



THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN IRELAND:

A guide for people seeking asylum, those with refugee status, subsidiary protection or permission to remain.

Supported by



Issue date: 11 July 2019

Contents

Page No.

A guide to the Irish education system	3
Quality and Qualification Ireland (QQI)	3
National Framework of Qualification in Ireland (NFQ)	4
Post Leaving Cert (PLC) Education (often called Further Education) ..	5
Third Level Education (often called Higher Education)	6
How do you apply to go to University in Ireland?	7
How much does it cost to go to University in Ireland?	8
Student Grants (provided by the Department of Education)	10
Map of Ireland showing locations of scholarships	11
Scholarships (provided by Universities)	12
Scholarships (provided by Institutes of Technology)	19
IRC Education Fund	22
Other useful information	23
Useful Websites	26
Online Courses	27

A guide to the Irish education system

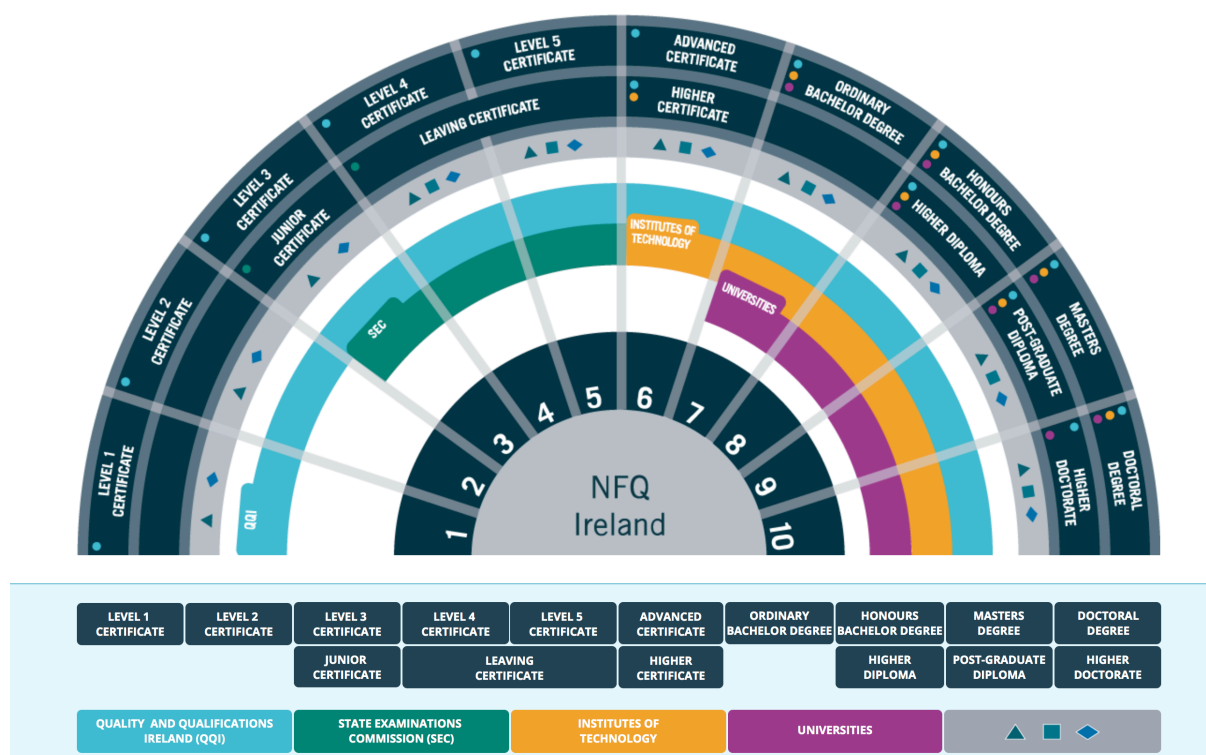
- This booklet primarily focuses on education for people over the age of 18 – generally called further education, higher education or third level education.
- See the links here below if you are looking for information regarding primary education (children age 4-12) or secondary education (children age 12-18).
- One guide can be found here
- <https://www.education.ie/en/parents/information/a-guide-to-the-irish-education-system.pdf> (Page 33-39 refers to Higher Education and Further Education – usually people age over 18).
- This website may also be useful <https://www.education.ie/en/The-Education-System/>

Quality and Qualification Ireland (www.qqi.ie)

- QQI is an independent State agency responsible for promoting quality and accountability in education and training services in Ireland.
- They also facilitate the recognition of foreign qualifications through NARIC.
- **NARIC** Ireland provides advice on the academic recognition of a foreign qualification by comparing it, where possible, to a major award type and level on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).
- Generally NARIC can only provide comparability statements for wholly completed qualifications. www.naric.ie
- QQI are also responsible for developing and maintaining the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).
- QQI was established in 2012 and is an amalgamation of several previous State bodies including the Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC). Although FETAC has not been in existence for seven years now you will frequently hear people refer to courses as FETAC Level 5 or 6 etc. They really mean QQI Level 5 or 6, it's the same thing.
- So let's take a look at these levels with NFQ.

National Framework of Qualification in Ireland (www.nfq.ie)

- Since 2003 the Irish NFQ have established a framework through which all learning achievements may be measured and related to each other in a coherent way.
- Most education courses in Ireland are identified as Level 1 – 10 (see diagram below)
- At the end of secondary school students (typically age 18) complete their Leaving Certificate (level 5)
- An Undergraduate Degree is level 7 or 8 (and lasts 3 or 4 years)
- A Postgraduate (Masters) Degree is level 9 (and lasts 1 or 2 years)
- A Doctorate (PhD) is level 10 (and generally takes 3 or 4 years to complete)
- Between the Leaving Cert (level 5) and Undergraduate Degree (level 8) there are many courses at levels 5, 6 and 7. These can be very useful particularly if English is not your first language but you have previous education in a specific area. They will help you to learn the vocabulary of your chosen study area before progressing to a degree. These one-year courses will also help you to integrate and understand the Irish education system.
- Levels 5 and 6 are also a great way to prepare for an Undergraduate Degree (level 7 or 8)
- Levels 5 and 6 are an alternative entry path to University instead of the Leaving Certificate



