

July Stimulus

Post Graduate Skills Programmes

Eligible Cohorts

Funding of up to the full cost of the programme is available to eligible participants who meet the academic entry requirements and are eligible under the scheme. For the purposes of allocating funding places, eligible participants are listed below in order of priority.

1. Returners

Returners are those who are not in receipt of a payment from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection but who have been out of the work environment for a number of years due to childcare or other caring obligations. They have a previous history of employment but may require upskilling, reskilling or cross-skilling to transition back to the workforce.

To be eligible the applicant must have been:

- A Homemaker or on other caring duties for a minimum period of 9 of the previous 12 months prior to their application
- Ordinarily resident in an EU/EEA/UK/Swiss state for at least three of the five years preceding their entry to the programme
- In addition, the applicant will need to provide supporting documentation to confirm their status as a Homemaker.
- Applicants must swear a declaration before a Commissioner for attesting to their status.

It should be noted that acceptance on to a postgraduate course does not confer any entitlement to DEASP payments or childcare supports. Returners will not pay any course fees.

2. Jobseekers and PUP Recipients

Individuals in receipt of PUP or a jobseekers payment can participate on approved July Stimulus **part time** postgraduate courses and modules. This cohort is not eligible for full time programmes. However, participants must remain available for employment while attending the course.

3. The Employed

Applicants who are employed will need to meet the residency requirements, i.e. that the applicant has been ordinarily resident in an EU/EEA/UK/Swiss state for at least three of the five years preceding their entry to the programme.

This category of applicant will also be required to provide a copy of their most recent 'Employment Detail Summary' or other relevant revenue documentation.

Applicants will be required to pay 10% of the course fee.

4. Formerly Self-employed

To be eligible those who are formerly self-employed must provide a letter/statement from Revenue confirming that the applicant is no longer trading or a similar letter from the applicants (former) accountant should be sufficient.

Alternatively, a participant can swear a declaration stating that they are no longer self-employed. Applicants will be required to pay 10% of the course fee.

5. Recent graduates

Full and Part time Postgraduate courses are open to recent graduates. However, to participate in these courses, 2020 graduates will be required to pay 10% of the course fee.

Eligible participants must have at least a level 8 qualification or equivalent prior to acceptance onto a course. Exact academic eligibility requirements will be determined by individual providers and may depend on the nature of the course. Providers will be required to have a Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) policy in place.

Important

When applying for a programme you will need to upload proof of status with your application as follows

If you are:

Unemployed

Written proof from the Department of Employment Social Protection (DEASP) that you are a Social Welfare recipient at the commencement of the course. This can be a recent slip from when you collect your payment or else a letter dated within 3 months that clearly shows the payment name you receive.

A Returner

Swear a declaration before a Commissioner for Oaths attesting to your status and provide written proof. The form to use is on the Springboard+ website, under 'Am I Eligible', then scroll down to the section titled: AM I ELIGIBLE FOR A SPRINGBOARD+ OR HCI PILLAR 1 COURSE? The form is in the returner section

Employed/Self Employed

Provide a copy of their most recent 'Employment Detail Summary' from the Revenue online services or other relevant revenue documentation. If neither of these are available, and as a last option then we can accept a letter from your current employer to confirm employment, this

must be on company letterhead and must provide your name, PPS, that you are currently employed.

Formerly Self-Employed

Provide a letter/statement from Revenue stating that the applicant is no longer trading or a similar letter from the applicants (former) accountant should be sufficient. If neither of these are available, then a sworn declaration, witnessed by a Commissioner of Oaths, stating that the applicant is no longer self-employed.

In receipt of COVID Payments

People in receipt of the Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) can apply for a part-time course. You must provide proof of this payment in the form of a slip from where payment is collected or a letter from DEASP

The Temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme is not an eligible DEASP payment. Those who are in receipt of the wage subsidy are classed as employed and those eligibility criteria apply. Therefore, those in receipt of this payment will be required to pay 10% of the course fee when undertaking courses at Level 7 or above.