and options available from the Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB, page 52.

To search for private courses visit www.qualifax.ie
**Are costs involved?**

There may be costs involved in doing the Leaving Certificate depending on what route you choose. It is important to check with your local provider to see whether there is a cost involved. If you choose a private college the cost may be considerably higher.

**Are there any other alternative options?**

There are plenty of other Further Education and Training (FET) options available, for example a NFQ level 4 or 5 course which is equivalent to Leaving Certificate level. To find more information on courses visit [www.fetchcourses.ie](http://www.fetchcourses.ie) or contact the Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local Education and Training Board (ETB), page 52.

**Who can I talk to?**

Enrolment for the Leaving Certificate takes place from August to mid-September each year, depending on the college or centre. There are also many open days taking place around this time, where you can talk to tutors about your options.

Find contact details for Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB on page 52.
I want to upskill for work

I am working

Skills for Work
If you are employed or an employer but you would like to improve your education or skills to help you in work you may be able to do a course through the Skills for Work programme.

Skills for Work:
• Offers a workplace programme helping employees with basic skills such as communications and basic IT
• Offers courses up to NFQ level 3 that are delivered by the ETBs
• Offers this programme to those over 18 years of age and not in full-time second level education

01 452 9600
www.skillsforwork.ie

Skillnet Ireland
Skillnets can help you develop your career by providing specific training to help you with new challenges and changes in your job, as well as gaining new qualifications and skills.

Skillnet Ireland:
• Supports and works with businesses in Ireland to address their current and future skills needs
• Funds groups of companies in the same region/sector, and with similar training needs, with over 60 learning networks nationwide
• Supports employers (who are part of these networks) to provide the kind of training you need
• Courses are subsidised so your employer will pay a reduced rate for your training
• Courses are available from NFQ levels 3-9, as well as industry-accredited

01 207 9630
skillnetireland.ie/training

I am not working

Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS)
If you are unemployed and would like to get back into the workforce the VTOS Scheme provides a wide range of courses.

VTOS courses:
• Help participants to improve their level of education, gain certification, develop their skills and prepare for employment and further education and training
• Lead to a range of awards from levels 3-6 on the NFQ including the Junior and Leaving Certificate
• Delivered over two academic years on a full-time basis
• Find out if you are eligible by contacting your local ETB

Find contact details for the Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB on page 52.

Springboard+
Some Springboard courses are now open to those in employment.

www.springboardcourses.ie
Skillnet Ireland
If you are unemployed, and want training to improve your skills and career prospects, Skillnets can help.

Skillnet Ireland:
• Provide access to training and skills in demand as well as networking opportunities
• Provides combined training and work placement through a Job-Seekers Support Programme (JSSP)

Community Employment
The Community Employment (CE) scheme offers long-term unemployed people training and work experience in jobs based in local communities.

Community Employment:
• Open to people in receipt of certain social welfare payment.
• Jobs are listed on www.jobsireland.ie

Intreo/Department of Social Protection
Employment Support Services are offered through Intreo centres and through contracted services by Local Employment Services (LES) and Jobs Clubs.

Intreo:
• Offers a one-stop shop for all employment and income supports, offering job-seeking advice, information on vacancies and income supports
• Offers expert help and advice on training and personal development opportunities

For more information and to find out if you qualify contact your local employment services/Intreo for information.

Springboard +
The Springboard+ initiative in third level education offers free courses at certificate, degree and masters leading to qualifications in areas where there are employment opportunities in the economy. To be eligible a person must be unemployed with a previous history of employment and satisfy certain criteria. A person must satisfy certain criteria. Courses open to Homemakers, people in employment, unemployed and self-employed.

National Learning Network (NLN)
NLN offers a range of courses for jobseekers who need extra help.

For more information and to find out if you qualify contact your local employment services/Intreo for information.
# I want to learn English

If you need help with your English language skills there are many options available:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Courses</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL)</td>
<td>Contact the Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB, page 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free conversational English classes for migrants (Fáilte Isteach)</td>
<td>046 955 8497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.thirdageireland.ie/failte-isteach">www.thirdageireland.ie/failte-isteach</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free online English language courses including Conversational English and Writing English</td>
<td><a href="http://www.alison.com">www.alison.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve your reading, writing and spelling of the English language online</td>
<td>NALA’s Freephone 1800 20 20 65 or Freetext ‘LEARN’ to 50050 or <a href="http://www.takethefirststep.ie">www.takethefirststep.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic English, reading, writing and spelling</td>
<td>The Services Industrial Professional and Technical Union (SIPTU) Members Only on 01 858 6311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conversation exchanges in your local library helps you practise your language skills with native speakers through conversation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.askaboutireland.ie">www.askaboutireland.ie</a> or call into your local library. <a href="http://www.librariesireland.ie/home/contact-us/">http://www.librariesireland.ie/home/contact-us/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I want to do an apprenticeship

Apprenticeships

If you would like to work, while also getting a qualification, an apprenticeship may be a good option. There are a variety of apprenticeships on offer from traditional crafts (Carpentry, Electrical, Toolmaking, and Motor) to new apprenticeships in Insurance Practice and Industrial Electrical Engineering. The new apprenticeships are very flexible and range from two to four years. Traditionally, an apprenticeship received a NFQ level 6 award but newer apprenticeships are offered from levels 5 to 9 on the NFQ.

