

The Irish Journal of Adult and Community Education: The Adult Learner

Introduction to The Adult Learner

The Adult Learner is the Irish journal for adult and community education, founded in the mid 1980s and published by AONTAS, The National Adult Learning Organisation. Its aim is to serve the needs of the adult education and lifelong learning community both in Ireland and internationally by providing a forum for critical discussion and reflection. *The Adult Learner* seeks to make new knowledge easily accessible to the widest possible audience through emphasising the importance of describing and critiquing practice and through publishing the results of research. *The Adult Learner* gives priority to subject matter that addresses issues of community, citizenship, and learning, and which focusses on disadvantage, literacy, and equality. It also includes contributions on how adults learn in formal, non-formal, and informal settings, including life and work contexts. *The Adult Learner* provides a forum for publication and dissemination of reflections on research, policy, and practice in the broad field of adult and community education.

The Adult Learner can also be viewed on the AONTAS website, where further details on how individuals can make contributions are made available each year. Previous editions have covered themes such as challenging racism and creating a more inclusive society, the power of adult learning to drive change, and measuring success in adult, community and further education.

About AONTAS

AONTAS are the National Adult Learning Organisation of Ireland, founded in 1969 and passionately working ever since to make education equal and accessible for all. Backed by our robust research and focused community work, we advocate and lobby for quality education for all adults and raise awareness of the impact of adult learning on people's lives and on society. We work on behalf our members, who connect with all communities across the island of Ireland. Our members and adult learners inform all our research and campaigns for social change. Learn more at www.aontas.com

Role of Editorial Board

The Editorial Board is chaired by the Editor, and Chairperson (AONTAS CEO). The Editorial Board will preserve and strengthen the reputation of the publication as a trusted source of high-quality, peer-reviewed information on adult and community education.

The Adult Learner is published annually, and each edition will include a maximum of 8 articles. Articles are published in the journal following a competitive and rigorous review process.

Members of the Editorial Board would be expected to:

Participate in peer review

- Peer review and critique articles, drawing upon their particular expertise.
- Edit and proofread articles (including references), completing relevant review forms and using track changes in text.
- Participate in multiple rounds of feedback to bring the article to a publishable standard.
- Provide feedback to the authors in the feedback form and/or the article using track changes.
- Provide subject-specific expertise, advice, ideas, and feedback on current articles and future themes for the journal.
- Demonstrate confidentiality and objectivity regarding the articles and the peer review process.
- Identify and report to the Editor and Editorial Board any potential conflicts during the peer review process.
- Liaise with the Editor, Secretary and Editorial Office throughout the peer review process.
- Strive to abide by the agreed peer review timeline and communicate any foreseeable barriers to meeting deadlines to the Editorial Office and Editor.
- Have proficient English language skills.

Develop The Adult Learner

- Attend and contribute to Editorial Board meetings; members are required to attend a minimum of 2 meetings per year and participate in the peer review process.
- Support the development of Writers' Workshops for new contributors to the journal, including facilitating break-out groups or hosting the workshop.

Support and promote The Adult Learner

- Promote The Adult Learner journal to peers, colleagues and students, to grow the publication's community of readers and contributors.
- Represent and promote The Adult Learner journal at conferences, workshops, panels and meetings.
- Encourage students and colleagues to read and contribute to the journal.
- Support the journal by contributing original research content where applicable (e.g. research articles, short reports, etc.).

Uphold governance and procedures

- Disclose any potential conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from related decisions.
- Adhere to ethical guidelines and best practices; in rare cases of misalignment, the Editorial Board will review and decide on appropriate steps.
- Participate in the review of the Terms of Reference, which will be conducted every two years to ensure ongoing relevance.
- Support the development and maintenance of a succession plan for key roles.
- Support the process for identifying and appointing new members to fill vacancies that arise before the end of a term. The Editorial Board will oversee the recruitment call, interviews, and appointment process.

Role of Book and Policy Reviews Editor:

- Source relevant book and policy reviews in discussion with AONTAS (Chair and Editorial Office).
- Share ideas with the Editorial Board and collate suggestions.
- Liaise with authors of book and policy reviews.
- Edit book and policy review submissions and share with AONTAS in accordance with agreed timeline and guidelines (including references).

Eligibility criteria:

All Editorial Board members are required to have substantial experience working in the field of adult and community education in Ireland or internationally.

To maintain the highest standards of peer review, Editorial Board members are required to follow best practice guidelines as outlined by relevant ethical research and publication bodies as outlined within the publication's editorial policies, including the Committee On Publication Ethics (COPE): [Link to best practices for preprints document](#)

Terms of office for Editorial Board members:

The Editor and Chairperson appoint members for a 5-year renewable term. After the first term has finished, Editorial Board members can renew their tenure on the Editorial Board annually for a maximum of 5 years. The maximum total number of years an Editorial Board member can serve is 10 years.

Please note that the role of an Editorial Board member is voluntary and unremunerated.

Application process:

If you are interested in applying for this role, please email a cover letter and your curriculum vitae to journal@aontas.com.

In the subject line, please include "Book and Policy Reviews Editor".

Applications are due by **Friday, 16th January 2026 by 5pm.**