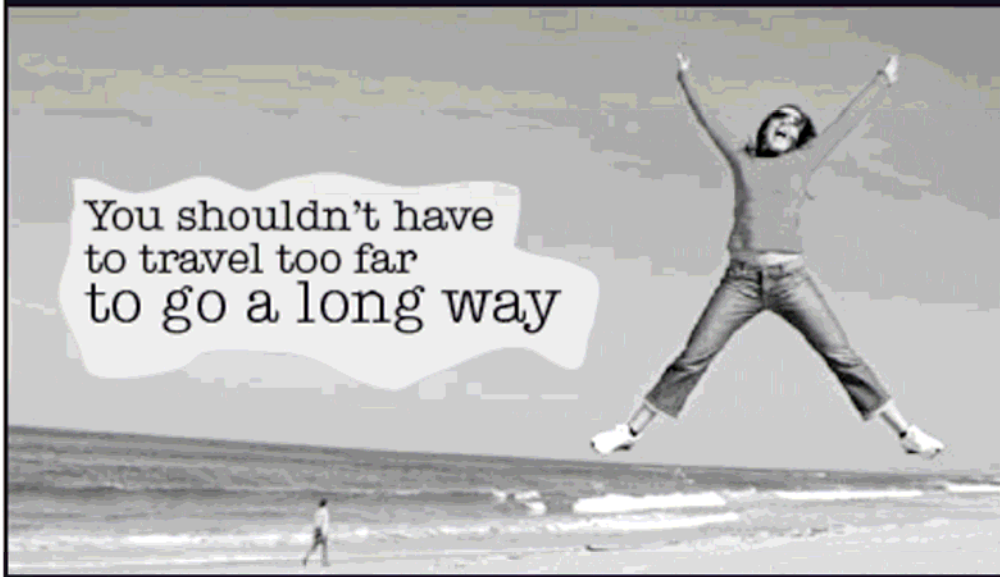




Waterford Institute *of* Technology
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA PHORT LAIRGE

Free Postgraduate places for the unemployed



New Labour Market Activation Programme

**Postgraduate Information Leaflet – August
2009**



Labour Market Activation Programme (Part-time Postgraduate Places for persons who are unemployed)

This is a joint initiative by the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment, the Department of Education and Science and the Higher Education Authority. WIT has been awarded 40 places on the scheme at levels 8 and 9 and the courses available are as follows:

Course Code	Course	Level	No.of Places
WD_KBUSY_G	Higher Diploma in Computing (Business Systems Analysis)	8	10
WD_EELEN_R	Master of Engineering in Electronic Engineering	9	10
WD_CSUEN_R	MSc in Sustainable Energy Engineering	9	10
WD_CINNT_R	Master of Engineering Science in Innovative Technologies	9	10

The scheme is open to:

To be eligible for the LMA (Labour Market Activation) programmes, applicants must:

- Be unemployed and in receipt of Job Seeker's Allowance or Benefit for six months or longer as at 1st September 2009 *or*
- Have been awarded Statutory Redundancy

The prime target will be persons who are unemployed with qualifications at NFQ levels 7 for the Higher Diploma in Computing (Business Systems Analysis) and at level 8 for the Master of Engineering in Electronic Engineering, MSc in Sustainable Energy Engineering and the Master of Engineering Science in Innovative Technologies.

There are **no fees** associated with these courses. It should be noted that since the courses to be provided are part-time, the Higher Education Grants Scheme and the Back to Education Allowance will not apply to prospective students. It is planned for courses to commence in September 2009.

Entry Requirements:

Applicants for the part-time places offered under this programme will be expected to meet standard entry requirements for the programme in question (some of which have specific subject requirements, see course details). Students may be eligible for advanced entry, based on previous experience and/or qualifications, in line with the Institute's admissions policy.

Applications will be evaluated by taking into account the previous experience of the candidate, as well as against the entry requirements of the particular programme.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL): It is intended for students who may or may not have had structured formal education but who have learned from their involvement in employment, community activities, home duties, sport etc. This learning when evaluated both qualitatively and quantitatively may entitle an applicant to credits or exemptions from a course of study. There are two situations in which RPL may be applied:

- RPL may allow a student access to a program.
- RPL may be used to gain credits towards an award or exemptions from aspects of the program.

If a student becomes employed during this programme the Institute will employ a "per module" fee relevant to each programme.



Jobseeker's Allowance / Jobseeker's Benefit (www.welfare.ie)

Participants on the part-time programmes may be eligible to retain Jobseeker's Allowance / Jobseeker's Benefit payments. Local Social and Family Affairs offices normally approach such applications in a flexible way bearing in mind the following requirements:

- Jobseeker's Allowance (JA) & Jobseeker's Benefit (JB) recipients may participate in a part-time courses and continue to receive their JA / JB payment under the Back to Education Programme, Part-Time Option.
- Participants on part-time courses who continue to receive payment of JA / JB are required to satisfy the conditions of being available for and genuinely seeking employment on an ongoing basis.
- Where a JA / JB recipient is pursuing a part-time course of study on the understanding that the course will help to enhance his/her employment prospects, s/he should be encouraged to complete the course. However, attendance on a part-time course under the Part-time Education Option is allowed on the clear understanding that availability for and genuinely seeking reasonable work opportunities takes precedence over course attendance, should a conflict arise.
- Applicants should note that the duration of the course may extend beyond the duration of their current entitlement for social welfare benefit. Being offered a place on an LMA programme does not automatically guarantee ongoing benefit entitlements and it is the responsibility of the applicant to establish their own social welfare status.

Important Dates:

17th August 2009

31st August 2009

7th September 2009

Application process opens

Application process closes

Offers made to successful applicants

How to Apply:

To apply for the above courses under the Labour Market Activation Programme please complete and submit the attached application form and return it to the Admissions Office by **Monday 31st August 2009**,

Labour Market Activation Programme
Admissions Office
Waterford Institute of Technology
Cork Road
Waterford

or by email to lma@wit.ie

If you require any further information please refer to our website www.wit.ie or contact our Admissions Office on 051 845692 or by emailing lma@wit.ie