Apprenticeships are managed by SOLAS. Craft apprenticeships are a partnership between employers, trade unions and training providers.

What do I need to become an apprentice?

Depending on the apprenticeship there will be different entry requirements:

- At least Junior Certificate (or equivalent) but many require Leaving Certificate (or equivalent)
- For some craft apprenticeships you will be required to pass a colour vision test
- A pre-apprenticeship course or at least three years’ relevant work experience approved by SOLAS, may also be considered

- You must be employed in your chosen occupation with an approved employer. A bursary is available to employers who recruit females into designated apprenticeships

How do I apply?

Search for an apprentice position on www.jobsireland.ie or contact the apprenticeship section in your local Education and Training Board.

Visit www.apprenticeship.ie for contact details.
I want to do an online course

If you want to learn from home there are many options available. An online course means you receive course materials and teaching online such as live lectures and for those which are fully online there is no requirement to attend class. If you would like a mixture of both online and class room based learning there are also many blended learning options available.

Further Education Options

www.ecollege.ie offers a range of online courses from web and graphic design to project management. Courses are offered all year round and use both written and video lessons along with the support of a full time eTutor. At the end of the course you sit an exam to get an industry recognised certificate. Courses are offered by SOLAS and are free to jobseekers and on a fee basis to other individuals. If you are a jobseeker contact your local Intreo office to get registered. If you are a fee-paying client visit www.ecollege.ie for pricing and enrolment.

Freephone: 1800 855 831
www.ecollege.ie

Improve your Reading, Writing and Number Skills

NALA offer a distance learning service to help you improve your basic skills online.

www.writeon.ie

It may be useful to contact your Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB, contact details on page 52 to discuss the online learning options available.

Third Level Options

Many third level institutions also offer accredited (at certificate, degree, or postgraduate) online courses, most of these courses are offered part-time. Most have a specific online learning website which gives useful information on the courses offered and what is required so check out their individual website.

www.qualifax.ie

Free Non-Accredited Courses

If you want to try online learning without any cost or commitment, then look for a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) which is a free online learning experience.

www.qualifax.ie
www.distancelearningireland.com
I want to get a qualification for my previous learning or work experience

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is learning or work experience that you have built up over the years outside of the classroom. This learning may have taken place formally, through a further or third level education provider or informally or non-formally through work/life experiences. Certificates, photographs of your work or letters from your employer are examples of ways which you can show how you have met the learning outcomes required for your new course of study.

Some Further Education and Training (FET) and third level providers have RPL policies and procedures in place, but these can vary. It is best to speak with your course provider regarding their RPL procedures.

Contact your FET providers on page 52 or third level contacts on page 49.

I want to volunteer

If you want to take part in non-formal learning, volunteering can help you develop life skills such as team work, creativity and initiative. There are many ways to volunteer and thousands of organisations across Ireland looking for help. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer you can find opportunities near you by searching on the Volunteer Ireland website.

01 636 9446
www.volunteer.ie

If you are between 17 and 30 years of age and would like to volunteer in another country the European Voluntary Service (EVS) provides support and funding for young people to spend some time doing voluntary work in another country.

01 887 1210
www.eurodesk.ie
I want to study at third Level. What steps should I take?

Adult learners can take part in third level education in a number of ways. Adults who would like to do an undergraduate course (certificate or degree) for the first time, or to upskill by doing a new course, can apply as a mature student applicant to any third level education institution.

A mature student is someone who is aged 23 or over on 1st January in the year of entry to a full-time undergraduate course. Many third level institutions also offer part-time courses, continuing professional development (CPD) courses and postgraduate courses, all of which are open to adult learners.

Step 1: Seek Guidance

Guidance can help people make the right learning choices. Some third level institutions have a pre-entry educational guidance service that you may be able to access or you can contact your local Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB.

Step 2: Research Your Choices

Before making an application you should spend time researching different programmes of interest, including the subjects that are taught, whether there are specific entry requirements and what career options are available afterward. As a mature student you generally do not need to have completed a Leaving Certificate. However some programmes may specify certain Leaving Certificate subjects as part of their entry criteria. You can search for third level courses on www.qualifax.ie, and then contact the institution directly to request a prospectus.

