

Education and Training Programmes

In recent years there have been developments in Government funded courses designed to assist people who are unemployed back into the workforce. Your local Education and Training Board may have free courses available if you are not currently working. These include day courses, night courses, online training courses and blended learning courses. The courses are available under either the Traineeship Programme or Specific Skills training. A Further Education and Training Allowance may be paid for the duration of your course instead of your social welfare payment. You may also be able to avail of extra allowances towards meals, travel costs or accommodation costs if you need to live away from home while you attend the course. Free childcare may be available under the Childcare Employment & Training Support (CETS) scheme.

You can contact your local employment services office or Intreo centre to discuss your options and find out what courses are available in your area. You will be interviewed to identify a course that will best suit your needs and personal circumstances. Information on the location and contact details of your local employment service are in the link below:

<http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Employment-Services-Offices.aspx>

To search through available courses [click here](#).

The following education programmes are aimed at supporting people who are not in employment to gain new skills and update their training and education to assist in finding future employment opportunities:

Skillsnet

Skillsnet is a state funded programme which provides free training to [eligible unemployed people](#). All the training courses are industry-specific with some courses offering training if you are already in employment, which has an added benefit of networking opportunities. Others are dedicated courses in areas of employment potential, which also include a relevant work placement. If you have previously been in the workforce and want to update your skills in a particular area, this might be a good option for you. To find out what courses are available you can check the Skillsnet website:

<http://www.skillnets.ie/unemployed/find-course>

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Momentum

Momentum provides free education and training projects to people who are unemployed for twelve months or more. Courses under this initiative are focussed on expanding employment areas such as the Built Environment, ICT, Transport, Distribution and Logistics, Tourism, Financial Services, Manufacturing Technology, Personal Services, Sales and Marketing and Business Administration. To access one of these courses you will need to contact your local Intreo Centre, Employment Services office or Local Employment Services office. You can get further information on Momentum from their website:

<http://www.momentumskills.ie/>

Springboard

The target groups for Springboard part-time courses are people who have lost their jobs and are now unemployed and who need to up-skill or re-skill to help them to regain employment in the future.

Springboard offers courses at Certificate, Degree and Masters level, in areas where there are employment opportunities. Most of the courses are part time hours so you can keep your current social welfare payment while you attend the course. If you wish to pursue an ICT skills conversion course offered on a full time basis you may be able to transfer to the Back to Education Allowance.

All courses lead to qualifications in enterprise sectors which are growing and need skilled personnel, including information and communications technology (ICT); manufacturing; international financial services; and key skills for enterprise to trade internationally. Qualifications are also available in cross-enterprise skills such as innovation, enterprise/entrepreneurship, digital marketing, and project management.

To be eligible for a part time Springboard course you must be a jobseeker in receipt of one of the following payments; Jobseekers (Allowance or Benefit), One Parent Family Payment, Disability Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Blind Pension, Widow's Pension or Deserted Wives Allowance. You are also eligible if you were previously self employed, signing for credits or on a government employment programme.

Further information on the courses available and how to apply is available from the Springboard website: <http://www.springboardcourses.ie/>