Post Leaving Cert (PLC) Education (often called Further Education)

- There are many courses all around the country at level 5 and 6 which are generally full-time and last for one academic year (September – May).
- These PLC courses offer an alternative entry to Third Level Education (often called Higher Education) instead of having to complete the Leaving Certificate.
- If you have obtained a work permit you can apply to do a post leaving cert course (PLC) (level 5 and 6). If you don't have a work permit apply anyway you may be accepted.
- PLC courses are generally provided by the Education & Training Board (www.etbi.ie). There are 16 ETBs covering the whole country. You can find them here <https://www.etbi.ie/etbs/directory-of-etbs/>
- Within each ETB you will find a list of local Colleges of Further Education or Community Colleges. Often your local secondary school will provide adult and further education courses too.



<p>Cavan & Monaghan Education & Training Board Monaghan Office - 047 30888 Cavan Office - 049 4331044 HQ: Monaghan (sub-office in Cavan Town)</p>	<p>Cork Education & Training Board Cork Office - 021 4907 100 HQ: Cork (greater city area)</p>
<p>City of Dublin Education & Training Board Ph: 01 668 0614 HQ: Ballsbridge, Dublin 4</p>	<p>Donegal Education & Training Board Ph: 074 916 1600 HQ: Letterkenny</p>
<p>Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education & Training Board Dublin Office - 01 452 9600 HQ: Tallaght, Dublin 24</p>	<p>Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board City of Galway Office - 091 549 400 County Galway Office - 091 874 500 Roscommon Office - 090 662 6151 HQ: Atherry (sub-office in Roscommon Town)</p>
<p>Kerry Education & Training Board Ph: 066 712 1488 HQ: Tralee YouTube Channel</p>	<p>Kildare & Wicklow Education & Training Board Kildare Office - 045 968 000 Wicklow Office - 0404 60 500 HQ: Naas (sub-office in Wicklow)</p>
<p>Kilkenny & Carlow Education & Training Board Kilkenny Office - 056 777 0966 Carlow Office - 059 913 8560 HQ: Carlow Town</p>	<p>Laois & Offaly Education & Training Board Laois Office - 057 862 1352 Offaly Office - 057 934 9400 HQ: Portlaoise</p>
<p>Limerick & Clare Education & Training Board Limerick Office - 061 442 100 Clare Office - 065 682 8107 HQ: Limerick (greater city area)</p>	<p>Longford & Westmeath Education & Training Board Longford Office - 043 333 4000 / 043 334 6493 Westmeath Office - 044 934 8389 HQ: Mullingar</p>
<p>Louth & Meath Education & Training Board Louth Office - 042 933 4047 Meath Office - 046 906 8200 HQ: Navan</p>	<p>Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim Education & Training Board Mayo Office - 094 902 4188 Sligo Office - 071 914 5025 Leitrim Office - 071 962 0024 HQ: Castlebar (sub-offices in Sligo & Carrick-on-Shannon)</p>
<p>Tipperary Education & Training Board Tipperary North Riding Office - 067 31250 Tipperary South Riding Office - 052 612 1067 HQ: Nenagh (sub-office in Clonmel)</p>	<p>Waterford & Wexford Education & Training Board City of Waterford Office - 051 874 007 County Waterford Office - 058 41780 Wexford Office - 053 912 3799 HQ: Wexford (sub-offices in Waterford City & Dungarvan)</p>

Third Level Education (often called Higher Education)

- Most Third Level Universities/Colleges (HEIs or Higher Education Institutes) are publicly funded, but there are private colleges too. It is very important to only apply to the approved publicly funded HEIs if you want to apply for a Student Grant. These HEIs include:-

- 8 Universities

- DCU Dublin City University
- MU Maynooth University
- NUIG National University of Ireland, Galway
- TUD Technological University Dublin
- TCD Trinity College Dublin
- UCC University College Cork
- UCD University College Dublin
- UL University of Limerick

- 11 Institutes of Technology (ITs)

- AIT Athlone Institute of Technology
- DkIT Dundalk Institute of Technology
- GMIT Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology
- IADT Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology
- ITC Institute of Technology Carlow
- CIT Cork Institute of Technology
- ITSligo Institute of Technology Sligo
- ITTralee Institute of Technology Tralee
- LyIT Letterkenny Institute of Technology
- LIT Limerick Institute of Technology
- WIT Waterford Institute of Technology

- 8 Other HEIs

- Marino Institute of Education, Dublin
- Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
- National College of Art and Design, Dublin
- National College of Ireland, Dublin
- Pontifical University, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth
- Royal College of Surgeons Ireland, Dublin
- St. Angela's College, Sligo
- St. Nicholas Montessori College Ireland, Dun Laoghaire

HOW DO YOU APPLY TO GO TO UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND?

(1) You should apply for the course of your choice (Levels 7 & 8) through the Central Applications Office (CAO) – see below

(2) You should apply for a scholarship (to the University/College of your choice) – see page 12 - 21

The Citizens Information website is an excellent source of information regarding Education and how to apply, see here for further details.

https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/third_level_education/applying_to_college/application_procedures_and_entry_requirements.html

Central Applications Office (CAO) - for Higher Education only (Levels 7 & 8)

- The HEIs (Higher Education Institutions) in Ireland have delegated to the CAO the task of processing centrally applications to their undergraduate courses.
- Online application opens in November each year for courses starting the following September.
- If you apply before 20th January the application fee is €30
- If you apply before 1st February the application fee is €45 (normal closing date)
- If you apply before 1st May the application fee is €60 (this is the late applications date)
- You really should apply before 1st February because not all HEIs will accept late applications
- There are several entry paths to an Undergraduate Degree, these include the Leaving Certificate, QQI/Fetac Qualifications, Mature Students, Students with Disabilities (DARE) and Higher Education Access Route (HEAR).
- If you have missed the normal closing date of 01 February, it is a good idea to contact the admissions office of your chosen university/college to ask if they would accept a late application.

