

# A QUICK GUIDE TO FINANCIAL MATTERS

## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST ME TO STUDY AT MONAGHAN INSTITUTE?

Monaghan Institute prides itself on keeping the cost of accessing its courses to a minimum.

- There are no tuition fees for EU nationals.
- Government levy of €200 per PLC student applies
- Applicants pay a booking deposit of €50 before course commencement to secure their place.
- Applicants pay other costs (books, exam fees, professional membership fees, optional training etc)
- Non EU nationals are charged a tuition fee determined by the Irish Government

### **In 2011, a Government Levy of €200 was introduced to be charged to learners (EU nationals) enrolling on fulltime PLC courses.**

The following categories of participants are exempt from paying the €200 Government levy:

- Full medical card holders in their own right and their dependent children
- Those who are eligible under the student grant scheme
- Those in receipt of the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme or the Back to Education Allowance

*These exemptions apply only to the Government Levy.*

**Depending on course selection payment may also be required for some of the following:** books, field trips, specialist equipment (e.g. hairdressing/beauty kits, scientific instruments), sports coaching, learner services, registration charges by professional bodies and examination fees. For further details contact the college office on 047-84900

### **Monaghan Institute welcomes applications from suitably qualified international learners.**

Applicants from Non-EU countries, with the exception of those who have special leave to remain in Ireland, are obliged to pay a Department of Education & Skills fee of €3,653, plus the relevant course fees. Persons with special leave to remain in Ireland must produce appropriate documentation to verify that status, as applications cannot be processed until the relevant paperwork is submitted. International applicants should contact the college office at 047-84900

## **GRANTS**

Full-time learners may be eligible to apply for PLC maintenance grants, which are means tested. You should contact your local Education and Training Board (ETB) for further details or visit [www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie) or [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie) where applications can be made online or downloaded.

## **CAN I ATTEND MONAGHAN INSTITUTE AND CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SOCIAL WELFARE?**

Two special schemes exist that may allow applicants who are receiving certain social welfare benefits to attend an approved full time course and continue to receive payments. These schemes are: Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) / Back to Education Allowance Scheme (BTEA)

These schemes allow eligible participants to:

- Start or continue education and training
- Develop new skills
- Gain certification at a range of levels
- Enhance employment prospects

For further information contact your local ETB or social welfare office or visit [www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie) or [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES SCHEME (VTOS)**

This is a scheme operated to give unemployed people educational opportunities without losing their benefits. It applies to all full-time courses offered at Monaghan Institute.

### **WHO QUALIFIES?**

You must be aged 21 or over and be in receipt of unemployment payments or other social welfare benefit for at least 6 months. The number of places on VTOS is limited and priority is given to those who are long-term unemployed and have not had the opportunity to complete second-level education. [Download a VTOS application here.](#) For further details contact your local ETB Office or visit [www.vtos.ie](http://www.vtos.ie)

### **BENEFITS OF VTOS**

Books, materials and examination fees are paid for on VTOS and participants receive a meal and travel allowance (depending on distance from the Institute). Childcare support is also available through the Childcare Employment and Training Support Scheme (CETS).

## **BACK TO EDUCATION ALLOWANCE (BTEA)**

The Department of Social Protection administer the Back to Education Allowance Scheme as one of its second chance educational opportunities for unemployed people, lone parents and people with disabilities. This scheme allows you to keep your social welfare payment and return to full time second/third level courses. For further details contact your local social welfare office or visit [www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie)