



# ACCESS TO FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

This guide was developed by Education & Training Boards Ireland (ETBI)  
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**etbi**

Education and Training  
Boards Ireland  
*Boird Oideachais agus  
Oiliúna Éireann*

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## Guide Overview

### What is this guide about?

This guide provides a pathway to understanding a learner(s) eligibility to ETB FET programmes, and deals with the following three specific points;

- 1) Categories of residency permissions (also known as 'stamps' or 'GNIB stamps')
- 2) Information on how these permissions are relevant to accessing ETB FET programmes
- 3) A detailed breakdown of the different types of migrants and the rights they might be entitled to as pertains to ETB FET eligibility

### Who is this guide for?

The guide is designed for ETB staff - as an aid - to facilitate informed and consistent decisions, when dealing with migrant eligibility to access ETB FET programmes.

### Important Information

1. This guide is intended as an overview of the current different types of immigration permissions. If in doubt about what a person's immigration permissions means, with regards to their rights to access ETB FET services, please refer to official Irish Government sites as listed in the reference guide at the end of this document.
2. Access to education, depends on some, or all of the following criteria;
  - a. Your nationality
  - b. Your immigration status in Ireland
  - c. Length of time in Ireland

## Overview of ETBI, ETBs' and FET

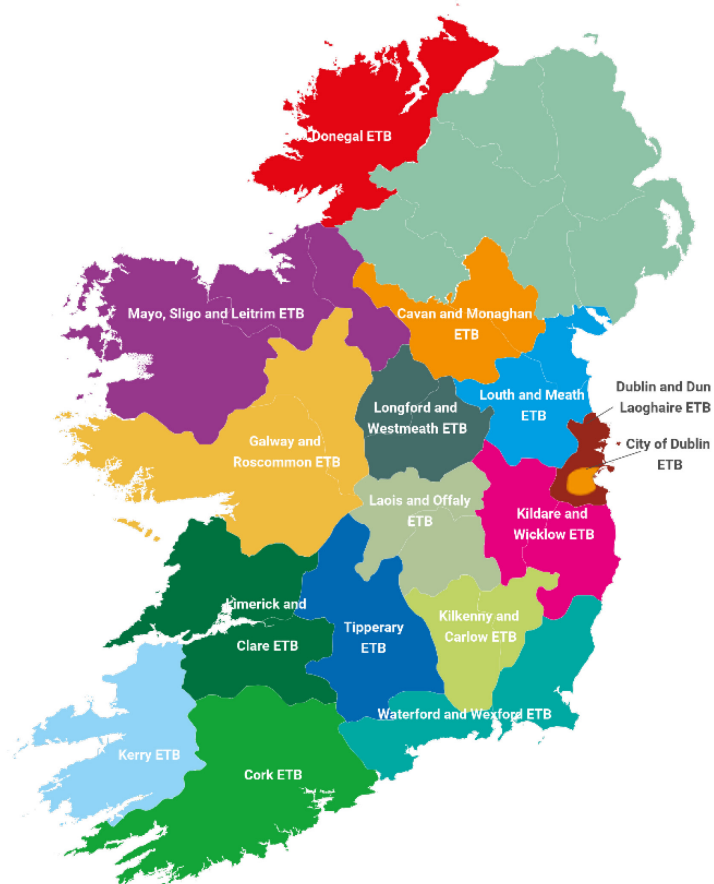
### What is ETBI?

ETBI is the national representative body for member ETBs and negotiates on behalf of the ETB sector at various forums, both within the education sector, the wider public service and at EU level. ETBI's Principal Objective, is to promote the development of education, training and youthwork in Ireland.

### What is an ETB?

Education and Training Boards are statutory education authorities with responsibility for education and training, youth work and a range of other statutory functions. Education and Training Boards manage and operate Community National Schools, Post-Primary Schools, Further Education (FE) colleges, and a range of adult and further education centres delivering education and training programmes.