Post Leaving Cert (PLC) Education (often called Further Education – Levels 5 & 6)

- Apply directly to your local College of Further Education or Community College if you are interested in Further Education or Adult Education courses (further details on page 5).

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO GO TO UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND?

International (non-EU) or EU Fees

- Each University/College decides the rate of fee to be paid
- If you do not qualify for 'Free' Fees (see below) typically the University/College will seek to charge you the International (non-EU) rate which could be €10,000-€15,000 per year
- Being autonomous, some Universities and Institutes of Technology will quote the EU rate to people in the international protection system provided they have been in Ireland for at least three years.

Free Fees

- Free Fees does not actually mean 'free' fees (even for Irish Citizens)
- It means the state pays a portion of the 'tuition fee' while the student pays the 'student contribution' charge
- Typically the EU fee can be €6,000 per year – if you are entitled to 'free' fees the state pays €3,000 and the student pays €3,000 per year (there will be small variations but for a typical degree this is about correct)
- Some students are also entitled to State-funded Student Grants, these grants will also pay the student contribution of €3,000 and a maintenance grant currently €1,215 per annum (further details on page 20 – SUSI grant and Student Support Scheme)
- To qualify for 'Free' Fees the student must be one of the following:
 - A first-time undergraduate holding EU/EEA/Swiss Nationality
 - Those with official refugee status (under the Refugee Act 1996)
 - A family member of a refugee who has been granted permission to live in the state
 - A family member of an EU National with permission to live in the state and with a stamp '4EUFAM' on their residence card
 - Those with Humanitarian Leave to Remain (prior to Immigration Act 1999)
 - Those with Permission to Remain (under section 3 of the Immigration Act 1999)
 - Those granted Subsidiary Protection by the Minister for Justice and Equality
- From 2013 students who acquire EU citizenship during their studies may be eligible for Free Fees for the remainder of their course.
- Free Fees do not apply to courses in private colleges
- Full criteria regarding Free Fees and the Universities/Colleges to which it applies can be found [here](#)

Student Grants (provided by the Department of Education)

- SUSI Grant (Student Universal Support Ireland) - This is the student grant scheme available to Irish students as well as international asylum applicants who have received their refugee status, subsidiary protection or permission to remain (see page 10 for further details)
- Typically this grant has two parts, tuition grant and maintenance grant

- Student Support Scheme - This is a student grant similar to the SUSI grant except it is for people who are still in the asylum application process (see page 10 for further details)
- Typically this grant has two parts, tuition grant and maintenance grant

Scholarships (provided by Universities & Colleges)

- Since 2015 the Universities and Colleges listed below have introduced their own scholarships specifically for people currently or previously in the protection process
- See pages 12-21 for further details
 - NUIG National University of Ireland, Galway
 - DCU Dublin City University
 - UL University of Limerick
 - UCD University College Dublin
 - UCC University College Cork
 - AIT Athlone Institute of Technology
 - LIT Limerick Institute of Technology
 - TCD Trinity College Dublin
 - ITC Carlow Institute of Technology
 - IADT Institute of Art, Design & Technology, Dun Laoghaire
 - CIT Cork Institute of Technology

STATE-FUNDED STUDENT GRANTS

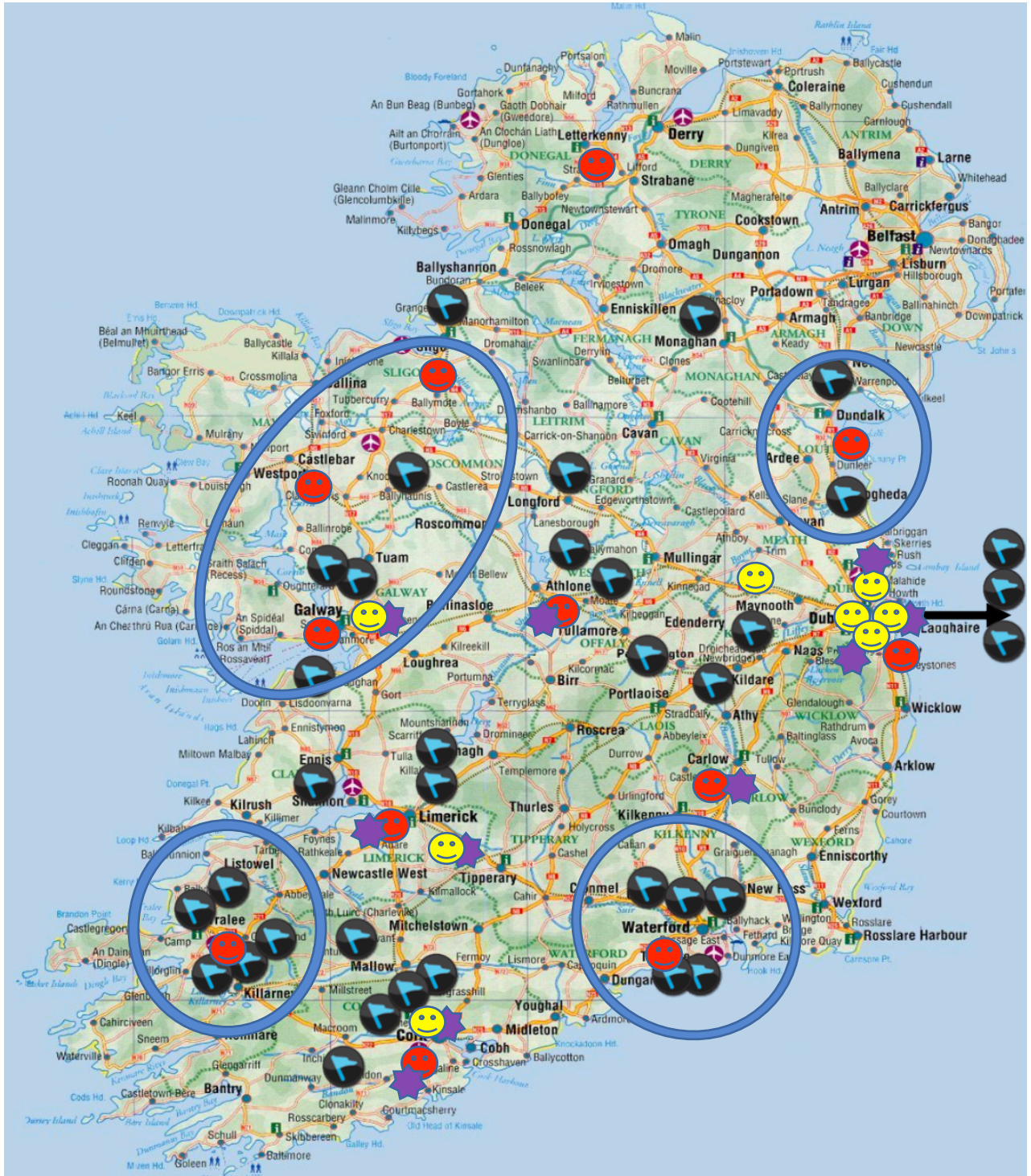
SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland)

