



Skills Connect Eligibility Criteria

Please read the eligibility criteria below to determine if you are eligible to participate in our training for people who are seeking employment.

COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment

People in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) may participate in training delivered through Skillnet Ireland's Skills Connect scheme and Employment Activation Programme (EAP). As most training available through these initiatives is of short duration or part-time, recipients may continue to receive the PUP. However, once recipients identify the specific training programme that they wish to undertake, they must check their eligibility to retain the PUP with their Intreo office.

Eligible Individuals who are not Welfare Payment Recipients

- Individuals who are not in receipt of a welfare payment from DEASP and whose circumstances are described below are eligible to participate.
- Former sole traders and business owners
- Recent graduates who are unemployed
- Homemakers
- Retirees seeking to return to the workplace
- Individuals who fail to qualify for social welfare payments because of a spouse's income
- Individuals signing on for credits but in receipt of no social welfare payment
- Individuals who have recently accepted redundancy payments
- Non-European Economic Area (EEA) nationals holding immigration Stamp 4

Eligible Individuals who are Welfare Payment Recipients

Unemployed people with an entitlement to a Jobseekers Allowance (JA) or Jobseekers Benefit (JB) payment from the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection (DEASP) may retain such payments subject to the Back to Education criteria of that Department.

People in receipt of other forms of income support from DEASP may retain such payments subject to the Back to Education criteria of that Department. Other forms of income support include:

- Jobseeker's Credits only
- Blind Pension
- Disability Allowance
- Farm/Fish Assist
- Illness Benefit
- Invalidity Pension
- One-Parent Family Payment
- Rural Social Scheme
- Supplementary Welfare Allowance
- Adult Dependents (of listed schemes)