

REDUCING EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING

*Motivating Students to Complete Their Education to Age 16
and Progress to Further Learning, Training & Employment
and Addressing Low Achievement in Basic Skills (Literacy, Maths & Science)*

1 WEEK COURSE FOR EUROPEAN EDUCATORS

DUBLIN, IRELAND

SUNDAY 10 MARCH - SUNDAY 17 MARCH 2024

SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER - SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER 2024

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Reducing Early School Leaving is one of the priorities of the Europe 2020 Strategic Framework for Education and Training.

This course aims to provide secondary and vocational schoolteachers and headteachers with:

- an insight into approaches taken by Irish secondary schools to motivate students to remain at school and gain qualifications
- an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences relating to reducing early school leaving with teachers and headteachers from other European countries

COURSE CONTENT:

1. **Lecture: The Irish Education System.**
2. **Introduction to the School Completion Programme** – a programme to support children and young people who are at risk of early school leaving or have left school early
3. **Day visit to a Secondary school (ages 12-18):** Introduction to the school. Tour of school. Observe lessons. Lecture & Discussion: Strategies to address low achievement in basic skills (literacy, maths & science) and to motivate students to remain in school, gain qualifications and continue their education after age 16.
4. **Visit a Youthreach Centre**
Presentation on the Youthreach programme which provides integrated education (training and work experience) for unemployed early school leavers without any qualifications or vocational training aged 15-20.
5. **Visit a centre for young people aged 13-15** who cannot access mainstream education due to educational, emotional, social or behavioural challenges
6. **Workshop:** Creative ideas and techniques for using technology to increase the motivation of disadvantaged and disaffected pupils.
7. A guided walking tour of Dublin and cultural visits to National Museum: Archaeology, National Museum: History & Decorative Arts and Chester Beatty Library (World Art Museum).

LOCATION:

DUBLIN, Ireland: Population: 1,228,000

Famous for its cultural heritage and charming hospitality, Dublin is a lively city with a rich history, situated on the east coast of Ireland. Notable historic sights include its elegant Georgian squares, Dublin Castle, Christ Church Cathedral, the Book of Kells at Trinity College, Kilmainham Gaol and National Museums. Temple Bar is a busy riverside neighbourhood with live Irish folk music venues.

Close to the city are the beautiful hills and lakes of Wicklow Mountains National Park and attractive coastal scenery.



TOTAL PRICE: €1,447:

The price includes:

(a) COURSE FEE to include:

Full programme of study sessions and visits as itemised above.

NB. Participants are responsible for paying their own daily transport costs, including visits to schools. Any optional visits are not included in the price.

(b) HOST FAMILY ACCOMMODATION to include:

Full board Accommodation with a local family (inclusive of registration fee): 7 nights
(Teachers may request to be the only guest of their mother tongue or to stay in the same family as a colleague).

Host families are carefully selected and offer a friendly welcome and opportunities to chat and learn more about life in Ireland today. Participants often find that the experience of staying with a host family is one of the most memorable aspects of the course. Accommodation is in single rooms (unless participants request to share). Breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal are provided by the host family. (Food allergies, likes and dislikes are taken into account.)

Please note that many suitable residential areas are not within walking distance of the city centre and most host families are a bus ride from the city centre/tuition centre. A travel pass for all Dublin public transport costs €32 per week and can also be used to visit nearby coastal villages, beaches and cliffs.

Accommodation can be provided for family members (but not unaccompanied children) subject to availability. (Rates on request).

Participants wishing to arrange their own (hotel or self-catering) accommodation may pay a fee for the course only.

TRAVEL:

Participants are responsible for arranging their travel to and from Ireland.
Express buses run from Dublin Airport to the city.

PAYMENT:

Full payment will be due 2 months before the course begins, or for teachers awaiting funding: as soon as the grant is received.
No refund for cancellations within 5 weeks of arrival. Applicants are strongly advised to take out cancellation insurance.
Postponement due to Covid-19 will be possible if necessary.

PREPARATION:

Participants are asked to complete a questionnaire before the course starts in order to ascertain their level of experience and training, the age groups and types of learners they teach and their expectations from the course. This helps trainers to respond to participants' individual needs and ensure that the most relevant areas are carefully integrated.

EVALUATION:

At the end of the course teachers participate in a detailed evaluation of the course.

FOLLOW UP:

At the end of the course teachers are asked to consider which aspects of the course will be the most relevant to their own teaching situations. On their return they are invited to keep a record of how they have been able to utilise ideas gained on the course in their own classrooms. They are encouraged to share their experiences with their fellow participants by email.

CERTIFICATE & ERASMUS+ VALIDATION:

A certificate of attendance (stating course content, learning outcomes and number of hours) will be provided and Erasmus+ documentation will be validated.

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DUBLIN

DRAFT PROGRAMME

DAY	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
SUNDAY			Arrive Dublin
MONDAY	0930- Welcome and introduction 1015 1030- Lecture: The Irish Education System 1230	1400- Guided walking tour of Dublin 1630	
TUESDAY	0900- Visit a secondary school (aged 12-18) 1500 Introduction to the school. Tour of school. Observe lessons, including vocational classes Lecture& discussion: Strategies to address low achievement in basic skills (literary, maths & science) and to motivate students (including those from disadvantaged backgrounds) to remain in school, gain qualifications and continue their education after age 16		
WEDNESDAY	0930- Introduction to the School Completion 1230 Programme – a programme to support children and young people who are at risk of early school leaving or have left school early	1330- Visit a centre for young people aged 13-15 1430 who cannot access mainstream education due to educational, emotional, social or behavioural challenges	Optional evening in a traditional pub with Irish folk music
THURSDAY	0930- Visit a Youthreach Centre 1530 Presentation on the Youthreach programme which provides integrated education (training and work experience) for unemployed early school leavers without any qualifications or vocational training aged 15-20.		
FRIDAY	0930- Workshop: Creative ideas and 1300 techniques for using technology to increase the motivation of disadvantaged and disaffected pupils	1400- Workshop: Creative ideas and 1700 techniques for using technology to increase the motivation of disadvantaged and disaffected pupils 1700- Evaluation Session 1800	
SATURDAY	1000- Cultural visits in Dublin: National Museum: Archaeology, National Museum: History & 1700 Decorative Arts, Chester Beatty (World Art Museum) or National Botanic Gardens		
SUNDAY	Depart Dublin		