Mature student applicants do not apply through the ‘points’ system, and may not need to have completed the Leaving Certificate. Applications are based on life experience and academic achievement.
Step 3: Attend an Open Day

Most third level institutions have open days or information sessions especially in September, October and January. These events will give you an opportunity to look around the college, meet teaching and support staff and learn about the programmes available. To find out what open days are taking place visit www.onestepup.ie.

Step 4: Complete a Pre-College Course

Access or Foundation courses are designed for those who have been away from formal education for a number of years but would like to return. These courses help mature students to develop core skills to pursue a third level education such as study skills and computer skills. Some access courses also cater for students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are not necessarily mature students.

Third level contacts are listed on page 49.

Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses can provide a very useful progression route into Third Level courses.

Step 5: How to Apply

• To submit an application as a mature student for most full-time undergraduate courses you must apply online through the Central Applications Office (CAO) before the 1st February, otherwise most third level education institutions will not consider you as a ‘mature student’ even if you apply using the ‘Late Application’ or ‘Change of Mind’ forms
• To request a copy of the CAO handbook visit www.cao.ie or call 091 509 800. The handbook gives advice on whether to apply through the CAO or directly, and by what date you should submit your application
• Before applying you should visit www.cao.ie/mature for mature applicants
• Mature applicants must tick ‘Mature Applicant’ and provide additional information such as a statement of interest, experience, and hobbies/interest
• Most third level institutions will interview mature applicants
• Application fees apply but a discount is available if you apply early
• Decisions on offers of places to mature applicants are normally made in early July
• Visit Mature Students Ireland (MSI) www.maturestudents.ie

Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses can provide a very useful progression route into Third Level courses.
I want to study at third Level. What steps should I take?

Step 6: Research the Cost and Funding

Going back to third level may involve costs, depending on the course you choose and the location, for full time students there are two types of fees:

1. Tuition Fees
   Tuition fees vary depending on the course, the institution and whether you are an EU or non-EU student. If you are an Irish or EU national, or have been granted Refugee status attending full-time third level education for the first time you may be entitled to the Free Fees Initiative which covers the majority of full-time undergraduate programmes. The course must be at least two years and offered by one of the main third level institutions in Ireland. For more information and to find out if you qualify visit:
   www.hea.ie/funding-governance-perform/funding/student-finance/

2. Student Contribution Fee
   A full time student is required to pay a student contribution fee to cover various student services such as examination fees. Eligible students may apply to the Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) to cover this fee. The maximum rate of the student contribution fee for the academic year 2018/2019 is €3,000.
   www.susi.ie

Other Factors - Cost of Living
   As a mature student, you need to consider the cost of living while attending full time education for more information on For more information and support around this, you can contact your local Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local Education and Training Board (ETB). Contact details on page 52.
What third level access supports are available?  

**Students with a disability**
If you are under 23 years and your disability impacted your second level education, then you may be able to apply for Disability Access Route to Education (DARE). DARE offers reduced points places to eligible school leavers. To qualify for DARE you must meet both the DARE evidence of disability criteria and DARE educational impact criteria. Mature students and students applying on the basis of Further Education and Training (FET) results have different admission routes.

- 091 509 800 (CAO Helpdesk)
- www.accesscollege.ie

**Students from disadvantaged backgrounds**
If you are under 23 years and from a socio-economically disadvantaged background living in Ireland you may be able to avail of the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR). This scheme offers places on reduced points and extra college support. Applications to HEAR can only be made online through the CAO. Mature students and students applying on the basis of Further Education and Training (FET) results have different admission.

- 091 509 800 (CAO Helpdesk)
- www.accesscollege.ie

Where can I find a list of open days?  

Many course providers hold open days to show the range of courses they have on offer. These open days are a great opportunity to find out about courses, take a tour of the college or centre, and speak to a tutor. Although open days can be held at any time of year, many colleges and centres host events in September or January. The One Step Up website has a calendar of events.

- 1800 303 669
- www.onestepup.ie to find an event near you
What other supports are available?

If you are returning to education but you need extra support there are a number of options available.

Childcare
If you are taking part in a FET course you may be eligible for financial assistance with childcare. Check with your local Education and Training Board (ETB) to find out what options are available. Childcare support schemes are available in Tusla registered childcare services, including registered childminders. For more information on affordable childcare and a list of contacts for your local City or County Childcare Committee visit the website below.

www.affordablechildcare.ie

Transport
If you live in a rural area and need transport to get to and from a centre check with Local Link which offers public transport services in local and rural areas of Ireland. Visit:

www.locallink.ie for contact details of your nearest Local Link or Rural Transport Group.

Supports for people from immigrant communities
The EPIC programme helps immigrants to find employment or further training.

01 874 3840

Support for people with disabilities
AHEAD (Association for Higher Education Access and Disability) provides:

- DisAbility Access interactive map including information on college applications and preparing for college life
  
  01 714396
  www.ahead.ie/accessmap

- AHEAD also provide The WAM (Willing Able Mentoring) programme offers graduates with disabilities the chance to take up mentored work placements in companies
  
  01 716 8844
  www.ahead.ie/wam

- The National Learning Network offer flexible training programmes and support for people who need specialist support
  
  1890 283 000
  www.nln.ie
**Dyslexia**
The Dyslexia Association of Ireland (DAI) has a useful website where you can read or listen to information on services for people affected by dyslexia.

01 877 6001  
www.dyslexia.ie

**Mental Health**
The National Learning Network (NLN) offers a range of flexible courses and supports for people who need extra help.

1890 283 000  
www.nln.ie

**One Parent Families**
One Family offers supports to one parent families with a wide range of financial supports including accredited courses and a career clinic for one-parent families.

01 662 9212  
www.onefamily.ie

**Older People**
Age Action provides:
- One-to-one training on computers, tablets and smartphones to people over the age of 55

**Welfare Rights**
The Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOU) provides information on welfare rights and welfare to work information to the unemployed.

01 856 0088  
www.inou.ie

**Employment Support Services**
Intreo offers a single point of contact for all employment and income supports for people who are unemployed contact your local Intreo office. There are conditions attached to keeping welfare payments while taking courses which you need to be aware of, you can also contact the Adult Education Guidance and Information Service contact on page 52.

www.welfare.ie
I need help with funding

Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) – Full-time study in further or third level

SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) provides financial support to eligible students in the form of maintenance grants and/or fees (or student contribution, where applicable).

Where the student is pursuing an approved full-time education in further education (Post Leaving Certificate courses), third level education, postgraduate studies and also in some cases to students who wish to study outside of the Republic of Ireland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Further Education</th>
<th>Third Level Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post Leaving Certificate</strong></td>
<td><strong>Degrees</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you are attending full-time further education (Post Leaving Certificate courses) you can apply for a maintenance grant. The value of this grant is determined by the level of reckonable income in the household for the previous year and the distance travelled from home to college (more or less than 45km). <strong>It should be noted that those in receipt of a Back to Education allowance from the Department of Social Protection are not eligible for a SUSI maintenance grant.</strong></td>
<td>If you are attending third level education and you qualify for the maintenance grant, the fees/student contribution may also be covered, whichever applies to the student. For mature students going back to study, it should be noted that those in receipt of a Back to Education allowance from the Department of Social Protection are not eligible for a SUSI maintenance grant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to apply

- Make an application through www.susi.ie
- Self-assess using the ‘Eligibility Reckoner’ on the home page of SUSI’s website
- Find out if you qualify for a student grant before making an application
- Set up your own online SUSI account creating a username, password and PIN code
- Enter your own Personal Public Service (PPS) number and those of your parents/spouse etc
- Track the progress of your application

Full-time study for those unemployed - Back to Education Allowance (BTEA)

If you are unemployed, parenting alone or have a disability and you are getting certain welfare payments, you may be able to take part in a second or third-level education course and get a Back to Education Allowance (BTEA). This means:

- You can keep your social welfare payment and return to approved full-time courses
- You must be progressing in your education
- You will not qualify if you have a post graduate qualification
- To find out if you qualify contact the Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB, contacts on page 52 or local Intreo Centre

Part-time study for those unemployed - The Part-Time Education Option (PTEO)

If you are unemployed you may be able to keep your Jobseeker’s Allowance or Jobseeker’s Benefit and attend a part-time day or evening course of education or training. If you are offered work while on the course you will be expected to accept the job offer. You can be any age and may be unemployed for any length of time before starting a part-time course of education. To find out if you qualify contact your Intreo centre or social welfare office.

www.welfare.ie

If you receive a social welfare payment there is criteria applied to part-time and full-time study which must be adhered to in order to keep your social welfare payment.
I need help with funding

**Part-time study for those employed**
There is currently no funding available for part-time education for those employed.

⚠️ Find contact details for the Adult Education Guidance and Information Service based in your local ETB on page 52 or your local Intreo Centre or [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

**Tax Relief**
Tax relief is available for tuition fees paid for approved courses in Irish third level institutions. It is available to repeat, postgraduate and part-time students. A list of approved courses and colleges can be found on the revenue website.

🌐 [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie)
Funding supports available

Disadvantaged

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Offers a Higher Education and Training Bursary for people living in disadvantage circumstances. In order to receive funding you must have applied for all available state funding or grants. The application process varies depending on where you live.

01 838 6990

The Student Assistance Fund
Offers students who, having started a full-time higher level course, experience financial hardship and may be unable to continue their studies as a result.

Contact your third level institution see page 49.

UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School
Offers the Aspire scholarship for those who wish to study at UCD Smurfit School but are held back by personal financial circumstances.

www.smurfitschool.ie

Uversity Higher Education Scholarships for Adult Learners
New scholarship opened in 2018. Keep an eye on:

u-versity.eu/

Area Based

1916 Bursary Fund – Programme for Access to Higher Education
This Fund will close in 2020. Contact the access office of the institution in which you hope to study.

George Byrne Bursary
Supports students from Dublin 8 studying courses in Food, Music or Journalism.

Bursaries offered by South Inner City Community Development Association (SICCDA) are for people studying a further, third level or vocational training course.

01 453 6098

Annie Kelly Education Bursary
Supports people from the North Inner City communities affected by problem drug use to access further education. The bursary is offered by the North Inner City Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

01 836 6592
Funding supports available

**Area Based Contd.**

**Dublin Port Company Scholarship**
Offers support for school leavers or mature students hoping to study at third-level. This bursary is offered by Dublin Port Company along with the Dublin Port Community Liaison Committee.

📞 01 877 6000

**Local Area Partnerships**
Check with your Local Area Partnership at:

🌐 www.ildn.ie

**Mature Students**

**NUI Galway Mature Student Scholarship**
Supports the entry of mature students to its full-time undergraduate degree programmes. The scholarships will be awarded to qualifying adults for the first year of the degree programme.

📞 091 495 999

**Irish Tax Institute**
Offers a third level scholarship to Leaving Certificate and Mature Students interested in a career in tax but who require financial support to progress to third level.

🌐 www.taxinstitute.ie

**Credit Unions**
Local branches may offer financial supports for education in their catchment areas for students studying at various levels of further and third level education; these can be in the form of loans, grants or bursaries.

🌐 www.creditunion.ie

**Other Groups**

**Education and Development Support Scheme (SIPTU)**
Offers members the opportunity to complete a second level or third level award. To qualify you must be a member for at least one year.

📞 01 858 6498

**Caranua (formerly the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund)**
Offers grants to support survivors of institutional abuse in their education. To qualify you must have spent time in an institution as a child, and received an award through settlement, court or the Residential Institutions Redress Board in relation to your time in an institution.

📞 1800 212 477
Fund for Students with Disabilities
If you have a disability and are attending a full-time further or third level education course you may qualify for this fund. The fund supports students studying at PLC level up to doctoral level.

Contact the designated person/Disability or Access Officer in your college, contacts on page 49.

Postgraduate
North/South Scholarships
Offers students from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland to cross the border to take a postgraduate course and experience life in the other Irish jurisdiction. This is offered by Universities Ireland.

+44 (0)28 3751 5292

Maynooth University
Offers a number of postgraduate scholarships including the John and Pat Hume Doctoral Awards Scheme.

01 708 6018

Third Level Institutes
Ask your third level contact if they are aware of funding support see contacts on page 49.

Asylum Seekers or Refugees
If you are an asylum seekers or refugee a number of third level institutions offer scholarships. Dublin City University offer academic scholarships, at either undergraduate or postgraduate level, to applicants who are currently in Ireland either as asylum seekers or refugees.

University Limerick offer scholarships to people, aged over 22 years and living in Direct Provision. Scholarships comprise a fee waiver and a contribution towards travel, on-campus subsistence, stationery, printing and IT requirements.

Contact your third level institution see page 49.
Some organisations that offer community education

**Carlow**
- St. Catherine’s Community Services Centre
  - Phone: 059 913 8700

**Cavan**
- Bailieborough Development Association
  - Phone: 042 969 4716

**Clare**
- Clare Local Development Company
  - Phone: 065 686 6800
- Clare Women’s Network
  - Phone: 065 682 8731

**Cork**
- IRD Duhallow Ltd - Community Based Rural Development Company
  - Phone: 029 606 33
- Mayfield Arts Centre
  - Phone: 021 453 0434
- Meitheal Mara - Community Boatyard Cork
  - Phone: 021 431 6813
- South and East Cork Area Development Partnership (SECAD) Ltd
  - Phone: 021 461 3432
- The Social and Health Education Project (SHEP)
  - Phone: 021 466 6180
- The Lantern Community Project Cork
  - Phone: 021 432 2370

**Donegal**
- Craoibhin Community Enterprise Centre
  - Phone: 074 911 9988
- Mevagh Family Resource Centre
  - Phone: 074 915 5055
Dublin
Active Senior IT Society, Dublin 6W
01 490 3237

Addiction Response Crumlin
01 411 3222

ACE (Adult Community Education) Network
01 296 3691

An Cosán - Community Education Centre, Tallaght
01 462 8488

An Cosán Virtual Community College
01 534 1847

Ballyfermot and Chapelizod Partnership
01 623 5612

Ballyfermot STAR Realt Nua Education and Training Project
01 623 8002

BAPTEC Training and Education Centre, Dublin 15
01 829 3551

Blanchardstown Area Partnership
01 820 9550

Clondalkin Addiction Support Programme (CASP)
01 616 6750

Clondalkin Centre for the Unemployed
01 623 3629

Community After Schools Project Training Centre (CASPr) – Educational Services in North Inner City
01 836 6364

