



**etb**

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
Átha Cliath agus Dhún Laoghaire  
*Dublin and Dún Laoghaire  
Education and Training Board*

## VTOS APPLICANT INFORMATION SHEET

### Am I eligible for VTOS?

To apply for VTOS you must be at least 21 years of age by the course start date **and**

- getting one of the following payments for at least 6 months (156 days) and still receiving a payment immediately before the course start date: Job Seeker's Benefit, Job Seeker's Allowance, One-Parent Family Payment, Illness Benefit, Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension, Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance, Widow's/Widower's/Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory or Non-Contributory Pension, Prisoner's Wife's Allowance or Blind Person's Pension

**OR**

- signing for credits for at least 6 months (156 days) before the course start date

**OR**

- are a registered Dependent Spouse/Civil Partner/cohabitant of a person eligible to participate in VTOS for at least 6 months (156 days) before the course start date

**OR**

- have been made redundant and have received a statutory redundancy payment. You should have received Form RP50 from your former employer. You do not have to wait 6 months before applying for VTOS.

**Note:** Time spent on FET training courses, Youthreach, Community Employment Schemes, JobBridge, Tús, Carer's Allowance and time in prison can count towards the 6 month qualifying period. However, you must be receiving a social welfare payment immediately before starting VTOS.

### **What payments/supports will I receive on VTOS?**

- Courses are provided free of charge
- If you are on Jobseeker's Benefit, you will receive the same weekly payment from the Education and Training Board (ETB) instead
- If you are aged 26 or over and getting Jobseeker's Allowance you will receive the same weekly payment from the ETB instead
- If you are under 26 and getting Jobseeker's Allowance you will receive a maximum weekly payment of €160.00 from the ETB instead. However, if you have means assessed by the Department of Social Protection (DSP), your means will be deducted from the €160.00 rate
- If you are receiving a One-Parent Family Payment (OPFP) you will continue to receive your payment in the usual way. However, if your youngest child reaches the cut-off age for OPFP during the VTOS year, you will no longer receive OPFP. You will receive a VTOS payment from the ETB instead
- If you are receiving a disability payment or other eligible social welfare payment, you will continue to receive your payment in the usual way
- You will receive a travel allowance if you travel more than 3 miles (5 kilometres) from your home to the VTOS centre (one-way)
- You will receive a meal allowance
- You will receive books and materials on loan and free of charge
- You may apply for childcare support under the Childcare, Education and Training Support (CETS) scheme.

### **How do I apply for VTOS?**

- Contact the college/centre and complete a Course Application Form
- An Information Session may be arranged
- You will be invited to meet the VTOS Co-ordinator or Course Tutor where your interest in and eligibility for VTOS will be discussed
- If you are offered a VTOS place, you will receive a VTOS Application Form which you must bring to your local Social Welfare/Intreo Office to be completed. You must return the completed form to the college/centre.