



etbi

Education and Training
Boards Ireland

*Boird Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Éireann*

Access to Further Education and Training Programmes



Eligibility Guidelines

Interim Version – April 2025



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Guide Overview:

Who is this guide for?

This guide outlines eligibility to Education and Training Boards (ETB) Further Education and Training (FET) programmes, and covers:

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

The guide will assist ETB staff in making decisions on eligibility for FET.

Overview of ETBI, ETBs and Further Education & Training (FET)

What is ETBI?

Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) is the national representative body for member ETBs and negotiates on behalf of ETBs at various forums, both within the education sector, the wider public service and at EU level.

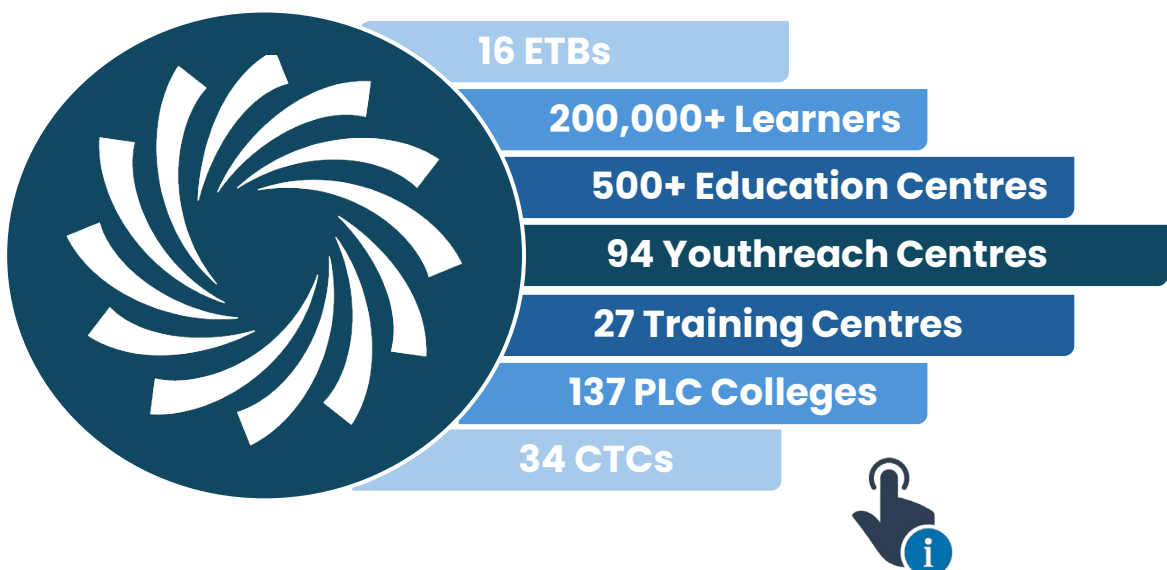
ETBI's Principle Objective, is to promote the development of education, training and youthwork in Ireland.

Further information about ETBI can be found [here](#):

What are ETBs?

Education and Training Boards are statutory education authorities with responsibility for education and training, youth work and a range of other statutory functions.

