



Youth Employment Support Scheme

On Monday, 24th September 2018 the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Regina Doherty T.D. launched the Youth Employment Support Scheme (YESS). The scheme, which will commence on Monday 1st October 2018, is being backed jointly by the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

YESS is a new work experience scheme targeted exclusively at young jobseekers who are either long-term unemployed or face significant barriers to employment. Work placements will be of three months duration with participants engaging in 24 hours work experience per week, over three to four days. Participation on the scheme will be wholly voluntary and participants will receive an allowance of €229.20 per week for the duration of their placement.

The programme will be available to people in receipt of any of the following payments will be eligible to participate in the scheme: Jobseeker's Allowance; Jobseeker's Benefit; One Parent Family Payment; Jobseeker Transition Payment; Disability Allowance; Blind Person's Pension or Supplementary Welfare Allowance.

YESS participants must be:

- aged between 18 and 24, and
- have been out of work and in receipt of a qualifying payment for at least 12 months, or
- if unemployed for less than 12 months, be considered by a Case Officer to face a significant barrier to work.

The scheme will be open to employers in the private, community and voluntary sectors. Each placement will have an assigned Case Officer who will monitor and evaluate the progress of the placement. As noted above, each placement will be of 3 months duration. However, a placement may be extended to six months on the approval of a Case Officer.

Young people wishing to engage in this scheme can find more information at www.welfare.ie/YESS or by calling their local Intreo Centre.

Employers who wish to offer a YESS placement can do so by going to the Jobs Ireland website www.jobsireland.ie or by contacting the Jobs Ireland National Contact Centre on 1890 800024.