



Áras
Nua-
Ealaíne
na
hÉireann

Life Long Learning in Ireland

October 2010

AONTAS is the National Adult Learning Organisation, a voluntary membership organisation. It exists to promote the development of a learning society through the provision of a quality and comprehensive system of adult learning and education which is accessible to and inclusive to all. <http://www.aontas.com/about/>

NALA is the National Adult Literacy Agency is an independent charity committed to making sure people with literacy and numeracy difficulties can fully take part in society and have access to learning opportunities that meet their needs. According to the last international survey, one in four - that is, about half a million - Irish adults have problems reading and writing. This service is delivered by 1,500 paid tutors and over 4,000 volunteers. <http://www.nala.ie/>

There are four universities in Ireland -The National University of Ireland, including UCD, UCG, UCC and St Patrick's Maynooth ; University of Dublin (Trinity College); The University of Limerick ;Dublin City University. There is also a network of **Colleges of Art** and design throughout the country which provides Adult courses on a full and part –time level.

NUI Maynooth is one of the national universities of Ireland and it offers professional development for adult educators through full-time and part-time postgraduate academic programmes; both on campus and off campus and supports community education and development activities through research and consultancy. <http://adulthoodeducation.nuim.ie/>

Oscail was established in 1982 by Dublin City University to provide adults with access to third level education through Distance Education regardless of location, employment, domestic or personal circumstances, or prior qualifications. All programmes are accredited by Dublin City University. <http://www.oscail.ie/about.php>

The **Irish Vocational Education Association (IVEA)**, is the national representative association for Ireland's vocational education committees (VECs) which have responsibility for vocational educational training, youth work and a range of other statutory functions including workplace learning and prisoner education. <http://www.ivea.ie/>

The National Framework of Qualifications comprises of 10 levels. It accommodates awards gained in schools, colleges, universities, workplaces and training centres from the most basic (FETAC level 1) to the most advanced (HETAC level 10) levels of learning.

www.fetac.ie

The Council of National Cultural Institutions- presents all of the museums, galleries and other cultural institutions in Ireland and these centres each run programmes at their respective venues for adults of all ages and learning abilities. These programmes are often designed and run in partnership with other adult education providers. <http://www.ncni.ie/>