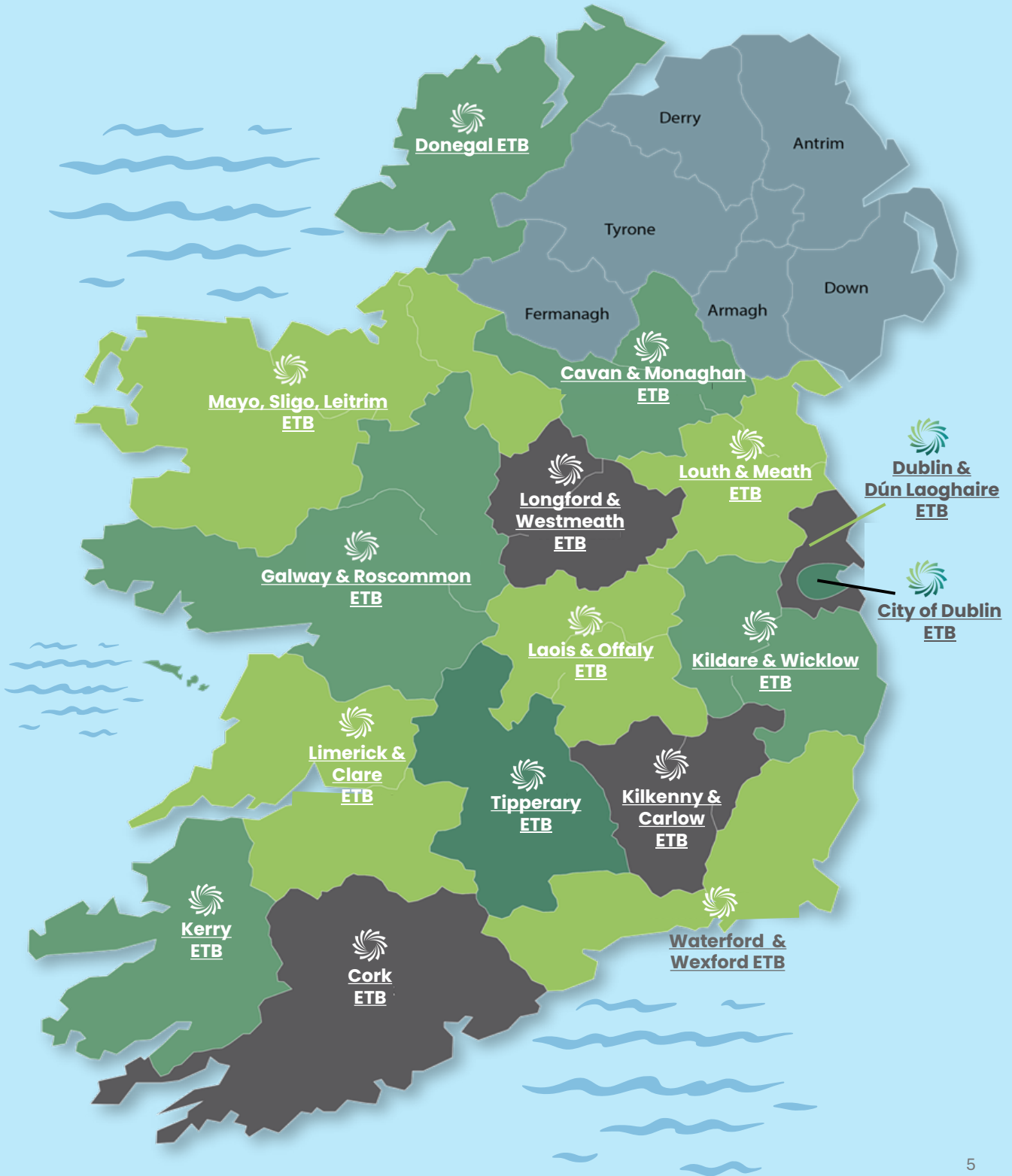
Education and Training Boards manage and operate Community National Schools, Post-Primary Schools, Further Education and Training (FET) colleges and centres.



If you would like more information on ETBs, please click on the image above.






















ETB Directory

Click on your local ETB to view their contact details.



Eligibility for Further Education and Training (FET)

The following table identifies the Permission Stamp holders and their eligibility to Further Education and Training.

Status:		Eligibility to FET
	Irish Citizen	
	EU National	
	Non-European Economic Area (EEA)¹: (Outside of these 27 Countries)	
	Spouse/Civil Partner/ De Facto Partner ² of Irish Citizen-cohabiting evidence of minimum 2 years	
	Non-EU Parent of Irish Citizen (<i>Under 18 years of age</i>)	
	Civil Partner/De Facto Partner/Dependant of EU/EEA National	
	Visitor	
	Student	
	Green Card Permit Holder/Critical Skills Permit Holder	
	Spouse/Dependant of Non-EEA Work Permit/ General Employment Permit Holder	
	Spouse/Dependant of Non-EEA Green Card Permit/ Critical Skills Permit Holder	
	Rest of the World	
	Refugee ³ (Geneva Convention & Programme Refugees)	
	Subsidiary Protection ⁴	
	Family members of refugees or people with Subsidiary Protection	
	International Protection Application ⁵ (Person seeking International Protection) In possession of Labour Market Access permit	
	International Protection Applications awaiting Labour Market Access permit are eligible for Literacy and ESOL ⁶ Provision only.	
	Leave to Remain/Temporary Permission to Remain	
Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Directive ⁷		

