



Dun Laoghaire  
VEC

## VTOS – VOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES SCHEME

### What is VTOS?

VTOS means "**V**ocational **T**raining **O**pportunities **S**cheme"

VTOS gives unemployed adults the opportunity to return 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 (for journeys over 3 miles) and meal allowance €4 per week
- Courses are provided free of charge
- Books and materials are 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 available

### Payments

#### Training Allowance – €31.80 per week

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

### Summer payments

Students progressing to their second year of a VTOS course. Dun Laoghaire VEC will continue to pay you throughout the summer. However if there is a change in circumstances you must contact Dun Laoghaire VEC immediately.

### Meals & Travel

#### **Meals**

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

#### **Travel**

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.*

### Crèche payments

**You must use a registered crèche - Rates – Full Time - €63.49 Part Time - €31.75 per week per Child.**

**If your childcare costs are greater than the above rates you must make up the balance.**

Childcare Rates – **Full Time - €63.49 Part Time - €31.75 per week per child**, you will receive a VEC Childcare Provision from your VTOS Coordinator in the college.

You must use a registered crèche. Your childcare provider must complete a VEC Childcare provision and submitted to Laureena Boswell, Dun Laoghaire VEC, 100 upper George's Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Ph 214 72 02 Fax 214 72 35 Email [lboswell@dlvec.ie](mailto:lboswell@dlvec.ie)

### Grant

All VTOS students are entitled to apply for a grant. The grant is means tested and based on your income for 2008. You apply to your local VEC as per where you lived in October 2008.

<b>Area</b>	<b>VEC</b>	<b>Contact</b>
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