

Higher Education Stimulus Initiative and Opportunities with Ireland's leading provider of Executive Education

On the 24th July 2020 as part of the Government's announcement on the July stimulus package an additional funding allocation of €47.5m was provided for Higher Education skills-related programmes. The Department of Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) set the criteria for the initiatives and IMI has been allocated funding for a number of places on its Professional Diploma programmes.

Applicants must meet the following:

Educational and/or Professional Experience Entry Requirements for all programmes

A candidate's eligibility for each programme will be determined by a combination of their academic qualifications and/or relevant professional experience. A primary degree from a recognised third-level institution (NFQ level 8), with a minimum classification of Second Class Honours, will typically be required with five years relevant work experience, at least 3 of which must be at managerial level, however, prior workplace learning will be recognised where applicants do not meet the academic requirement. This experience may come from a general business or organisational background, or experience working at a management level or in the area specifically related to the Diploma. Each candidate will meet with the Programme Directors, who will interview applicants in person virtually or physically. The IMI Office of the Registrar will oversee all applications, and the final decision on any application shall remain with the Registrar. All applicants whose first language is not English will be required to show evidence of the successful completion of an IELTS or TOEFL test. The English language requirement for this programme is an IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each individual section or equivalent.

Are you Eligible for Irish Government Funding?

The Irish Government Funding for places under the fund is available for Eligible participants as defined below:

1. The Unemployed

People in receipt of PUP or a Jobseekers payment can participate on approved July Stimulus **part time** postgraduate courses only.

These applicants will not pay any course fees once evidence of the PUP or Jobseekers payment is provided with the application. Such participants must remain available for employment while attending the course.

2. Returners

Returners are defined as 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:

1. A Homemaker or on other caring duties for a minimum period of 9 of the previous 12 months prior to their application
2. Ordinarily resident in an EU/EEA/UK/Swiss state for at least three of the five years preceding their entry to the programme
3. In addition, the applicant **will need to provide supporting documentation** to confirm their status as a Homemaker.
4. 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.)

3. The Employed

- Ordinarily resident in an EU/EEA/UK/Swiss state for at least three of the five years preceding their entry to the programme
- Must be able to provide a copy of their most recent 'Employment Detail Summary' or other relevant revenue documentation.

Successful applicants from the employed category will be required to pay 10% of the course fee, i.e. €900.

4. Formerly Self-employed

- Must be able to 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.

Successful applicants from the formerly self-employed category will be required to pay 10% of the course fee, i.e. €900.

5. Recent graduates

Recent graduates are also eligible to apply for funding under the rules of the Stimulus Fund. However, recent graduates are unlikely to meet the entry criteria for the Professional Diplomas.

Allocation of Funded Places by IMI

Places will be allocated in an equitable manner supporting the upskilling of sectors adversely affected by Covid.

- a) Firstly, to the unemployed
- b) Then to Returners
- c) Then to applicants who are Employed or Formerly Self-Employed in sectors most impacted by Covid. IMI will give preference to persons working in businesses which have experienced an adverse impact due to the impact of COVID-19. Specific sectors identified by IMI, in no particular order, are:
 - Aerospace/aviation/travel
 - Agriculture
 - Architecture, Engineering and Construction
 - Arts, Entertainment and Cultural
 - Automotive
 - Hospitality and Tourism
 - Manufacturing, specifically
 - Textiles
 - Transportation equipment
 - Furniture
 - Retail
 - The charity sector
 - Transport and logistics

Broad Indication of Places Available

	Programme Name	NFQ Level	Credits	Part-time	Mode	Provisional Start Date	Duration	PlaceNumber	Changes to allocation
1	Professional Diploma in Digital Marketing Strategy	9	30	PT	Blended	09/11/2020	6 months	5	
2	Professional Diploma in Management	9	30	PT	Blended	11/11/2020	6 months	10	
3	Professional Diploma in Leadership (Dublin & Cork)	9	30	PT	Blended	04/11/2020	6 months	7	+ 1
4	Professional Diploma in Strategy and Innovation	9	30	PT	Blended	09/11/2020	6 months	7	
5	Professional Diploma in Executive Coaching (Dublin & Cork)	9	30	PT	Blended	28/10/2020	6 months	7	
6	Professional Diploma in Digital Leadership	9	30	PT	Blended	09/11/2020	6 months	7	
7	Professional Diploma in Strategic Human Resource Management	9	30	PT	Blended	21/10/2020	6 months	5	- 3
8	Professional Diploma in Organisational Behaviour	9	30	PT	Blended	11/11/2020	6 months	5	
9	Professional Diploma in Business Finance	9	30	PT	Blended	30/11/2020	6 months	5	
10	Professional Diploma in Organisational Development and Transformation	9	30	PT	Blended	02/11/2020	6 months	7	

1	Professional Diploma in Management	9	30	PT	Blended-Y	December 2020	8 months	12	
2	Professional Diploma in Business Finance/(Dublin & Cork)	9	30	PT	Blended-Y	January 2021	8 months	7	
3	Professional Diploma in Organisational Behaviour/Executive Education	9	30	PT	Blended-Y	January 2021	8 months	5	
4	Professional Diploma in Organisational Development and Transformation/Executive Education	9	30	PT	Blended-Y	January 2021	8 months	7	
5	Professional Diploma in Strategy and Innovation	9	30	PT	Blended-Y	December 2020	8 months	12	
6	Professional Diploma in Leadership	9	30	PT	Blended-Y	January 2021	8 months	7	