Entitlements:

The following table identifies the Permission Stamp holders and their eligibility to Further Education and Training (FET).

Eligibility to:	FET:	Work:	Additional Information:
Stamp 0			Unless specifically permitted.
Stamp 1			
Stamp 1A			
Stamp 1G			Stamp 1G (Spouse of a Critical Skills Employment Permit holder) is not eligible for free access to FET provision.
Stamp 2			
Stamp 2A			
Stamp 3			
Stamp 4			Article 50 TEU (Stamp 4D) has same status as other Stamps 4 (i.e. Eligible for full FET Provision).
Stamp 5			
Stamp 6			



Definitions:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. EEA: | European Economic Area |
| 2. De Facto Partnership: | Is a mutual commitment to a shared life. Relationship is genuine and continuing. Partners are not related by family. |
| 3. Refugee: | Refugees are treated the same as Irish Citizens. |
| 4. Subsidiary Protection: | People with Subsidiary Protection are treated the same as Irish Citizens. |
| 5. International 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. |
| 6. ESOL: | ESOL is English for Speakers of Other Languages.

The term ESOL encompasses many areas of provision in English language proficiency – please see NALA.ie for overview and further information. |
| 7. Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection: | Temporary protection gives you immediate right of access to work, housing, social welfare, healthcare, education, training and other supports. |



Further Reference and Information:

The three primary documents which determine the eligibility of a non-EEA national applying to FET are:

- [Circular letter \(dated 27 Sept 2001\)](#)
- [2015 document](#)
- [2018 letter](#)

Appendix A: Stamp Categories:

This table provides an overview of Stamp categories for reference purposes only. This information is subject to change, to ensure the most up to date information is accessed, please click [here](#).

Stamp:	Description:
0	<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.</p> <p>Examples of when Stamp 0 permission may be given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people retiring or living in Ireland with independent means, • visiting academics at an Irish University or college, • living in Ireland as the elderly, dependent relative of a non-EU/EEA or Swiss citizen, • extending a short term visit due to exceptional humanitarian circumstances, • sent to Ireland to work for an overseas company to carry out a specific task for a limited time or other.
1	<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>
1A	<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>
1G	<p>Issued to persons, that are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On the "Third Level Graduate Programme" - who are allowed to work full-time 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).
2	<p>Issued to students registered in a full-time course of study on the official Interim List of Eligible Programmes (ILEP) 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>
2A	<p>Issued to students registered in a course of study that is NOT on the official Interim List of Eligible Programmes (ILEP). Students with this permission are not entitled to work.</p>

Appendix A: Stamp Categories: (Continued)

This table provides an overview of Stamp categories for reference purposes only. This information is subject to change, to ensure the most up to date information is accessed, please click [here](#).

Stamp:	Description:
3	<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. Further details can be found here.</p>
4	<p>Issued to persons, that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joining spouses, civil partner or de-facto partner of Irish nationals • Joining a family member who has immigration permission based on Stamp 4 EUFAM (i.e. EU Treaty Rights) • Joining their family member who is a recognised refugee or has been granted subsidiary protection; • To remain with their child who is an Irish citizen • Under the Investor and Entrepreneur Programme (including spouse/partner & family) • for Long Term Residence • As a convention or programme refugee or based on subsidiary protection.
4 EUFam	<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 EUFAM 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>
5	<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>
6	<p>Issued to persons with dual citizenship (Irish and another nationality) and grants permission to Remain in Ireland 'Without condition'.</p>