- This is the student grant scheme available to Irish students as well as international asylum applicants who have received their refugee status, subsidiary protection or permission to remain.
- You must have stamp 4 (please consult the SUSI website for details of precisely which stamp 4 is acceptable)
- You must reside in Ireland for 3 of the last 5 years
- You must apply to an approved course at an approved college
<https://susi.ie/eligibility/undergraduate-student/approved-institutionscourses-for-undergraduate-students/>
- You must be progressing in your education (see NFQ on page 4)
<https://susi.ie/previous-education-and-progression-undergraduate/>
- Your Income must fall below specified thresholds
- Provides for PLC maintenance but not fees
- Provides for Undergraduate maintenance and fees
- Provides for Postgraduate maintenance and fees in some cases
- Will provide for full-time study only
- Full details available here <https://susi.ie>

Student Support Scheme 2019/2020

- This is a student grant similar to the SUSI grant except it is for people who are still in the asylum application process
- You must have spent at least 3 years in secondary school in Ireland
- You must be at least 3 years in the asylum process
- You cannot be on a deportation order
- Application for entry to your course through CAO before 01 Feb 2019 for all students (in some cases a Late Application will be accepted before 01 May 2019 but you need to contact the college to ask if they will accept it)
- You must be progressing in your education (see NFQ on page 4)
- Full details and application form here <https://www.education.ie/en/Learners/Services/Pilot-Support-Scheme/>

Map showing location of scholarships



Direct Provision Centre



Institute of Technology



University



Scholarships available

Areas of the country where we need more scholarships

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

DCU (Dublin City University)

Campus-Based Undergraduate Scholarships



- DCU is a University of Sanctuary
- 5 places available
- These are three or four-year full-time Level 8 Undergraduate degrees
- Available to asylum applicants and Refugees ineligible for state supports
- Priority for places will be given to students under 23 and any remaining places will be allocated to mature students over 23
- If you are under 23 you must have completed the Irish Leaving Certificate or have completed a fulltime QQI/FETAC Level 5 qualification
- Scholarship includes Full Tuition Fee Waiver &
- Transport and on-campus Meal Plan
- Applicants must live in 9 specified Direct Provision Centres, see here for details <https://www.dcu.ie/sanctuary/scholarships.shtml>
- Application for entry to the course through CAO before 01 Feb 2019 for all students (in some cases a Late Application will be accepted before 01 May but you need to contact the college to ask if they will accept it)
- Application for Scholarship directly to DCU, see here <https://www.dcu.ie/sanctuary/scholarships.shtml>
- Queries regarding these 5 scholarships to philip.mckinley@dcu.ie
- Closing Date is 5.00pm, Monday 1st July 2019

DCU (Dublin City University)

DCU Connected Online Undergraduate & Post-graduate Scholarship



- DCU is a University of Sanctuary
- 5 places available
- The DCU Connected Scholarships cover the costs of a 60 credit online undergraduate or postgraduate programme of study which can be shown to clearly benefit recipients in advancing their personal goals and future career ambitions.
- The Scholarship also provides funding to support Internet access where required and the purchase of relevant textbooks and related study costs including travel to the DCU Connected Welcome Day in Dublin.
- Application form and details can be found here <https://www.dcu.ie/connected/university-sanctuary.shtml>
- Queries regarding these online scholarships to colum.foley@dcu.ie
- Closing Date is Monday 12th August 2019

DCU (Dublin City University) Online FutureLearn short courses



- DCU is a University of Sanctuary
- 10 places available
- The joint DCU FutureLearn scholarship initiative will enable refugees and asylum seekers living in Ireland to undertake unlimited study from a wide range of courses offered on FutureLearn's online platform though to Certificates of Achievement.
- Applicants can apply for a one-year subscription to study an unlimited number of FutureLearn online short courses.
- For detailed information and application form, please see www.dcu.ie/connected/university-sanctuary.shtml
- Queries regarding these FutureLearn scholarships to colum.foley@dcu.ie
- **Closing Date is Monday 12th August 2019**

NUIG (National University of Ireland, Galway) Full-time Undergraduate & Postgraduate Scholarships



- 6 undergraduate places available (level 8)
- 3 postgraduate places available (level 9)
- Scholarship includes Full Tuition Fee Waiver &
- Annual subsistence payment
- Application for entry to the course through CAO before 01 Feb 2019 for all students (in some cases a Late Application will be accepted before 01 May but you need to contact the college to ask if they will accept it)
- Application for scholarship directly to NUIG
- Further details available at www.nuigalway.ie/sanctuary when applications open on the 19th July 2019
- All queries to uni.sanctuary@nuigalway.ie
- **Closing Date is 5pm Friday 23rd August 2019**

NUIG (National University of Ireland, Galway)

Access Programmes (age 22 and under)

Mature Access Programmes (age 23 and over)



- (Under 22) The Access Course for School Leavers is a course specifically designed for students who are aged 22 or under and have a real desire to study at third level but are unable due to financial or social reasons. Students should be highly motivated and interested in studying at an undergraduate level in their chosen area.
- (Over 23) This Access Course is a 1 year full-time/part-time daytime/evening course that aims to provide mature students, aged 23 or over, with the opportunity to prepare, personally and academically, for an undergraduate course of full-time study of at least three years duration at NUI, Galway.

