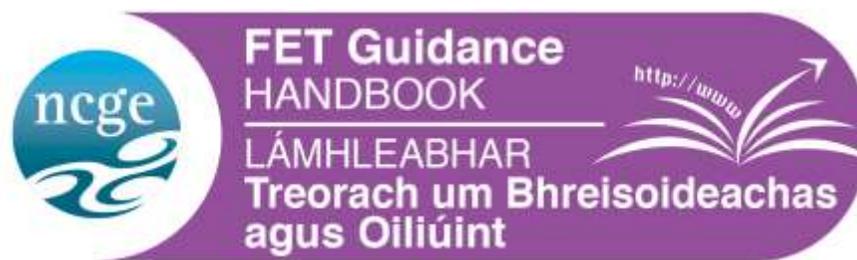


# Access to Further Education and Training For Eligible International Protection Applicants



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## Outline

Following the Government's decision on the 26th June 2018, Ireland has now opted in to the EU (recast) [Receptions Conditions Directive](#) (2013/22/EU) and the interim measures that had been in place since 9th February 2018 giving access to the labour market for those in the protection process are no longer valid. The Directive sets out the standards for the reception of applicants for international protection.

International protection applicants who are waiting 9 months or more for a first instance recommendation from the International Protection Office will now have access to the labour market. The Directive does not apply retrospectively, it applies only to those already waiting on a first instance recommendation for 9 months or more on the date the [directive comes into force](#) (2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018), or those to apply thereafter.

Under this Directive, eligible applicants may be entitled to avail of further education and training in the same manner as Irish citizens. Eligible applicants may [apply to the Minister for Justice and Equality](#) for a labour market permission, which covers both employment and self-employment. The permission will be granted to eligible applicants for six months and will be renewable until there is a final decision on their protection application. Eligible applicants will have access to all sectors of employment, with the exception of the Civil and Public Service, An Garda Síochána, and the Irish Defence Forces.

As the Directive has now entered into force, increased access to the labour market will now be available to any individual holding labour market permission.

### Access to Further Education and Training Programmes

Eligible applicants will have access to all further education and training programmes which will now include access to Apprenticeships and Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS). **Access to PLC provision will be subject to the payment of the full economic fee as set out in the [Department's circular letter dated 27 September 2001](#).**

### Eligibility

Eligibility to participate on these programmes on the basis of permission to access the labour market must be verified by the relevant Education and Training Board (ETB) by the production of the applicant's labour market permission letter from the Department of Justice and Equality.

*It should be noted that there is **no right** to a place on any particular programme, applications from protection applicants are assessed according to the programme guidelines in the same way as other applications.*

### Programme Operational Guidelines

With the exception of those conditions that require an applicant to hold a medical card and/or be in receipt of a Department of Employment and Social Protection (DEASP) payment (*e.g. jobseekers allowance, jobseekers benefit etc.*) all of the provision of the programme operational guidelines will apply to any applications received from the cohort of eligible international protection applicants, granted permission to access the labour market as set out above and should be taken into consideration in determining applications in the usual way.

## Allowances

### Meal and Travel

Where participation on a programme includes the payment of meal and travel allowances, applicants will equally be entitled to these payments.

### Training Allowance

As protection applicants do not have an entitlement to income support from DEASP apart from that relating to direct provision, the payment of a training allowance, in lieu of such a payment will **not** apply.

Allowances paid to apprentices during off the job phases, equivalent to wages on the job, will be paid to protection applicants recruited as apprentices by approved employers.

DEASP have indicated that protection applicants will have full access to INTREO services, including case officer engagement. It will be provided on a voluntary basis with no compulsion on eligible protection applicants to engage, given that they are not in receipt of a payment from DEASP that carried an obligation to engage in the activation process.

For this reason, access to the above FET programmes, may take place either on the basis of self-referral or on the basis of referral from DEASP.

## Guidance

With the exception of those applicants referred to specific provision via INTREO under the management of a case officer, **ETBs, must in the first place, refer each eligible applicant to the Adult Guidance Service to provide support and guidance on the most suitable available FET provision to meet the needs of the applicant.**

The Department of Education and Skills is now requesting SOLAS to engage with each ETB informing them of the new arrangements on access to the labour market and to all FET programmes by eligible international protection applicants that will come into effect from 30th June 2018.