

Information for International Applicants

Background information on the Open Training College:

The Open Training College is a part of [St. Michael's House](#), Dublin. We are a not-for-profit organisation, funded through student fees, project work and consultancy. We provide education and learning opportunities for people working in the disability, voluntary and not-for-profit sectors, covering:

- Applied Management
- Social Care
- Supported Employment

Who are International Applicants?

For the purposes of admission to Open Training College QQI approved courses **all Non-EU applicants** and **EU applicants whose first language is not English who have not received education through English to a standard equivalent to NFQ Level 7** are considered International Applicants.

What is the admissions procedure for International Applicants?

All applicants are required to fulfil the entry requirements for the course to which they are applying (please refer to specific course information for entry requirements), complete the relevant application form and attend an interview. In addition International Applicants must:

- Provide evidence of their identity (passport) and Visa status
- Provide evidence of their proficiency in the use of English to complete a programme of academic studies

Please note that international applicants are required to organise relevant employment/visa requirements for their stay in Ireland. It is not the responsibility of the Open Training College

What is meant by proficiency in English?

All Open Training College courses are conducted through English. International applicants are obliged to ensure that they have a suitable level of English to successfully participate on the course.

Evidence of this may be provided in the following ways:

1. Original transcript of educational attainment achieved through studies in English at degree level i.e. Level 7 or above (as validated by the NQAI Qualifications Recognition procedure).
2. Original transcript of educational attainment achieved through studies in English at Level 6 or above (as validated by the NQAI Qualifications Recognition procedure), and the successful completion of the interview phase of the application process.

The Qualifications Recognition procedure is a free service provided by QQI, which allows a comparison to be made between qualifications awarded by a foreign awarding body and the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) in Ireland. Further details of this service and instructions on how to make an application are available from <https://www.qqi.ie/Articles/Pages/Qualifications-Recognition.aspx>

OR

3. Evidence of proficiency in English for academic purposes provided by one of the qualifications listed below

Qualification:	Minimum Requirement:
TOEFL Paper-based test	550
TOEFL Internet-based test	79-80
IELTS	6.0
Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English	Grade C
Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English	Grade A
NEAB test in English for speakers of other languages	Pass
Warwick University English Language Test	Pass

The most widely available tests in Ireland are those related to TOEFL, IELTS and Cambridge. Each of these testing systems assesses the student's proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing English. The specific tests listed above assess the standard required of students to complete a programme of academic studies.

Students can register and take the test with centres around Ireland. There is usually a fee associated with the test. Each individual centre must be contacted to confirm the relevant fee.

Details of what is involved in the tests and how to apply for a test can be found on the following websites:

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)	www.ets.org/toefl
IELTS (International English Language Testing System)	www.ielts.org
Cambridge (University of Cambridge ESOL Exams)	www.cambridgeesol.org