- **NUI Galway Courses:**
- Full-Time: DFS2 **School Leavers** 22 years and under, Applications open August 1st and close 23rd of August.
- Full- Time DFS5 **Mature** 23 years and over, Applications opened April 1st and closed 23rd April (this course is now full).
- Part-Time DFS1 **Science, Technology and Engineering**, Applications open July 16th and close August 30th – Fee applies €60
- Part-Time DFS8 **Business, Law & Arts**, Applications open July 16th and close August 30th – fee applies €60

- **GMIT Castlebar:**
- Part-Time DFS9 **Business, Law & Arts**, Applications open July 16th and close August 30th - fee applies €60

- **Sligo St Angela's:**
- Part-Time: DFS7 **School Leavers** 22 years and under, Applications open August 1st and close 31st of August.
- Part- Time DFS11 **Mature** 23 years and over, Applications opened April 1st and closed 23rd April (this course is now full).

- **Ballinasloe:**
- Part-Time: DFS3 **School Leavers** 22 years and under, Applications currently open and close 30st of August.
- Part- Time DFS6 **Mature** 23 years and over, Applications currently open and close 30st of August.

- Further details available here
- www.nuigalway.ie/access/school-leavers/ (age 22 or under)
- <http://www.nuigalway.ie/access/mature-students/> (age 23 or over)
- <https://www.nuigalway.ie/mature/part-time/> (part-time mature courses)
- All queries to access@nuigalway.ie or maturestudents@nuigalway.ie
- **Closing dates vary – see above for each course**

Trinity College Dublin

Full-time Undergraduate Scholarship



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

- 4 places available
- These are four-year full-time Level 8 Undergraduate degrees
- See list of eligible courses at <https://www.tcd.ie/trinityaccess/students/current/>
- Open to people seeking asylum (from 6 DP centres – see list in link above) or refugees who are ineligible for state support
- Applicants must have a Further Education Qualification (QQI) or Leaving Certificate completed within the last two years
- Applicants must be attending University for the first time
- Scholarship includes coverage of Full Tuition Fees &
- Annual Stipend €1500
- A Laptop, provision of meals, and public transport
- Application for entry to the course through CAO before 01 Feb 2019 for all students (in some cases a Late Application will be accepted before 01 May but you need to contact the college to ask if they will accept it)
- Application for scholarship, see here <https://www.tcd.ie/trinityaccess/students/current/>
- **Closing Date is Friday 5th July 2019**

TUD (Technological University Dublin)

Access Foundation Programme



- The Access Foundation Programme is a one-year full-time preparation for higher education programme at TU Dublin City Campus. The programme prepares students personally and academically to pursue undergraduate programmes at TU Dublin City Campus.
- It is a multi-disciplinary programme preparing students for entry into undergraduate programmes in Science & Health, Engineering & Built Environment, Business and Arts & Tourism. Students who successfully complete the programme will be offered a place on an appropriate undergraduate course at TU Dublin.
- The Access Foundation Programme is free for participants.
- Applications directly to TUD, see here <https://www.dit.ie/studyatdit/undergraduate/programmescourses/allcourses/accessfoundationprogrammedt6522.html>
- Queries to accessadmissions2018@dit.ie
- Queries to johanna.king@dit.ie
- **Closing Date is Friday 16th August 2019**

UCC (University College Cork)

Full-time Undergraduate Scholarship



- UCC is a University of Sanctuary
- 5 places available
- These are three or four-year full-time Level 8 Undergraduate degrees
- Available to asylum applicants or those with status but ineligible for state support
- Applicants must be living within a commutable distance to UCC
- The scheme is targeted at people who have not had the opportunity to study or complete undergraduate education
- Applicants will be assigned an academic mentor to help them understand their preferred course and to support their application where possible
- Scholarship includes Full Tuition Fee Waiver & Bursary
- Applicants must apply through the CAO for their choice of course using the Leaving Certificate/QQI-FE and/or Mature Student route. Note that the deadline for Mature CAO applications is February 1st 2019, and the late deadline for all other CAO applications is May 1st 2019.
- Application for scholarship directly to UCC
- For information on other options available to asylum seekers and refugees at UCC see www.ucc.ie/en/edi/universityofsanctuary
- All enquiries to ediunit@ucc.ie
- Closing Date is 1st July 2019

UCD (University College Dublin)

Open Learning Scholarship



- UCD is a University of Sanctuary
- Open Learning Scholarships are currently only available to people with Refugee Status and Permission to Remain
- Scholarship covers the cost of any six Open Learning modules during the year
- This a part-time programme with three modules per semester
- It can then be used as an entry path to full-time undergraduate degrees at UCD
- Further information can be found at www.ucd.ie/openlearning
- Applications for 2019/2020 will open in late July 2019
- All queries to all@ucd.ie

UCD (University College Dublin) University Access Programme (Age 22+)



- UCD is a University of Sanctuary
- 10 places available
- These one-year part-time Access courses are designed to prepare adults, who may not have formal qualifications, for successful study at university. These are Special Purpose Awards (Level 6) which equip mature students with the skills and confidence required to take the next step to selected degree courses in UCD
- Available to asylum applicants or those with status but ineligible for state supports
- You must have been age 22 or over on 1st January 2019
- Support includes Full Tuition Fee Waiver &
- A Scholarship
- Priority is given to students who have been in the International Protection System for more than one year
- Application for entry to the course is made directly to UCD <http://www.ucd.ie/access>
- Application for scholarship available at <http://www.ucd.ie/all/cometoucd/financialsupport/scholarships/pilotschemeforrefugeesan-dasylumseekers/>
- Mature students can contact mature.student@ucd.ie for further information and help
- **Closing Date is Friday 5th July 2019**

UCD (University College Dublin) Full-time Undergraduate & Postgraduate Scholarship



- UCD is a University of Sanctuary
- 20 places available
- These are three or four-year full-time Level 8 undergraduate degrees and one or two-year Level 9 postgraduate degrees
- Available to asylum applicants or those with status but ineligible for state supports
- Priority given to those who came through the UCD Access Programme
- Support includes Full Tuition Fee Waiver &
- A Scholarship
- Priority is given to students who have been in the International Protection System for more than one year
- Application for entry to undergraduate courses is through CAO before 01 Feb 2019.
- Application for graduate entry courses is directly to the relevant school at UCD.
- Application for scholarship directly to UCD, see here <http://www.ucd.ie/all/cometoucd/financialsupport/scholarships/cnf-refugeesasylumseekerspilot/>
- All student queries to all@ucd.ie
- **Closing Date is Friday 5th July 2019**

UL (University of Limerick) Mature Student Access Programme (Age 22+)



- UL is a University of Sanctuary
- 10 places available
- The Mature Student Access Certificate (MSAC) is a one-year full-time pre-degree course designed for mature students who wish to develop or refresh key learning skills, and to undertake some foundation level academic studies, before applying directly for a degree programme
- Available to international protection applicants
- You must have been age 22 or over on 1st January 2019
- Scholarship includes Full Tuition Fee Waiver
- Annual subsistence may be provided
- Application for entry to the course is made directly to UL, see here <http://ulsites.ul.ie/mso/mature-student-access-certificate>
- Application for financial scholarship available at <https://www.ul.ie/courses/university-sanctuary-bursary>
- Queries to ULSanctuary@ul.ie
- Closing Date is Wednesday 3rd July 2019

UL (University of Limerick) Full-time Undergraduate Scholarship



- UL is a University of Sanctuary
- 15 places available
- These are three or four-year full-time Level 8 undergraduate degrees
- Available to international protection applicants or those with status but ineligible for state supports
- Available to most undergraduate programmes
- Scholarship includes Full Tuition Fee Waiver &
- Annual subsistence may be provided
- Application for entry to the course through CAO before 01 Feb 2019 for all students (in some cases a Late Application will be accepted before 01 May but you need to contact the college to ask if they will accept it)
- Application for financial scholarship to UL, see here - <https://www.ul.ie/courses/university-sanctuary-bursary>
- Queries to ULSanctuary@ul.ie
- Closing Date is Wednesday 3rd July 2019

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

SCHOLARSHIPS

AIT (Athlone Institute of Technology)

Access Scholarship



- AIT is a College of Sanctuary
- 6 places available
- The Access Course (Special Purpose Level 6) is intended for adult learners who wish to study after a break in their formal educational experience and who may not have benefited fully from, or have access to, previous educational experiences
- Scholarship includes Full Tuition Fee Waiver
- Open to all mature current and former residents of Lissywollen Direct Provision Centre
- Open to mature asylum applicants who were unaccompanied minors in the care of Tusla
- Apply directly to AIT for course entry and scholarship, see here for application form <https://www.ait.ie/uploads/downloads/AIT-Application-Form-15-11.pdf>
- Queries to tryan@ait.ie
- Closing Date is 16 Sep 2019

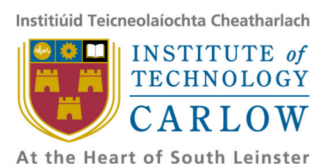
AIT (Athlone Institute of Technology)

Undergraduate Scholarship



- AIT is a College of Sanctuary
- 3 places available
- Scholarship includes Full Tuition Fee Waiver & Maintenance support
- Preference is given to those who have completed the AIT Access Programme
- Preference is given to all current and former residents of Lissywollen Direct Provision Centre
- Preference to asylum applicants who are or were unaccompanied minors in the care of Tusla
- Application for entry to the course through CAO before 01 Feb 2019 for all students (in some cases a Late Application will be accepted before 01 May but you need to contact the college to ask if they will accept it)
- Application for scholarship directly to AIT
- Queries to tryan@ait.ie
- Closing Date is 30 June 2019

IT Carlow (Institute of Technology, Carlow) Undergraduate Scholarship



- 2 places available
- Open to asylum applicants or those with status but ineligible for state supports
- Scholarships to includes Full Tuition Fee Waiver
- Scholarships may include maintenance support
- Application for entry to the course through CAO before 01 Feb 2019 for all students
- Application for scholarship to Carlow Access Programme by completing and submitting an application form available to download at <https://www.itcarlow.ie/student-life/student-services/access-itcarlow/carlow-access-programme.htm>
- Queries to access@itcarlow.ie
- Closing Date is 01 March 2019

CIT (Cork Institute of Technology) Undergraduate Scholarship



- 3 places available
- Open to asylum applicants or those with status but ineligible for state supports
- Scholarship includes Full Tuition Fee Waiver
- Maintenance support may be available
- No accommodation support available, students must be able to commute to CIT
- Application for entry to the course through CAO before 01 Feb 2019 for all students (in some cases a Late Application will be accepted before 01 May but you need to contact the college to ask if they will accept it)
- Application for scholarship directly to CIT www.cit.ie/sanctuary
- Queries to sanctuary@cit.ie
- Closing Date is 26th July 2019

LIT (Limerick Institute of Technology) Undergraduate Scholarship



- 10 places available
- Open to people seeking asylum, those with status and those on family reunification
- Scholarship includes Full Tuition Fee Waiver &
- A maintenance contribution
- Application for entry to the course through CAO before 01 Feb 2019 for all students (in some cases a Late Application will be accepted before 01 May but you need to contact the college to ask if they will accept it)
- Application for scholarship directly to LIT
- Queries to anna.murphy@lit.ie
- **Closing Date is 30 September 2019**

