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Applying for College

- **Mature Students must be over 23 by Jan 1st in year of Application**
- **The CAO www.cao.ie processes most third level applications**
- **Mature students should usually apply by Feb 1st unless otherwise stated by relevant college.**
- **Check your eligibility for financial supports on www.citizensinformation.ie or www.studentfinance.ie**
- **Search careers on www.careersportal.ie and www.careerdirections.ie**
- **Speak to a guidance counsellor and someone working in your chosen career sector to seek further information and advice**

County Waterford VEC offers courses for adults in centres in

- **Lismore**
- **Dungarvan**
- **Kilmacthomas**
- **Tramore**

Visit www.wd-vec.ie or call Patricia on 058 48228 for further Information



County Waterford Adult Education and Training News

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Provided by County Waterford Adult Guidance Service
www.waterfordadultguidance.ie

CAO Information Evening for Mature Students

County Waterford Adult Guidance Service are hosting an information evening for adults considering options at third level on the 12th of January in the Park Hotel.

Waterford Institute of Technology, Cork Institute of Technology and University College Cork will be in attendance at this event to present information on their colleges.

The Department of Social Protection will outline the Back to Education Allowance Scheme, which is a payment many unemployed adults can avail of while attending full time education.

WIT has a wide variety of third level ordinary and honours degree programmes in the areas of Business, Education and Professional Development, Engineering, Health Sciences, Humanities and Science. Visit www.wit.ie for further information.

Cork Institute of Technology incorporates The Crawford College of Art and Design, The Cork School of Music and the National Maritime College of Ireland. All of which are based in Cork offering a huge range of degree programmes in all disciplines. For further information visit www.cit.ie

University College Cork is one of the oldest Universities in Ireland dating back to 1849. UCC has seen many changes in its extended tenure and is now one of Ireland's leading third-level institutions. It is organised into four colleges incorporating, The College of Art, Celtic Studies and Social Science, The College of Business and Law, The College of Medicine and Health and The College of Science, Engineering and Food Science. For further information visit www.ucc.ie

If you are interested in finding out what these colleges have to offer then why not come along to our information evening on Jan 12th in the Park Hotel 2012 from 7pm -9pm.

If you would like to discuss your options with the guidance service please contact us on 058 48228 or visit www.waterfordadultguidance.ie

This event is geared towards mature applicants, to qualify as a mature applicant you should be at least 23 years old on or before January 1st 2012.



Co. Waterford Adult Guidance Service

New Course in Computers, Communications and Maths

The Back to Education Initiative Scheme (BTEI) is offering beginners computers, communications and maths in all VEC centres (Tramore, Kilmacthomas, Dungarvan, Lismore, Passage East and Dunmore East) starting in January. Computer skills, communication skills and maths skills are now required more and more for work, daily life and for progression with education and training.

If you have little experience of using computers than now is a good time to start at the basics. These beginners courses can help you to get back to learning and may prompt you to look

further at educational options.

To qualify for these course free of charge you need to either have less than Leaving Certificate, or be on a social welfare payment or have a medical card.

Call Mary Upton for further details on 058 51407 or email maryupton@wd-vec.ie



Featured Website www.careersportal.ie

Careers Portal is a fantastic website encompassing a huge amount of information on **courses, careers and self assessment tools**. You can discover your career interests through the career interest profiler which can then match your interests with suitable career options. You can work through a series of career skills and study skills to help you to recognise the skills which you already have and how to build on new ones. In terms of careers, www.careersportal.ie outlines

- **Industry Sectors**
- **Organisations**
- **Occupation Types**
- **Labour Market Information**
- **Careers Video's**
- **Starting Your Own Business**

And much more, I encourage you to explore www.careersportal.ie

How will Budget 2012 affect Adult Learners?

The biggest hits in the budget for prospective adult students were those cuts that will affect the Back to Education Allowance and the Student Maintenance Grant. In previous years the government withdrew eligibility for mature students to benefit from both the Back to Education Allowance and the Maintenance Grant. Those now considering a PLC (Post-Leaving Certificate) or third level will have to make do with the Back to Education Allowance only or the Maintenance Grant only. As the Back to Education Allowance is a weekly payment similar to the students social welfare payment this is the best option for most. The Maintenance grant maybe an option for those who are not in receipt of a social welfare payment but who's household income falls below the set thresholds. Further information can be found on www.studentfinance.ie or www.citizensinformation.ie

BACK TO EDUCATION ALLOWANCE

The Cost of Education Allowance, the annual grant which accompanies the Back to Education Allowance, will reduce from €500 to €300.

County Waterford Adult Guidance Service providing impartial, confidential educational information and guidance.
www.waterfordadultguidance.ie Or call 058 48228

If you would like this newsletter to be emailed to you please forward your email address to patricia@wd-vec.ie requesting to be added to the Education and Training Newsletter email list.

Attention Students

If you would like to have your education/training story included in this newsletter—please contact Patricia Morrissey on 058 48228 or email patricia@wd-vec.ie

Future Skills Needs www.skillsireland.ie

The Expert Group on Future Skills Needs (EGFSN) advises the Irish Government on current and future skills needs of the economy and on other labour market issues that impact on Ireland's enterprise and employment growth. It has a central role in ensuring that labour market needs for skilled workers are anticipated and met. In a recent report 'National Skills Bulletin 2011' The Expert Group highlighted the skills which are in short supply in the areas of ICT, engineering, science, sales, transport, healthcare and finance. Shortages are few in terms of the numbers of persons required, and are typically confined to individuals with high skill levels, significant experience, niche area expertise and/or specific skill mix. The analysis also points to an increasing demand for foreign language fluency. For the full report visit www.skillsireland.ie

Featured Training Provider

Attention Education and Training Providers

If you would like to feature your education or training centre in this newsletter please submit to patricia@wd-vec.ie

Evolve Training & Recruitment is a professional training facility, ideally located to Dungarvan & surrounding areas, including Ardmore, Youghal, Clonmel, Carrick on Suir, Tallow, Lismore and Waterford.



We have an active presence on Facebook, Twitter, Linked In, so make sure to 'like' our page to be informed of new job-vacancies in the Co. Waterford area. Drop in for a chat, or email your CV to Jobs@evolvetraining.ie

Owned and managed by Tracy Quinlan, Evolve Training & Recruitment benefits from her 10 years previous employment in the area of software training. Tracy has experience of delivering a wide range of course types; from a basic level, one to one training for small businesses, to corporate training for various multi-national companies in Dungarvan and Waterford. You can read our client testimonials on our website.

Contact Tracy or Aisling on 058 48535 www.evolvetraining.ie