



Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed

July 2012

Training and work experience options for unemployed people

Information to help you bridge the gap between unemployment and work

Introduction

There are range of different training and work experience options available to unemployed people. This leaflet outlines the key information you may need to know.

Training / Work Experience

The **NATIONAL INTERNSHIP SCHEME (JobBridge)** provides voluntary work experience opportunities for unemployed people who have been getting a Jobseeker's payment or signing on for credits for at least 3 months. Participants in the scheme will be offered an internship of between 6 and 9 months with a host organisation. People on a One-Parent Family Payment or Disability Allowance may also qualify for this scheme.

If you are selected to take up an internship you will keep your social welfare payment and will get an extra €50 per week. All payments of the Internship Allowance will be made by the Department of Social Protection (DSP) via Electronic Fund Transfer into the intern's bank account.

Before you start looking for an internship, think about:

- What area do you wish to gain experience in?
- What do you want to gain from an internship?
- What location(s) are you available to work in?
- Are you available for 6 or 9 months?

If you meet the qualifying criteria for this scheme and are interested in an internship you can browse advertisements for internships on the website www.jobbridge.ie. You can then apply to the organisation in the method stated in their advertisement. Some advertisements may require a standard short application form (download from www.jobbridge.ie)

Please note – Example: If you are on Jobseeker's Benefit (JB) with a number of days of the entitlement left, (e.g. 60 days) when the internship is completed, you will still have those days left (e.g. 60) if you resume your JB claim (subject to satisfying the standard JB qualification conditions).

For further information on this scheme contact:

www.jobbridge.ie

1800 303 515

Training / Work Experience

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMME creates employment opportunities for those marginalised, including those on jobseekers' payments. The programme supports social enterprises to deliver local services and employ people from disadvantaged groups.

There are over 430 community enterprises across the country. Those employed under this programme can either work for 19.5 hours for €168.67 or 39 hours for €337.35. Some projects may provide an extra payment in addition to the set wage.

For further information contact Pobal:

www.pobal.ie

01 511 7000

CHANGES TO FÁS – FÁS will continue to offer training opportunities for Jobseekers and other learners until the establishment of a new further education and training authority which will be called SOLAS.

SOLAS will co-ordinate, fund and ensure the provision of further education and training programmes. Employment services and programmes (including Community Employment, Supported Employment, Jobs Clubs) have transferred from FÁS to the Department of Social Protection. Clients wishing to access these services can contact their nearest Employment Service Office.

WORK PLACEMENT PROGRAMME is a voluntary 9 month work experience programme for unemployed people. Under this programme there are two different options, graduate placement and non-graduate placement.

You may keep your payment and entitlements while on this programme if you have been in receipt of a Jobseeker's or other Social Welfare payment for more than 3 months. If you are unemployed and not in receipt of a Social Welfare payment you can apply for a WPP placement however you will not receive any payment.

Please note: If you are on a Jobseeker's Benefit (JB) payment and are not entitled to a Jobseeker's Allowance (JA) payment you will not receive a payment on this programme when your JB finishes.

For further information contact the INOU.

Training / Work Experience

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT (CE)

Community Employment schemes provide training and work experience, primarily to long-term unemployed people.

Those on Community Employment work an average of 19.5 hours per week (or 39 hours per fortnight).

Community Employment is divided into 2 options; a Community Employment Part-Time Integration Option and a Community Employment Part-Time Job Option. Both options have different eligibility rules and conditions.

For further information contact the INOU.



New participants on a Community Employment (CE) Scheme will not be able to claim any other Social Welfare payment in addition to the Community Employment payment. For further information contact the INOU.

Tús provides work in Community and Voluntary organisations for people who are 12 months or more unemployed (long-term unemployed).

It is important to note that unlike other training / work experience options, the Department of Social Protection will randomly select potential participants.

Tús is managed by Local Development Companies and by Údarás na Gaeltachta in Gaeltacht areas. This scheme will last 12 months and is 19.5 hours per week. If you receive a letter about Tús and you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the INOU.

Maximum Community Employment / Tús payment rates

Personal Allowance	€208.00
Qualified Adult Dependant	€124.80
Each Qualified Child (Full Rate)	€29.80
Each Qualified Child (Half Rate)	€14.90

Training / Work Experience

FÁS courses – range of options include: ● FullTime ● PartTime ● Online ● Blended learning includes both online/e-based support and on-site training ● Daytime ● Evening ● Return to Work ● Apprenticeship

Unemployed people have priority on daytime courses

SPECIFIC SKILL TRAINING COURSES – These daytime and evening courses are aimed at people who wish to acquire new skills or update existing ones. Courses include for example retail skills, computerised accounts and payroll. The duration of courses can vary and can last up to 36 weeks. **Specific Skills Training Short Courses** are also available and last for up to 8 weeks.

LOCAL TRAINING INITIATIVES (LTI) provide training for unemployed people primarily between 16 and 35 years of age who have no formal or incomplete secondary education qualifications with training opportunities and learning supports through local community organisations. Training on LTI leads to awards on the National Framework of Qualifications to assist people to progress onto further training, education and work.

YOUTHREACH offers a flexible programme of education, vocational training and work experience for 15 to 20 year olds who have left school early without any formal qualifications. These courses are generally full-time and last from 1 to 2 years although they can be flexible, depending on the individuals needs. A training allowance is paid to trainees, depending on age. Contact: 01 402 0427 or visit www.youthreach.ie

COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTRES (CTCs) provide training and employment opportunities for early school leavers aged 16-21. Learners in CTCs receive training in personal, social and vocational skills development leading to FETAC certification.

TRAINEESHIP PROGRAMMES are occupational skills development programmes which combine formal training and work experience with a host employer. Courses last from 20-48 weeks.

THE REDUNDANT APPRENTICE PLACEMENT SCHEME gives eligible apprentices the opportunity to complete phases 3, 5 and 7 of their apprenticeships. Redundant apprentices should contact their Senior Training Advisor.

For further information on any of the above schemes or courses contact the INOU or your local DSP office.

Training Allowances

In order to receive a Training Allowance it is necessary to be in receipt of a qualifying social welfare payment.

TRAINING ALLOWANCES (Full-Time / Part-Time)

16 years old	17 years old	18 and Over
€40 / €23	€40 / €23	€188.00 / €108.20

Note: Different rates apply to 16 and 17 year olds on a Disability Allowance.

MEAL ALLOWANCE

Course Participant Status	Rate €
Full-Time	€0.80 per day
Part-Time	€0.40 per day

Note: Meal allowances only apply where canteens are not available.

TRAVEL ALLOWANCE MAXIMUM RATES (in miles)

3-5 miles	5-10m	10-20m	20-30m	30-40m	40-50m
€4.60	€11.90	€17.60	€21.60	€27.70	€32.60

ACCOMMODATION ALLOWANCE – Maximum Rate

€/Day	€/Week
€13.98	€69.90

Note: You can only receive either a travel **or** an accommodation allowance. Not both.

Childcare Support for Learners: There is no longer a childcare allowance for learners who need childcare while on a training programme. Free childcare places are available through the new Childcare Employment and Training Support (CETS) Scheme, which is provided and managed by the office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA).



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Information Service

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