

Co Waterford Local Employment Service (LES)

Information Notice for Employers on

The Youth Employment Support Scheme (YESS)

A Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) – supported Work Experience Placement Programme

What is the YESS?

The Youth Employment Support Scheme is co-funded by the Irish Government, the European Social Fund and the Youth Employment Initiative as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020.

The Youth Employment Support Scheme (YESS) is a work experience placement programme which is specifically targeted at **young jobseekers aged 18-24 years of age who are long-term unemployed or who face barriers to employment** to increase their ability to obtain future full-time employment.

The YESS will aim to provide jobseekers with the opportunity to learn basic work and social skills in a supportive environment while on a work placement. The scheme will provide a supportive structure for participants, including a designated DEASP Case Officer support for both Placement Hosts and Jobseekers.

While participation on the YESS will be wholly voluntary for both parties involved, there will be certain qualifying and eligibility conditions that both placement hosts and jobseekers will have to satisfy.

The scheme is available to eligible jobseekers and open to organisations in the private, community and voluntary sectors only (legal entity and/or a charity recognised by the Revenue Commissioners (with a CHY number). Employers in receipt of an allowance / payment from the DEASP may not participate on the YESS (Back to work enterprise allowance (BTWEA); TUS, Farm Assist, etc.)

The scheme is also open to Sole Traders, who satisfy the conditions of the Scheme.

An organisation, or a local branch, must certify that they have a minimum of 1 full-time employee who is employed for 30 hours or more per week (ie. On payroll and subject to PAYE and PRSI). There is a limit on the number of participants that an organisation can host on the YESS (outlined in the YESS Guidelines)

Placement hosts should not have vacancies in the area of activity in which the placement is offered and cannot offer a placement if they have made an employee redundant in the last 6 months. Placements should be created specifically to provide a jobseeker with a work experience opportunity.

How does it work ?

The Scheme is available to jobseekers, aged between 18 and 24, out of work and in receipt of a qualifying Social Welfare payment* for at least 12 months or if unemployed for less than 12 months, be considered by a case officer to face a significant barrier to work.

**Qualifying Social Welfare payments: Jobseekers Allowance; Jobseekers Benefit; One Parent Family Payment; Jobseeker Transition Payment; Disability Allowance; Blind Person's Pension or Supplementary Welfare Allowance.*

Participants will be required to work 24 hours per week and placements will be for 3 months initially, with an option to extend this further to 6 months. Hours must be completed over either 3 or 4 days.

Participants will receive a weekly YESS allowance payment of €229.20 per week from DEASP. Participants whose underlying entitlement is in excess of that amount will continue to receive their weekly payment with an additional top-up allowance of €22.50 per week. Employer top-up contributions are not permitted.

All placements must be advertised on the Department's Jobs Ireland website, www.jobsireland.ie . (Employers must agree to the Scheme Terms and Conditions when they advertise a placement). Each placement host will decide how they select their potential participant for the placement and will inform the successful jobseeker.

A designated DEASP Case Officer will liaise with the jobseeker and host throughout the period of the placement to monitor how well it is progressing for both parties and provide appropriate advice / support. This will include a formal review meeting after 2 months, which will facilitate the Case Officer in deciding whether to approve a request for an extension of the duration to 6 months (26 weeks).

Clearly defined learning and development outcomes for each placement will be identified. A Learning and Development Plan will be agreed between all parties at the outset of the placement and the case officer will monitor the progress of same. The placement host will complete a reference for the participant at the end of the placement (detailing the professional development / learning outcomes and experience they have acquired during the course of the placement)

The placement host will nominate an individual to support and mentor the participant during the placement.

At the end of the placement, placement hosts will be encouraged to hire satisfactory participants (ie. Offer them paid employment) and may qualify for a subsidy under JobsPlus Youth. (www.jobsplus.ie)

Further details in the YESS Guidelines on www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/YESS-Guidelines.pdf

If you would like to become a Placement Host, please visit www.jobsireland.ie to apply.