- 16 ETBS
- 200,000+ Learners
- 500+ Education Centres
- 137 PLC Colleges
- 94 Youthreach Centres
- 27 Training Centres
- 34 CTCs



## ETB Directory

Please find a full list of the 16 ETB's below and further details may be accessed [here](#).

ETB	Website	Contact Number
Cavan & Monaghan Education & Training Board	<a href="http://cavanmonaghan.etb.ie/">http://cavanmonaghan.etb.ie/</a>	Tel: 047 30888
Cork Education & Training Board	<a href="http://cork.etb.ie/">http://cork.etb.ie/</a>	Tel: 021 4907100
City of Dublin Education & Training Board	<a href="http://cityofdublin.etb.ie/">http://cityofdublin.etb.ie/</a>	Tel: 01 6680614
Donegal Education & Training Board	<a href="https://www.donegaletb.ie/">https://www.donegaletb.ie/</a>	Tel: 074 9161600
Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education & Training Board	<a href="http://www.ddletb.ie/">http://www.ddletb.ie/</a>	Tel: 01 4529600
Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board	<a href="http://galwayroscommon.etb.ie/">http://galwayroscommon.etb.ie/</a>	Tel: 091 874500
Kerry Education & Training Board	<a href="http://www.kerryetb.ie/">http://www.kerryetb.ie/</a>	Tel: 066 7121488
Kildare & Wicklow Education & Training Board	<a href="http://kildarewicklow.etb.ie/">http://kildarewicklow.etb.ie/</a>	Tel: 045 988 000
Kilkenny & Carlow Education & Training Board	<a href="http://kilkennycarlow.etb.ie/">http://kilkennycarlow.etb.ie/</a>	Tel: 059 9138560
Laois & Offaly Education & Training Board	<a href="https://www.loetb.ie/">https://www.loetb.ie/</a>	Tel: 057 8621352
Limerick & Clare Education & Training Board	<a href="http://limerickclare.etb.ie/">http://limerickclare.etb.ie/</a>	Tel: 061 442 100
Longford & Westmeath Education & Training Board	<a href="http://longfordwestmeath.etb.ie/">http://longfordwestmeath.etb.ie/</a>	Tel: 044 9348389
Louth & Meath Education & Training Board	<a href="http://louthmeath.etb.ie/">http://louthmeath.etb.ie/</a>	Tel: 046 906 8200
Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim Education & Training Board	<a href="http://mayosligoleitrim.etb.ie/">http://mayosligoleitrim.etb.ie/</a>	Tel: 094 902 4188
Tipperary Education & Training Board	<a href="http://tipperary.etb.ie/">http://tipperary.etb.ie/</a>	Tel: 067 31250
Waterford & Wexford Education & Training Board	<a href="http://waterfordwexford.etb.ie/">http://waterfordwexford.etb.ie/</a>	Tel: 051 301 500

## What is FET?

Further Education and Training (FET), offers a wide variety of life-long education options, to anyone over 16 and meets the eligibility requirements at that time.

ETB Further Education & Training, includes provisions such as:

### **Apprenticeships:**

A work based structured education and training programme which combines and alternates learning in the workplace with learning in an education or training centre.

### **Traineeships:**

A Traineeship combines learning in the classroom and experience in the workplace to improve employment outcomes for participants and increase retention and productivity in the sector.

### **Post Leaving Cert (PLC) Courses:**

PLCs are full-time and offer a mixture of practical work, academic work and work experience. They are designed as a step towards skilled employment and, as such, they are closely linked to industry and its needs.

### **Skills to Advance:**

Aim to equip employees with the skills, to progress in their current job, or to take advantage of new job opportunities.

### **Adult Literacy & Numeracy Services:**

The adult literacy & numeracy service provides literacy, numeracy and computer tuition for adults who need to develop their skills in reading, writing, spelling, maths and using everyday technology.

**Community Education:**

Community education refers to adult education and learning, generally outside the formal education sector. It aims to empower and support communities. It is firmly community-based, with local groups taking responsibility for, and playing a key in, organising courses and deciding on programme content.