Community Awareness of Drugs (CAD), Dublin 1
01 878 3656

Dundrum Adult Training and Education (DATE)
01 296 4322

Dublin 8 Community Education Centre (D8CEC)
01 405 4906

Down Syndrome Ireland
01 426 6500
Some organisations that offer community education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dublin Adult Learning Centre, Dublin 1</td>
<td>01 878 7266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin Institute of Technology – Access and Civic Engagement</td>
<td>01 402 7616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin Simon Community</td>
<td>01 635 4884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublinia Heritage Centre – Culture and Heritage Studies</td>
<td>01 679 4611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange House Ireland National Travellers Service</td>
<td>01 872 1094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firhouse Day Activity Centre</td>
<td>01 462 1826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henrietta Adult and Community Education Service (HACE), Dublin 8</td>
<td>01 887 4129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KLEAR Adult Education Centre, Dublin 5</td>
<td>01 867 1845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larkin Unemployed Centre, Dublin 3</td>
<td>01 836 5544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loreto Centre Crumlin</td>
<td>01 454 1078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lourdes Youth and Community Services Ltd, Dublin 1</td>
<td>01 836 3416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercy Family Centre, Dublin 8</td>
<td>01 454 3713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The National Collective of Community Based Women’s Networks (NCCWN)</td>
<td>085 131 2983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near Media Co-op - Not For Profit Community Media Project</td>
<td>01 867 1190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
North Wall Community Development Project 01 836 5399

One Family - Supporting One Parent Families 01 662 9212

Partners (Training for Transformation), Dublin 12 01 406 7588

The People’s College for Continuing Education and Training, Dublin 1 01 873 5879

Quarryvale Family Resource Centre, Dublin 22 01 626 9151

RADE (Recovery through Arts, Drama and Education), Dublin 8 01 454 8733

Ruhama - Supporting Women Affected by Prostitution 01 836 0292

SAOL Project - Supporting Women Affected by Addiction and Poverty, Dublin 1 01 855 3391

Soilse - Addiction Recovery Rehabilitation Service, Dublin 7 01 872 4535

South Dublin County Partnership 01 464 9300

South Dublin Voluntary Groups 01 561 1967

Southside Women’s Action Network (SWAN) 01 282 5932

St Andrew’s Resource Centre, Dublin 2 01 677 1930

TARGET (Trinity Adult Resource Group for Education and Training), Dublin 13 01 867 1967

Urrús Training, Ballymun 01 846 7980

The WEB Project, Ballyboden - Providing Services for People with Disabilities 01 495 2020
Some organisations that offer community education

**D**
Warrenmount Community Education Centre, Dublin 8
📞 01 454 2622

**G**
**Galway**
Blue Teapot Theatre Company
📞 091 520 977

Enterprising Athenry ADC
📞 091 845 422

Society of St Vincent De Paul - Croí na Gaillimhe
📞 091 895 203

**K**
**Kilkenny**
KCAT (Kilkenny Collective for Arts Talent) Art and Study Centre
📞 056 775 5115

Kingsriver Community - Residential and Day Programmes for Adults with A Variety of Support Needs
📞 056 772 8234

**L**
**Leitrim**
About Hygiene: Food Safety and Hygiene Training
📞 071 964 5111

**Limerick**
Hospital Family Resource Centre
📞 061 383 884

Limerick Community Education Network
📞 087 764 2659
**Longford**
Longford Women’s Link  
☎️ 043 334 1511

**Mayo**
Mayo Abbey Parish Community Development Company Ltd  
☎️ 094 936 5987

**Monaghan**
Blayney Blades Women’s Group  
☎️ 042 975 3410

**Offaly**
Ballycommon Telework and Training Centre  
☎️ 057 935 3177

**Roscommon**
Croghan Organic Gardens  
☎️ 071 966 8963

**Spafield Family Resource Centre**
☎️ 062 636 22

**Tipperary**
Knockanrawley Resource Centre  
☎️ 062 526 88

**Waterford**
Ballybeg Community Development Project  
☎️ 051 350 100

**Men’s Development Network**
☎️ 051 844 260

**Waterford Women’s Centre: Access 2000**
☎️ 051 351 918

**Westmeath**
Killucan Community Services Centre  
☎️ 044 937 4725

**Roscommon Women’s Network - local community project**
☎️ 094 962 1690
Some organisations that offer community education

