



Labour Market Activation Measures



WHAT ARE THEY?

The Labour Market Activation Measures are retraining and upskilling initiatives which target people between the ages of 18-35, and prioritise the needs of those with lower skills, particularly those who were employed in the construction, retail and manufacturing sectors. Earlier this year the Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills Mary Coughlan announced a tendering process and awarded €20 million to 26 initiatives around the country. Initiatives are co-ordinated by public, private, statutory bodies and third level institutions. In August the Minister announced the further allocation of €12 million to initiatives unsuccessful the first time around. This brings to 11,000 the number of places available throughout the country.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM ELIGIBLE, AND IS THERE A COST TO PARTICIPATING?

You must be on an unemployment payment for at least three months to be eligible and this will have to be verified by your local social welfare office. If you decide to pursue a training course as part of the measures, then you can retain your social welfare benefits. If you pursue an education option through the measures you may be eligible for the Back to Education Allowance (BTEA), or retain your benefits under the Part Time education Option. Any queries you have should be directed to your local Social Welfare Office.

WHAT COURSES AND QUALIFICATIONS ARE ON OFFER?

Courses include everything from retail studies, to computer maintenance, web design, building insulation, renewable energy, professional cookery, ecotourism and outdoor pursuits, Information Technology support, wood energy and biomass eco-tourism, exercise and health fitness. There is also a range of targeted upskilling measures in areas such as engineering and the pharmaceutical industry. Some initiatives also focus on developing entrepreneurial skills. There are also initiatives focusing on basic skills and designed to assist employability – from brushing up on literacy, numeracy and IT skills to general support with career orientation and employability.

Courses are available in a variety of venues throughout the country. In addition NALA (The National Adult Literacy Agency) is running a distance learning initiative offering FETAC Level 3 accreditation to 500 people nationwide.

A full list of courses is available from Qualifax (The National Learners' Database – www.qualifax.ie). AONTAS has also developed a map of the measures available from: <http://www.aontas.com/information/accessmeasuresm.html>

WHEN DO THEY START RECRUITING?

Many of the courses are currently recruiting and some are already underway. You will need to check with the individual provider. Even if the deadline has expired, it is worth contacting the college to indicate your interest.

For more information visit www.education.ie, www.qualifax.ie and www.aontas.com.