To further explore the range of ETB further education and training provision courses on offer check out the following websites:

FET Provision	<a href="http://www.thisisfet.ie">www.thisisfet.ie</a>
FETCH Courses Hub	<a href="https://www.fetchcourses.ie/">https://www.fetchcourses.ie/</a>
Apprenticeships Hub	<a href="https://apprenticeship.ie/">https://apprenticeship.ie/</a>
Traineeships Hub	<a href="http://traineeship.ie">http://traineeship.ie</a>
Skills to Advance Hub	<a href="https://www.solas.ie/programmes/skills-to-advance/">https://www.solas.ie/programmes/skills-to-advance/</a>



## A Snapshot of FET

Community And Adult Education:	Traineeships:	Apprenticeships:	Post Leaving Certificate (PLC):	Skills to Advance:	Skills to Compete:
<p>Community education refers to adult education and learning, generally outside the formal education sector, which aims to enhance learning, empower people and contribute to society. It promotes personalised learning flexibility within the learning group.</p>	<p>77+ Traineeships At least <b>30%</b> on the job 6-20 months in duration <b>NFQ Levels 4 to 6</b></p> <p>Traineeships are short, structured training programmes which combine learning in an education and training setting as well as learning in the workplace in partnership with employers.</p>	<p>60+ Apprenticeships At least <b>50%</b> on the job 2 to 4 years in duration <b>NFQ Levels 5 to 10</b></p> <p>An apprenticeship is an opportunity to earn a salary as an employee while gaining valuable knowledge and skills.</p>	<p>1500+ PLC Courses At least <b>25%</b> on the job 1-2 Years in Duration <b>NFQ Levels 5 to 6</b></p> <p>The Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) programme is a full-time programme for young people who have completed their Leaving Certificate and adults returning to education.</p>	<p>Skills to Advance is a national initiative that provides upskilling and reskilling opportunities to employees in jobs undergoing change and to those currently employed in vulnerable sectors.</p> <p><b>Employers: 2,633+</b></p>	<p>Skills to Compete is an initiative to support those who have lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19, to re-enter the workforce.</p> <p>Each ETB will shape its own Skills to Compete provision to reflect the labour market characteristics of its region and the responses that will be most effective for the local community.</p>



## **INIS / GNIB Registration**

### **Registration with the Irish Naturalisation & Immigration Service (INIS) or the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB)**

A non-EEA national who has been granted permission to live, work or study in Ireland through the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service must register with the Irish Naturalisation & Immigration Service - if resident in Dublin (<https://burghquayregistrationoffice.inis.gov.ie/>) - or their local Garda immigration officer if living outside Dublin. They are issued with a 'Certificate of Registration' in the form of an Irish Residence Permit Card (IRP, <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/inis/Pages/irish-residence-permit>) and a residence 'stamp' on their passport. Significant time spent outside Ireland might impact on the ability to renew immigration permission. Please find further details on registration [here](#).

## **UK Withdrawal from the EU**

### **Special Notice on UK Withdrawal from the EU – Information for UK Nationals and their Non-EEA family members living in Ireland**

Although no longer a member of the EU, the Withdrawal Agreement provides for a transition period. Brexit has fully come into effect on 31 December 2020, when the United Kingdom (UK) left the European Union (EU) after the end of the transition period.

If you are a UK national living in Ireland nothing will change. The protections provided by the Common Travel Area (CTA) mean that UK nationals living here, will continue to travel freely, live, work and access education, healthcare and social services in each other's country after the UK leaves the EU. Click [HERE](#) for further information)

The Irish Government has put in place arrangements for those people who come from a country outside the EU (non-EEA), and are a family member or dependent of an UK national, who, as of 31 December 2020, hold a valid Irish Resident Permit (IRP) Card.

As a non-EEA family member or dependent of a UK national, from 31 December 2020, you will hold the same residence permission to live, work or study in Ireland, if you reside here at the end of the transition period and continue to do so.