**W**

South Westmeath Employment, Education & Training Services (SWEETS)
057 933 2030

Transformative College - Provide mental health education
085 143 0909

Women’s Community Projects (Mullingar)
044 934 4301

**Wexford**

ACCESS 2000 Wexford Ltd
053 912 1200

Community Training and Education Centre (CTEC)
053 912 1036

Southwest Wexford Family Resource Centre
051 389 418

**Wicklow**

Bray Family Resource and Development Project
01 286 7644

Bray Travellers Community Development Group
01 276 2075

Carnew Training and Development Centre
053 942 6555

Greystones Family Resource Centre
01 2557528

**Nationwide**

Age Action Ireland
01 475 6989

Age and Opportunity
01 805 7709

Active Retirement Ireland
01 873 3836

Congress Centres Network (ICTU)
01 889 7704
Nationwide
Epilepsy Ireland
☎ 01 455 7500

Irish Men’s Sheds Association
☎ 01 891 6150

Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed
☎ 01 856 0088

Irish Yoga Association
☎ 01 493 4672

National Learning Network
☎ 01 261 3400

The Open Training College
☎ 01 298 8544

The National Collective of Community Based Women’s Networks (NCCWN)
☎ 085 131 2983

Yoga Therapy Ireland
☎ 01 235 2120
Third Level Contacts for Access or Mature Students Officers

**A**

**Antrim**
Open University Belfast and Dublin
📞 01 678 5399
📞 +44 22 90 2450 25

University of Ulster
📞 048 903 66547

Queens University Belfast
📞 048 909 73838

**C**

**Carlow**
Institute of Technology Carlow
📞 059 917 5603

**Cork**
Cork Institute of Technology
📞 021 433 5109

University College Cork
📞 021 490 1873

**D**

**Donegal**
Letterkenny Institute of Technology
📞 074 918 6175

**Dublin**
American College
📞 01 676 8939

Dublin City University
📞 01 700 6987

Dublin Institute of Technology
📞 01 402 7606

Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art and Design
📞 01 239 4628

Technical University Dublin Blanchardstown
📞 01 885 1015
Marino Institute of Education
01 805 7752

National College of Art and Design
01 636 4217

National College of Ireland
01 406 0500

Royal College of Surgeons Ireland
01 402 2237

Royal Irish Academy of Music
01 632 5313

Trinity College Dublin
01 896 1386

University College Dublin
01 716 7542

Technical University Dublin Tallaght
01 404 2173

St. Patricks College Maynooth
01 708 4772

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology
091 742 129

NUI Galway
091 492 695

Institute of Technology Tralee
066 719 1682

Maynooth University
01 708 3307

Limerick Institute of Technology
061 293 130

Mary Immaculate College
061 204 927

University of Limerick
061 213 481
Third Level Contacts for Access or Mature Students Officers

L

Louth
Dundalk Institute of Technology
📞 042 937 0200 Ext:2

S

Sligo
Institute of Technology Sligo
📞 071 915 5355

St. Angela’s College
📞 071 919 5575

T

Tipperary
Tipperary Institute of Technology
📞 050 428 152

W

Waterford
Institute of Technology Waterford
📞 051 302 762

Westmeath
Athlone Institute of Technology
📞 090 646 8123
Adult Education Guidance and Information Service in your local ETB

Carlow
Kilkenny and Carlow ETB
- 059 913 3123
- www.kilkennycarlow.etb.ie

Cavan
Cavan and Monaghan ETB
- 049 437 7001
- www.cavanmonaghan.etb.ie

Clare
Limerick and Clare ETB
- 065 682 4819
- www.limerickclare.etb.ie

Cork - City & East, Mid & West Cork
Cork ETB
- 1800 40 41 41
- www.cork.etb.ie

Cork - City & North & South Cork
Cork ETB
- 021 490 7149
- www.cork.etb.ie

Donegal - Letterkenny
Donegal ETB
- 074 917 8088
- www.donegaletb.ie

Donegal - Donegal Town
Donegal ETB
- 074 972 5520
- www.donegaletb.ie

Dublin - Ballymun
City of Dublin ETB
- 01 862 3835
- www.cityofdublin.etb.ie
Adult Education Guidance and Information Service in your local ETB

**Dublin - Finglas**
City of Dublin ETB
📞 01 558 5199
🌐 www.cityofdublin.etb.ie

**Dublin - Inner City**
City of Dublin ETB
📞 01 878 7495
🌐 www.cityofdublin.etb.ie

**Dublin - Crumlin**
City of Dublin ETB
📞 01 454 7193
🌐 www.cityofdublin.etb.ie

**Dublin County - Dún Laoghaire**
Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB
📞 01 204 3676/01 204 3603
🌐 www.ddletb.ie

**Dublin County - Fingal**
Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB
📞 01 840 8946 /01 841 7763
🌐 www.ddletb.ie

**Dublin County - West County**
Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB
📞 01 467 0043 Ext 3
🌐 www.ddletb.ie

