



RETURNING TO LEARNING: INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

AONTAS: The National Adult Learning Organisation. One of our key areas of work is to provide an Information Referral Service which provides basic information for adults interested in returning to education and tries to make the adult learner's encounter with education as easy as possible. We can be contacted at www.aontas.com or **01 4068220**

Adult Education Guidance Initiative: offers a guidance service to adults which includes impartial adult education information, one-to-one guidance and group guidance and is aimed at those adults who are considering or participating in Adult Literacy, Vocational Training Opportunity Schemes (VTOS) and Community Education, including Back to Education Initiative. http://www.ncge.ie/adult_guidance.htm

CDVEC: Guidance counsellors which will guide you through the 1,000 courses on offer across the City of Dublin VEC. To find the right course for you **freephone 1800 20 40 80**

Higher Education Authority: Provides information and links to opportunities in higher education in Ireland. It has a new student area with sections such as 'What to study and where', 'Applying for a course', 'Student finance', 'During and After College' and 'Student life'. www.heai.ie/en/students

NALA: National Adult Literacy Organisation provides a freephone support line for learner's with literacy issues. They can help identify learner's needs and advise them on literacy services available to them. They also provide tutoring over the phone. **Call 1800 20 20 65**

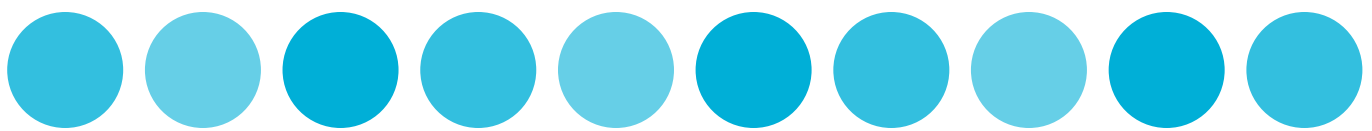
National Framework of Qualifications: is a system of ten levels (1-10) that incorporates all qualifications. It provides a way to compare qualifications, and to ensure that they are quality assured and recognised at home and abroad. www.nfq.ie

SEARCHING FOR COURSES

Bluebrick.ie allows a person to search and compare accredited courses from 14 Institutes of Technology. These adult education courses are available in a variety of formats such as evening classes, part time courses and distance learning. www.bluebrick.ie

Qualifax: the Irish National courses database. This is the one stop shop for all course information in any sector in Ireland. Search options include locality, keywords and attendance options and courses which are recognised through the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) are clearly shown. www.qualifax.ie





City and County VECS: A wide range of learning opportunities are available through local VECs to people who want to improve their skills and qualifications and to those seeking a second educational chance. It is here that qualifications such as the Junior and Leaving Cert are attained. www.vec.ie

FAS: operates training and employment programmes through a network of 66 offices and 20 training centres. It also provides a recruitment service to jobseekers. www.fas.ie

CAO: If you are thinking about taking up a full-time course of study in college, it will be through the Central Applications Office that you will apply. The CAO website provides everything you need to know about the applications process. www.cao.ie

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Citizens Information: provides comprehensive information on all aspects of public services and entitlements for citizens in Ireland www.citizensinformation.ie. They have also developed a website aimed at people who are unemployed or facing a reduced hours situation at work. This site is called losingyourjob.ie.

INO: provides a Welfare to Work information service where unemployed people have access to comprehensive Welfare to Work/Welfare Rights information and advocacy services. You can speak, in complete confidence, to an information officer in the Welfare to Work section directly at 01 - 856 0088

MABS: Money Advice and Budgeting Service provide a non-judgmental, confidential and independent one-to-one service for people who are experiencing difficulty in managing their finances and controlling debt. They can provide information on how to budget and control your finances. They operate a national helpline 1890 283 438

Studentfinance.ie: is a very comprehensive, up- to-date source of information on financial support for further and higher education. This site shows the criteria for accessing funding and allows you to check your eligibility for financial support such as the maintenance grant and the BTEA. www.studentfinance.ie

DISABILITY INFORMATION

AHEAD: Association for Higher Education Access and Disability provides information to students and graduates with disabilities including sections on accessing and participating in third level and disability supports and services. www.ahead.ie