You will simply be required to replace your current valid IRP Card for a new one stating that you benefit from the Withdrawal Agreement.

This card replacement programme will apply from 1 January 2021 and be administered by the Immigration Service of the Department of Justice for all applicants nationwide through an on-line renewal system available at <https://inisonline.jahs.ie>. This system has been especially adapted to accept Withdrawal Agreement IRP Card replacement applications from all counties not just Dublin.

Please click [HERE](#) for further information on your online application.

From 1 January 2021, your IRP card (or if you have not yet obtained your new IRP card, your Stamp 4 EUFam Residence card) does not have visa exemption effect, except for Ireland.

If you intend travelling to another EU Member State after that date, you will need to check the visa requirements for that Member State before you travel. Click [HERE](#) for further information on this topic.

## The current categories of residence ‘stamps’ are:

Table 1: Residence Stamps

<b>Stamp 0</b>	<p>Issued to self-sufficient persons to remain for a temporary period. Individuals cannot work or engage in any business, trade or profession in Ireland unless specifically permitted. Examples of when Stamp 0 permission may be given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– people retiring or living in Ireland with independent means</li> <li>– visiting academics at a Irish University or college</li> <li>– living in Ireland as the elderly, dependent relative of a non-EU/EEA or Swiss citizen,</li> <li>– extending a short term visit due to exceptional humanitarian circumstances,</li> <li>– sent to Ireland to work for an overseas company to carry out a specific task for a limited time or other.</li> </ul>
<b>Stamp 1</b>	<p>Issued to those with employment permits, operating a business in Ireland, working holiday or letter from the Minister granting them permission to work without the need for an employment permit.</p>
<b>Stamp 1A</b>	<p>Issued to full-time, paid accountancy training students (in compliance with the immigration rules or regulated by the IAASA and with a training contract with a company based in Ireland) for a specified period, subject to conditions.</p>
<b>Stamp 1G</b>	<p>Issued to persons, that are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. on the “Third Level Graduate Programme” - who are allowed to work full-time</li> <li>2. the Spouse/de facto partner of a Critical Skills Employment Permit (CSEP) holder or a Spouse/de facto partner of Researchers in the State on Hosting Agreements (HA).</li> </ol>
<b>Stamp 2</b>	<p>Issued to students registered in a full-time course of study on the official <a href="#">Interim List of Eligible Programmes (ILEP)</a> for a specified period, subject to conditions. Students with this permission are entitled to work a maximum of 20 hours per week during school term and 40 hours per week during holidays.</p>
<b>Stamp 2A</b>	<p>Issued to students registered in a course of study that is <u>NOT</u> on the official <a href="#">Interim List of Eligible Programmes (ILEP)</a>. Students with this permission are not entitled to work.</p>

<b>Stamp 3</b>	<p>Issued to Volunteers, e.g. with a charity or non-profit; A Minister of Religion or to join your non-EEA/EU/Swiss spouse/civil partner or family member who is here based on a work permit. Persons are not permitted to work or engage in any business, trade or profession.</p> <p>Note: If you become a Spouse or Civil Partner of an Irish National, who is resident in the State, you may attend at GNIB with the Irish National to apply for your change of status to stamp 4. Details <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>Stamp 4</b>	<p>Issued to persons, that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Joining spouses, civil partner or de-facto partner of Irish nationals</li> <li>– Joining a family member who has immigration permission based on Stamp 4EUFAM (ie EU Treaty Rights)</li> <li>– Joining their family member who is a recognised refugee or has been granted subsidiary protection;</li> <li>– To remain with their child who is an Irish citizen</li> <li>– Under the Investor and Entrepreneur Programme (including spouse/partner &amp; family) for Long Term Residence</li> <li>– As a convention or programme refugee, or based on subsidiary protection.</li> </ul>
<b>Stamp 4 EUFam</b>	<p>Issued to the non-EEA dependant family members of an EU national. The EU national must live and work in this State. Those holding Stamp 4 EU FAM can live and work here but their residency is based on the EU national having sufficient resources and comprehensive sickness insurance for himself/herself and his/her family members not to become an unreasonable burden on the social assistance system of the State.</p>
<b>Stamp 4S</b>	<p>Issued to non-EEA nationals who held a Student Permission in the State during the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2010. This scheme closed on 20 January 2019. Click <a href="#">here</a> for further information.</p>
<b>Stamp 5</b>	<p>Issued to persons who have completed 8 years (96 months) of legal residency in Ireland and grants Permission to Remain in Ireland 'Without condition as to time' (WCATT).</p>
<b>Stamp 6</b>	<p>Issued to persons with dual citizenship (Irish and another nationality) and grants permission to Remain in Ireland 'Without condition'.</p>



