

Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme – (VTOS)



WHAT IS VTOS?

It is a Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme, which is suitable for those adults who have been out of education and wish to return. You must complete a College Application Form and a VTOS Application form, including a passport size photograph on both forms.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

You must be over 21 years of age and have been receiving social welfare benefits for at least 156 days.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR VTOS?

- Complete College Course Application Form
- Complete Part 1, 2 and 3 of the VTOS Application form
(Do not complete Part 4 and Do not send the form to Social Welfare)
- Return the form to the VTOS Office in the College of Commerce
- The closing date for receipt of VTOS applications forms is the 7th September 2010. Any application forms received after this date will be treated as a late application.

Please note: Places are limited on the VTOS programme and are prioritised on the basis of:

- Educational Need
- Time on Social Welfare

However if you fail to get a place on the VTOS programme, you can then apply for Back-to-Education-Allowance

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFYING BENEFITS?

- Unemployed on JA or JB
- One Parent Family Allowance
- Prisoner's Spouse
- An Adult Dependent on a person in receipt of Unemployment Assistance
- A person on Disability Allowance
- A person on Illness Benefit (you must apply to the Exemption Section, Dept of Social, Community & Family Affairs, Store St. Dublin 1 for an exemption to attend the course)

WHAT BENEFITS WILL I OBTAIN?

Full weekly Social Welfare payment and any secondary benefits you already have, such as:

- Fuel Allowance
- Rent Allowance
- Mortgage Interest Supplements

You may also qualify for the €31.80 weekly training allowance if you are on Social Welfare benefits for a year or more immediately before starting on the VTOS programme. (This does not apply to Adult Dependents)

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

- No Course Fees
- Meal Allowance
- Travel Allowance (if you are staying more than 3 miles from the College)

WHAT ABOUT CRÉCHE FACILITIES?

An allowance may be paid towards crèche places in a community day care centre.

WHAT TYPE OF COURSES CAN I ATTEND?

Any full time day course in the Cork College of Commerce

CAN I APPLY FOR A GRANT AS WELL?

No, since the 2010 Budget, people in receipt of VTOS or Back-to-Education Allowance will not be eligible for student support grants but they will not have to pay the student service charge or college fees.

CAN I APPLY FOR RENT ALLOWANCE/MORTGAGE SUBSIDY?

Yes. Apply through the Southern Health Board, Georges Quay, Cork.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES

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