**Dublin County - Blanchardstown**
Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB
📞 01 820 0952
🌐 www.ddletb.ie

**South West:**
**Tallaght - Lucan - Clondalkin**
Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB
📞 01 451 5733
🌐 www.ddletb.ie
South East: Dún Laoghaire - Dundrum
Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB
☎ 01 298 9283
إل  www.ddletb.ie

Kilkenny
Kilkenny and Carlow ETB
☎ 056 776 4448
إل  www.kilkennycarlow.etb.ie

Galway City
Galway and Roscommon ETB
☎ 087 055 2292
إل  www.galwayroscommon.ettb.ie

Laois
Laois and Offaly ETB
☎ 057 867 2963
إل  www.laoisoffalyetb.ie

Galway County
Galway and Roscommon ETB
☎ 091 847 798
إل  www.galwayroscommon.etb.ie

Leitrim
Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB
☎ 071 962 1371
إل  www.mayosligoleitrim.etb.ie

Kerry
Kerry ETB
☎ 066 712 1300
إل  www.kerryetb.ie

Limerick - City
Limerick and Clare ETB
☎ 061 445 700
إل  www.limerickclare.etb.ie

Kildare
Kildare and Wicklow ETB
☎ 045 448 512
إل  www.kildarewicklow.etb.ie

Limerick - County
Limerick and Clare ETB
☎ 086 024 2813
إل  www.limerickclare.etb.ie
Adult Education Guidance and Information Service in your local ETB

**Longford**
Longford and Westmeath ETB
☎ 043 334 7319 / 087 266 9988
✉ www.longfordwestmeath.etb.ie

**Louth**
Louth and Meath ETB
☎ 041 984 2030/042 936 4643
✉ www.louthmeath.etb.ie

**Meath**
Louth and Meath ETB
☎ 1800 991 898/046 901 2167
✉ www.louthmeath.etb.ie

**Monaghan**
Cavan and Monaghan ETB
☎ 047 308 00
✉ www.cavanmonaghan.etb.ie

**Offaly**
Laois and Offaly ETB
☎ 057 934 9400
✉ www.laoisoffalyetb.ie

**Roscommon**
Galway and Roscommon ETB
☎ 087 351 5034/087 055 2292
✉ www.galwayroscommon.etb.ie

**Sligo**
Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB
☎ 071 913 8411
✉ www.mayosligoleitrim.etb.ie
**Tipperary - South**
Tipperary ETB
- 052 613 4105
- www.tipperary.etb.ie

**Tipperary - North**
Tipperary ETB
- 067-32282
- www.tipperary.etb.ie

**Waterford**
Waterford and Wexford ETB
- 053 915 2067
- www.waterfordwexford.etb.ie

**Wicklow**
Kildare and Wicklow ETB
- 01 276 4638
- www.kildarewicklow.etb.ie

**Westmeath - Athlone**
Longford and Westmeath ETB
- 086 386 7847
- www.longfordwestmeath.etb.ie

**Westmeath - Mullingar**
Longford and Westmeath ETB
- 086 386 7954 / 087 125 5541
- www.longfordwestmeath.etb.ie
Thanks and Acknowledgements

A special thanks to all who contributed to the development of this booklet:

John Connell
Adult learner
Noeleen Watson
Adult learner
Angela Lambkin
Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)
Ann Fallon
Louth and Meath Adult Education Guidance and Information Service
Aoife Mc Cormack
Adult Literacy Organisers Association (ALOA)
Barry Ryan
City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDETB) Guidance and Information Service
Bernadette Sproule
City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDETB) Communications Team
Fiona Lester, eCollege
SOLAS
Gerard Gallagher
Maynooth University Access Programme
Graham Doyle
Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI)
Jenny Marchant
Skillnets
Julia Mannion
SOLAS
Liz Farrelly
Intreo
Lorraine Gallagher
Association for Higher Education Access & Disability (AHEAD)
Marian Lynch
Skills for Work
Martin Grant
Rehab Group
Mary Butler
Kilkenny and Carlow ETB
Mary Stokes
National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE)
Mary Walsh
Adult Education Officers Association (AEOA)
Michelle Kinsella
Dyslexia Association of Ireland
Rhona McCormack
Mature Student Ireland (MSI)
Shane Rooney
Adult Education Guidance Association of Ireland (AEGAI)
Siobhan Kane
Caranua
Tara O’Brien
SOLAS
Cover photo: Adult learners from The EPIC Programme (AONTAS STAR Award winners in 2017)
This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [One Step Up Information Booklet] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.
For more information contact:

AONTAS
The National Adult Learning Organisation,
2nd Floor, 83-87 Main Street,
Ranelagh, Dublin 6, D06 E0H1

Freephone: 1800 303 669
Email: mail@aontas.com
Website: www.aontas.com
www.onestepup.ie

Follow our work on:

Charity Reg: 6719    Company Reg: 80958