## Entitlements:

The following table identifies the Permission Stamp holders who can work, and their eligibility to Further Education and Training. Please find more detail on the the Eligibility for Further Education and Training in Appendix 1.

*Table 2: Visa Stamps, Work and Eligibility for FET*



Stamp	Work	FET
Stamp 0	No Unless specifically permitted	No
Stamp 1	Yes	No
Stamp 1A	Yes	No
Stamp 1G	Yes Graduate seeking employment under Third Level Graduate Scheme	No
	Yes Spouse/de facto partner of CSEP or HA	No
Stamp 2	Yes	No
Stamp 2A	No	No
Stamp 3	No	No
Stamp 4	Yes	Yes
Stamp 5	Yes	Yes
Stamp 6	Yes	Yes



## Appendix 1: Eligibility for Further Education and Training

<b>Status</b> 	<b>Right</b> 	<b>To: Work</b>	<b>To: Further Education &amp; Training</b>
<b>Irish Citizen</b>		Yes	Yes
<b>Non-EEA<sup>1</sup> Spouse/Civil Partner/ De Facto Partner<sup>2</sup> of Irish Citizen -cohabiting evidence of minimum 2 years</b>		Yes, pending approval from INIS where required and appropriate registration with INIS or GNIB.	Yes
<b>Non-EEA parent of Irish Citizen ('IBC 2005' or 'Zambrano')</b>		Yes, if the non-EEA national is registered with INIS/GNIB and has been granted Stamp 4.	Yes
<b>EU National (All 28 EU Member States)</b>		Yes	Yes
<b>Non-EEA Spouse / Civil Partner / De Facto Partner/ Dependant of EU/EEA National</b>		Yes, if the non-EEA national is registered with INIS/GNIB and been granted Stamp 4 or Stamp 4 EUfam permission to remain in the State.	Yes



<sup>1</sup> European Economic Area

<sup>2</sup> De Facto Partnership is a mutual commitment to a shared life. Relationship is genuine and continuing. Partners are not related by family

<b>Status</b> 	<b>Right</b> 	<b>To: Work</b>	<b>To: Further Education &amp; Training</b>
<b>Non-EEA (Visitor)</b>		No	No
<b>Non-EEA Student</b>		Yes, Students holding a valid immigration "Stamp 2" are limited to casual work for 20 hours per week during term and 40 hours per week during holidays	No
<b>Stamp 1G</b>  Third Level Graduate Scheme		Yes, full-time in accordance with employment law provisions, but are not permitted to operate a business or be self-employed.	No
<b>Stamp 4</b>		You can take up employment and are not required to hold an Employment Permit. Click <a href="#">HERE</a> for further conditions.	Yes
<b>Stamp 4S - special student scheme</b>		This scheme closed on 20 January 2019.	This scheme closed on 20 January 2019.
<b>Stamp 1A Trainee Accountancy Students</b> For more information on Student guidelines for non-EEA Stamp 1A holders please go to: <a href="http://www.inis.gov.ie">www.inis.gov.ie</a>		Yes. Professional work placements are allowed; however, they must be appropriate to the course of study. Other employment is not allowed.	No

