

4th February 2021



Ó Fiaich Institute of Further Education
VIRTUAL OPEN DAY 2021

Ó Fiaich Institute

Wednesday 10th March

Session 1 2.30-4pm

Session 2 7pm-8.30

More than 50 PLC and Pre-University Courses

Join Us On Zoom
Meeting ID: 935 5281 3851
Passcode: future

Courses commence September 2021

Apply Now:
www.ofi.ie

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Dear Principal/ Deputy Principal and Guidance Counsellor,

We would like to extend a warm invitation to you, your students and parents to attend our upcoming **Virtual Open Day** which will take place on **Wednesday, 10th March 2021** from **2.30pm – 4.00pm & 7.00pm - 8.30pm**.

Zoom Meeting ID: 935 5281 3851
Passcode: future

We encourage you learner to join us to see our facilities, to take part in live talks from our current learners and past graduates and gain an opportunity to talk directly to course tutors on different courses of interest.

We have added to our PLC programmes on offer for 2021/22. The new programmes we are offering this year have excellent links to both employment and higher education. Each programme will contain a mandatory work placement within industry with learners gaining on the job skills in addition to their academic studies. These courses include 'Engineering Technology & Robotics', 'Advanced Certificate in Animal Science', 'Rehabilitative Therapy Assistant', 'Medical, Dental & Legal Secretary Studies', 'Pre-University Nursing with Midwifery' and 'Community & Youth Development'.

Please find enclosed our college poster which we would ask you to display on your career's noticeboard and copies of our new 2021/2022 college prospectus. We are available to deliver live virtual presentations to your students, so please phone or email us to arrange this.

Kind regards,

Kenneth Rea
Deputy Principal
krea.ofi@lmetb.ie

Joe McEneaney
Assistant Principal
jmceneaney.ofi@lmetb.ie

Karen Cawley
Guidance Counsellor
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Key Information 2021/22

Ó Fiaich Institute (OFI) has established itself as **one of the leading FE colleges in the region in providing an alternative route to both higher education and employment**. There are a wide variety of Further Education and Training programmes across many disciplines available to learners. All courses are fully accredited and offer the opportunity for students to gain valuable experience in local and national industry sectors.

OFI welcomes applications from all prospective students. From students completing the Leaving Certificate (including LCVP & LCA) or equivalent (A Levels, GCSE's etc.) to mature learners returning to education. We also encourage QQI Level 4 graduates or those currently unemployed to further their career prospects through a programme of study with us.

1. Applications & Provisional Offers

We are **now accepting applications for all 2021/22 programmes** via our online platform (www.ofi.ie). We would ask that all students be encouraged to apply to a PLC programme. While some learners will be fortunate enough to get their preferred degree choice and move directly to Higher Education, some students may need an alternative route including;

- Learners who do not get their preferred degree programme.
- Learners who need additional support that a FE college can offer (e.g. location, guidance, small lecture sizes etc.).
- Learners who are unsure about progressing to college at this stage and are deferring their place for the next academic year.
- Learners unsure about what programme is best suited to them and want to complete a one-year programme to confirm their choice prior to progressing to their degree.
- Learners who may have underperformed in their Leaving Certificate examinations and need an alternative route to their chosen career path.
- Learners who are pragmatically minded and learn kinaesthetically through exposure to a work based learning environment.

Provisional Offers

In previous years, places were offered on a first come basis based on interview performance & suitability to a course. In light of the current pandemic, provisional place offers will be offered to applicants on a first come basis. If a course is oversubscribed, shortlisting may take place and will be based on the information including reference and results forwarded. In some instances, learners may also be asked to attend an interview in late August regarding selection for their chosen programme.

2. Virtual Open Day 2021

Our **'Virtual Open Day'** is scheduled for **Wednesday, 10th March 2021** from **2.30pm – 4.00pm & 7.00pm - 8.30pm** on Zoom.

Zoom Meeting ID: 935 5281 3851

Passcode: future

We encourage students to join us to see our facilities, to take part in live talks from our current learners and past graduates and have an opportunity to talk directly to course tutors on different courses of interest.

3. New PLC Programmes

New for 2021/22

We have added to our PLC programmes on offer for 2021/22. These programmes have excellent links to both employment and higher education. Each programme will contain a mandatory work placement within industry with learners gaining on the job skills in addition to their academic studies.

2021/22 New Programmes

- Engineering Technology & Robotics
- Medical, Dental & Legal Secretary Studies
- Advanced Certificate in Animal Science
- Rehabilitative Therapy Assistant
- Pre-University Nursing with Midwifery
- Community & Youth Development

4. Pre-University Programmes

We will continue to offer our very successful range of Pre-University programmes for the 2021/22 academic year. These programmes are becoming an increasingly popular path to assist students to access their preferred degree choice at third level enabling learners to gain a foundation level of knowledge in their chosen field with a focus on progression to degrees.

These university preparation courses have several benefits including;

- Universities have increased programme links and reserved places for QQI learners in recognition of the value of this route to Higher Education.
- Boost learners skills and confidence before they begin more intensive study as part of degree programme.
- Get learners used to college skills including: research skills, referencing, management of continuous assessment and assignment development.
- Courses are short – typically no longer than one year and contain vocational placements which is beneficial for UCAS applications.
- From a school perspective, learners who transition to college after their study in Ó Fiaich Institute will be included **in the secondary schools statistics** with regards to schools' rates of progression for annual School League Tables.

2021/22 Pre-University Programmes

- Pre-University Architecture
- Pre-University Business & Accounting
- Pre-University Physiotherapy
- Pre-University Teaching
- Pre-University Arts
- Pre-University Computing
- Pre-University Science/Agricultural Science
- Pre-University Nursing with Midwifery

5. Erasmus+ Work Placement Opportunities Abroad

OFI plans to offer Erasmus+ opportunities for learners in 2021/22 (subject to funding approval and government restrictions on travel), supporting learners across the college on work placements in various destinations across the European Union. Students on Erasmus+ placements have their flights, insurance, transfer and accommodation costs paid and also receive an allowance for daily expenses. This is an exciting opportunity for prospective students and one that we look forward to offering to next year's cohort.