IADT (Institute of Art, Design and Technology) Undergraduate Scholarship



- 2 places available
- Open to people seeking asylum, and those with status but ineligible for state support
- Applicants must be living within a commutable distance to IADT
- Scholarship includes Full Tuition Fee Waiver
- Supports provided
- Application for entry to the course through CAO before 01 Feb 2019 for all students (in some cases a Late Application will be accepted before 01 May but you need to contact the college to ask if they will accept it)
- Application for scholarship directly to IADT
- Queries to Caoimhe.omalley@iadt.ie
- **Closing Date is Friday 9th August 2019**

IT Sligo (Institute of Technology, Sligo)



- IT Sligo is in discussion with Diversity Sligo on the development of a scholarship scheme for refugees and asylum seekers. This will provide a number of scholarships which will pay for the fee for a range of both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

IRISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

EDUCATION FUND

- The IRC Education Fund was established in 2015 with the help of the Community Foundation for Ireland. Since 2016 the Fund has continued through the generosity of private and corporate donations.
- In order to help as many people as possible we generally fund level 5 and 6 courses, however each year we also try to help two people with level 7 or 8 courses.
- Application forms available from 01 July 2019 – email info@irishrefugeecouncil.ie
- Forms must be fully complete and returned by 31 July 2019
- We will advise all applicants if you are successful by 31 Aug 2019
- We do not fund private courses/colleges
- We recommend you attend colleges approved by SUSI because if you receive your papers mid-course the SUSI grant will not fund private colleges. See here for approved courses/colleges <https://susi.ie/eligibility/undergraduate-student/approved-institutionscourses-for-undergraduate-students/>

Tips and advice when applying for funding with the IRC

(1) No private colleges - we do not fund private colleges - because if you receive your papers mid-way through a course at a private college you will not be able to apply for the government SUSI grant and you will be stuck to pay the expensive fees to the end of your degree.

(2) We do not supply laptops generally from our education fund - we ask you if you need one on the application form in case we receive funding for laptops.

(3) We can never fund post-graduate (level 9) or PhD (level 10) programmes. Each year we try to fund two Level 8 students and we can only commit to funding for two years because our funds come from donations each year.

(4) If you tell us that you have received an offer of a place on a course, please attach the confirmation from the college. It puts you ahead of those who don't supply confirmation, and it saves me the trouble of having to chase you for it :-)

(5) Transport costs are a big problem. RIA rarely transfer anybody from one centre to another because of an education course. For some of you I know this is very restrictive. If you ask for transport help, please do some research and find out exactly how much it will cost you to get to college for the full year and explain that on the application form.

(6) Make sure your e-mail address is typed or written very clearly on our application form, it is the best way for us to communicate. It is a very busy time of the year and so it is impossible for me to return phone calls.

(7) When you make an application to a college don't be afraid to follow up with a visit / email / phone call to check that they have received your application and to ask when you will be advised if you have a place or not.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Education Guidance Counsellors

- Information and Guidance Services in the Further Education and Training (FET) sector provide impartial careers and education information, one-to-one guidance and group guidance, which help people to make informed educational, career and life choices.
- FET Information and Guidance Services are provided to adults aged 18 years and over, and those over 16 who have left school early who are interested in or participating in programmes on the National Framework of Qualifications Levels 1 – 6.
- Guidance is provided in the FET sector through various services, including FET / Adult Education Guidance Services, Colleges of Further Education / PLC Programmes, Youthreach / Training Centres, Adult and Community Education, Youth Information, BTEI and Prison Services.
- The delivery of Further Education and Training is the responsibility of the 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs), funded by SOLAS (the further education and training authority).
- For details of your nearest Adult Education Guidance Initiative (AEGI) see here <https://www.ncge.ie/ncge/aegi-contact-details>
- Alternatively you can find the phone numbers of Adult Education Guidance and Information Service on page 52 of this guide <https://www.onestepup.ie/download/pdf/one-step-up-january-2019.pdf>
- Remember too that children in secondary schools have access to the school guidance counsellor to help them plan their education after the Leaving Certificate

SOLAS

- Solas is an agency of the Department of Education and Skills (DES)
- Their role is to fund, co-ordinate and monitor Further Education & Training (FET) in response to the needs of learners and employers.
- Solas funds the 16 Education and Training Boards
- The Apprenticeships system is also administered by Solas

Aontas

- Aontas is Ireland's National Adult Learning Organisation
- Although they don't address the needs of people seeking international protection in Ireland their website and information booklet might be useful to you
- www.aontas.com
- <https://www.onestepup.ie/download/pdf/one-step-up-january-2019.pdf>
- For ideas about learning English – see page 25
- For ideas about Apprenticeships – see page 26

Back to Education Allowance (BTEA)

- Only applicable to people with status
- BTEA provides funding for second and third level education
- You must be over age 21 (over 24 for post-graduate support)
- You must secure a full-time course place before applying for BTEA
- To receive the allowance for 2nd level education you need to have been in receipt of qualifying social welfare payments for 3 months (78 days)
- To receive the allowance for 3rd level education you need to have been in receipt of qualifying social welfare payments for 9 months (234 days)
- At the moment social welfare payments received while in Direct Provision are not considered eligible as a qualifying payment.
- See here for further information
https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/social_welfare/social_welfare_payments/back_to_education/back_to_education_allowance.html

Back to Education Initiative (BTEI)

- Only applicable to people with status
- BTEI are usually level 3 & 4, but it is possible to obtain level 5 & 6
- They are part-time courses for people who have not completed a Leaving Cert
- You must be in receipt of specified social welfare payments
- See here for further information
https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/returning_to_education/back_to_education_initiative.html

Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS)

- Only applicable to people with status
- VTOS is a funding scheme for people over 21 years old
- It offers Junior & Leaving Certificate and QQI awards at Levels 3 to 6 (see page 4)
- If doing a PLC course on VTOS allowance you are not eligible for the SUSI maintenance grant
- You should have been on social welfare benefits for 6 months
- Time spent on Further Education & Training / Community Enterprise Scheme / Youthreach / Jobs Initiative may count towards the qualifying period
- The courses are full-time for one or two years
- It is operated by the Education & Training Boards (ETBs) (see page 5)
- Books, meals, travel and childcare may be paid for
- See here for further information
https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/returning_to_education/vocational_training_opportunities_scheme.html