<b>Status</b> 	<b>Right</b> 	<b>To: Work</b>	<b>To: Further Education &amp; Training</b>
<b>Non-EEA Green Card Permit Holder / Critical Skills Permit Holder</b>		<p>The holder of a valid work permit/green card is entitled to take up employment in the State.</p> <p>The employment permit holder may, after serving one year in employment with the original employer as specified on the employment permit, change employer. This is subject to applying for a new employment permit and which is subject to the policy at that time.</p>	No
<b>Non-EEA Spouse/Dependant of Non-EEA Work Permit / General Employment Permit Holder</b>		<p>Yes. A dependant of a Critical Skills Employment Permit Holder or researcher on a Hosting Agreement is permitted to work in Ireland while they are resident here and accompanying the Critical Skills Permit Holder. In order to take up employment in Ireland they must have a job offer and then apply for a Dependant/ Partner/ Spouse Employment Permit.</p>	No
<b>Non-EEA Spouse/Dependant of Non-EEA Green Card Permit / Critical Skills Permit Holder</b>		<p>Yes. A dependant of a Critical Skills Employment Permit Holder or researcher on a Hosting Agreement is permitted to work in Ireland while they are resident here and accompanying the Critical Skills Permit Holder. In order to take up employment in Ireland they must have a job offer and then apply for a Dependant/ Partner/ Spouse Employment Permit.</p>	No



<b>Status</b> 	<b>Right</b> 	<b>To: Work</b>	<b>To: Further Education &amp; Training</b>
<b>Refugee<sup>3</sup></b> <i>(Geneva Convention &amp; Programme Refugees)</i>		Yes	Yes
<b>Subsidiary Protection<sup>4</sup></b>		Yes	Yes
<b>Family members of refugees or people with subsidiary protection</b>		Yes	Yes
<b>Leave to Remain / Temporary Permission to Remain</b>		Yes	Generally people with Leave/Permission to remain have a stamp 4 and the majority are eligible for SUSI and all Social Welfare entitlements, however there are a small number not eligible for SUSI, generally those who received their stamp 4 on a discretionary basis from the DoJ Minister.
<b>Protection Applicant (Person seeking Asylum)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 6 months awaiting decision<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>		No	No Except ESOL and literacy supports
<b>Protection Applicant (Person seeking Asylum)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 6 months awaiting decision</li> </ul>		Yes Labour Market Permission Letter and valid Temporary Residence Card (TRC) required.	Yes Labour Market Permission Letter and valid Temporary Residence Card (TRC) required.

<sup>3</sup> Refugees are treated the same as Irish Citizens.

<sup>4</sup> People with Subsidiary Protection are treated the same as Irish Citizens.

<sup>5</sup> Protection Applicants are eligible to apply for a work permit (Labour Market Access Permission) once in the Protection Process for 5 months having not received a first instance decision. The work permit is then valid from 6 months in the country with a 12 month duration, renewable annually until the full and final decision on the Protection Application.

## Reference Guide:

More information on the rights and entitlements of migrants and residents in Ireland is available at:

1. [www.inis.gov.ie](http://www.inis.gov.ie) – Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (Department of Justice & Equality)
  - [UK WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EU – Information for UK Nationals and their Non-EEA family members living in Ireland](#), Accessed 29<sup>th</sup> June 202.
  - [Impact of Brexit on UK Nationals and their non-EEA family members residing in Ireland: Frequently Asked Questions \(inis.gov.ie\)](#), Accessed 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
2. <https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/department-of-higher-education-innovation-and-science/> - Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
3. [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) – Provided access to wide range of government services
4. [www.dbei.gov.ie](http://www.dbei.gov.ie) - Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation.
5. [www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie) – Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade.
6. [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie) – Department of Social Protection.
7. [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) – Public service information.
8. [www.integration.ie](http://www.integration.ie) – Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration – with detailed list of support and cultural groups around Ireland.
9. [www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie](http://www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie) – Irish Refugee Council
10. [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie) – Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI)