



Dún Laoghaire
VEC

Oideachas don Saol
Educating for life

VTOS – VOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES SCHEME

What is VTOS?

VTOS means "**Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme**"

VTOS gives unemployed adults the opportunity of returning to full time education without losing their benefits.

You can only receive VTOS for a maximum of two years

Eligibility

VTOS applicants must be:

- Aged 21 or over. (**Must be 21 at start of college**)
- Unemployed for at least 6 months (156 days)
- In receipt of Social Welfare benefits or credits for at least 6 months
- In receipt of One Parent Family Allowance
- In receipt of Disability Allowance or Disability Benefit

Q. How is the 156 days qualifying period calculated?

A. Unemployment Benefit cannot be broken for more than 13 weeks & Unemployment assistance has a 52-week limit for links. Your local Social Welfare office can confirm the number of days you have been in receipt of Social welfare payment.

The benefits VTOS:

- You will retain all your Social Welfare payments
- You will get travel (over 3 miles) and meal allowance €4 per week.
- Getting back to education, Courses are provided free of charge,
- You will be given books and materials free of charge
- A bonus payment of €31.80 is payable if you have been in receipt of certain eligible social welfare payments for at least one year directly before you join VTOS. (for 312 days)
- Childcare support in the form of financial assistance or provision of crèche facilities if also available

Payments

Training Allowance – €20.00 per week

You must be in receipt of social welfare payment for at least 312 days before commencing on course.

This payment will be made over the holiday period – Christmas / Easter.

Students signing for credits and dependent of spouses are not eligible for this payment.

Meals & Travel

Meals

All students are entitled to a meal allowance – this is a payment of €4 per week – (.80c per day)

Travel

Laureena Boswell, VTOS Administration, Dun Laoghaire VEC, Century Court, 100 Upper George's Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

Ph: 01 214 72 02 Fax: 01 214 72 35 website: www.dlvec.ie Email: lboswell@dlvec.ie

If you live over 3 miles from the college you will receive a weekly payment. This is based on your distance from the college.

Meals & travel are paid on a weekly basis. You do not receive any payments during the holiday period.

Fuel payments

National Fuel Allowance - €20 per week

Smokeless Fuel Allowance - €3.90 per week

This is paid for 30 weeks from late September to mid-April. You must contact your local social welfare office to see if you are entitled to this extra payment.

If you are in receipt of:

- Unemployment Benefit
- Unemployment Assistance

DLVEC will take over payment from Social Welfare

If you are in receipt of:

- One Parent Family Payment
- Invalidity Pension
- Disability Allowance
- Disability Benefit

These payments will be made as normal from Social Welfare.

Dun Laoghaire VEC will pay any additional payments such as Fuel, meals, travel and training allowance if you are entitled to it.

The Willows Crèche

- The regulations regarding childcare are being changed. Dún Laoghaire VEC runs a crèche and places are provided free to the children of VTOS participants.
- Please note that DLVEC is no longer in a position to subsidise places in other crèche or childcare facilities.
- The Willows Crèche is located at Sallynoggin College of Further Education. Children from 1-10 years old are taken. The crèche is open Monday – Thursday 8.30am – 5.00pm and Friday 8.30am – 4.00pm.

Please note that the willows crèche is subsidised and places are limited. Please note that a VTOS place does not guarantee your childcare place in the Willows

Grant

If you are not entitled to Back to Education or VTOS you may be entitled to a Grant.

The grant is means tested and based on your income for the previous year. You apply to your local VEC as per where you lived in previous October.

Grant Application forms are available from your local VEC or www.studentfiance.ie from July 2011.

Area	VEC	Contact
Bray - Wicklow	County Wicklow VEC, Administrative Offices, PO Box 15 Church Street, Wicklow Town	Tel: 0404 60500 Fax: 0404 62556
Shankill / Sandyford	Co. Dublin VEC Administrative Offices No 1 Tuansgate Belgard Square East Tallaght Dublin 24	Tel: 01 4529600 Fax: 01 4515196
Merrion gates / Booterstown & City of Dublin	The City of Dublin VEC, Town Hall, Merrion Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4	Tel: 01 668 0614 Fax: 01 668 0710
Loughlinstown, Ballybrack, Dun Laoghaire, Monkstown & Blackrock	Dun Laoghaire VEC, 100 upper George's Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.	Ph: 01 214 72 00 Fax: 01 214 72 35