Apprenticeships

- Generally applicable for people with status
- Because the right to work is only valid for 6 months it is usually not possible to start an apprenticeship but if you find an employer willing to support you it could work
- An apprenticeship is the recognised way people are trained in a craft trade or profession and provides on-the-job training with an employer. It usually alternates between off-the-job training in an education centre and on-the-job training at your employer's workplace. An apprenticeship can last between 2 – 4 years.
- See here for further information
<http://www.apprenticeship.ie/en/contact/SitePages/Home.aspx>
- And also here
https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/vocational_education_and_training/apprenticeships.html

A Right to Work – Implications for Education

- Access to the labour market may allow for access to further education or training (FET) or third level courses that have an employment, vocational or workplace-training component. Your letter of permission from the Minister to access the labour market can be used as proof of your eligibility to work. Information regarding Further Education and Training can be obtained at your local Education and Training Board (ETB), or your local Intreo Centre or your Local Employment Service (LES).
- While access to the majority of these programmes is free of charge, participation in Post Leaving Certificate and higher education programmes will continue to be subject to the payment of fees

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.qqi.ie

- QQI is an independent State agency responsible for promoting quality and accountability in education and training services in Ireland (see page 3)

www.naric.ie

- NARIC Ireland provides advice on the academic recognition of a foreign qualification by comparing it, where possible, to a major award type and level on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) – see page 3
- A comparability statement for each qualification listed is available for download.
- Generally NARIC can only provide comparability statements for wholly completed qualifications.

www.ncge.ie

- The National Centre for Guidance in Education is an agency of the Department of Education and Skills, with responsibility to support and develop guidance practice in all areas of education
- The Adult Education Guidance Initiative (AEGI) through local AEGS offices offer a guidance service to adults which includes impartial adult education information, one-to-one guidance and group guidance, which help people to make informed educational, career and life choices.
- You can find your local Adult Education Guidance Service at this link <https://www.ncge.ie/ncge/aegi-contact-details>

www.qualifax.ie

- Click on ‘search all courses’ and you can enter the type of course that interests you and the county you live in to get a list of relevant courses

www.fetchcourses.ie

- Similar to Qualifax

www.svp.ie

- Society of Saint Vincent de Paul offer education grants. Click on ‘what we do’ and then click on ‘education grants’ for further information.

Europass

- **Europass** is an initiative which aims to help you make your skills and qualifications clearly and easily understood in Europe - whether you are enrolling in an education or training programme, looking for a job, or getting experience abroad.

ONLINE COURSES

www.ancosanvcc.com



An Cosán Virtual Community College (VCC) offer an innovative entry level model of higher education aimed at underserved communities which offers a blended model of online learning, including live online classes, face-to-face workshops, mentoring, and online resources, all at a pace that suits the learner.

- An Cosán VCC offer unaccredited foundation level and QQI accredited qualifications in collaboration with Institute of Technology Carlow with the option to progress to Certificate/ Higher Certificate / BA Degree.
- The following Certificate Programmes start in September 2019:
 - Leadership & Community Development
 - Applied Addiction Studies & Community Development
 - Leadership and Social Enterprise
 - Business Administration and Digital Skills
- The Right to Work Education Project is for International Protection Applicants who are looking to work or to start their own business will run on Fridays from 2nd August - 30th August 2019.
- A limited number of Bursaries and phased payment options are available for individual learners where finance is a barrier.
- For further information on the programmes and supports available contact Maria Flanagan at info@ancosanvcc.com or phone 01 5341847.

The Irish Refugee Council has no connection with any of the following organisations and is not specifically recommending any. If you search for free online courses there are many more websites available. Please check very carefully the credentials and terms and conditions before you sign up to any online course.

www.NALA.ie

- The National Adult Literacy Agency is an independent charity committed to making sure people with literacy and numeracy difficulties can fully take part in society and have access to learning opportunities that meet their needs.

www.WriteOn.ie

- The Irish National Adult Literacy Agency
- Level 1 – 4 courses

EQI Academy

- EQI Academy provides free, certified university courses for refugees that enable them to build career skills quickly and generate income by working online.
- You can email larssmith@eqischools.org for further information

Open University

- The Open University is the leading university for flexible, innovative and world-leading research in the United Kingdom and in over 100 countries worldwide.

Kiron Open Higher Education

- Kiron's mission is to enable access to higher education and successful learning for refugees through digital solutions.

Coursera

- Coursera provides universal access to the world's best universities and educational institutions. Courses include recorded video lectures, auto-graded and peer-reviewed assignments, and community discussion forums.

www.Alison.com

- Alison is one of the world's largest free learning platforms for education and skills training. It is a for-profit social enterprise dedicated to making it possible for anyone, to study anything, anywhere, at any time, for free online, at any subject level. Through our mission we are a catalyst for positive social change, creating opportunity, prosperity, and equality for everyone.

www.Open2Study.com

- Open2Study provides free, specialised short courses, entirely online, across the world, in a range of subject areas.
- Backed by [Open Universities Australia \(OUA\)](#), an Australian leader in accredited online education.

Stanford University

- Free online courses from Stanford University by Class Central, a search engine and reviews site for free online courses popularly known as MOOCs or Massive Open Online Courses.

Trinity College

- Since 2014, Trinity College Dublin have partnered with [FutureLearn](#) to provide five Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) in Sustainable Development, Irish History, Successful Ageing, Exercise Prescription and Intellectual Disability.

www.OpenCulture.com

- Get 1,300 free online courses from the world's leading universities -- Stanford, Yale, MIT, Harvard, Berkeley, Oxford and more. You can download these audio & video courses straight to your computer or mp3 player.

www.edX.org

- Founded by Harvard University and MIT in 2012, edX is an online learning destination and MOOC provider, offering high-quality courses from the world's best universities and institutions to learners everywhere.