



Virtual
Community
College

Programme Prospectus 2019-2020

Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Cheatharlach



INSTITUTE of
TECHNOLOGY
CARLOW

At the Heart of South Leinster



An Cosán Virtual Community College

For thirty years, An Cosán has been delivering lifelong learning in Tallaght West, teaching from early years to adulthood in communities that struggle with injustice and inequality. An Cosán is now developing a national profile through its innovative and award-winning **Virtual Community College (VCC)**. VCC is reducing the digital divide, supporting learners to develop their skills through using 21st century teaching and learning technologies, and offering additional supports to learners to enable them to achieve their full potential.

Our Education Model

An Cosán VCC is at the forefront of educational technology in Ireland. Working in partnership with IT Carlow, we use a blended model of online, live lectures with offline activities, assignments and face-to-face workshops.

Today's learners can access a wide variety of educational options. At VCC, we ensure that our learners have access to technologies and teaching methods that enable them to engage and learn effectively. Learners can access presentations, class recordings, and coursework around their own schedule and at a pace that suits them.

VCC's model of community education builds on foundational concepts of inclusion, participation, capacity building, and social action. Our programmes actively encourage learners' networking and collaborating to achieve both personal and social transformation.

Our Community Partners

VCC partners with community education organisations to support learners to access blended online learning programmes. Hospitality, providing 'a place of heart and home', is integral to our ethos, recognising that learners' basic needs must be met before they can excel in their studies. Centres provide facilities where students can access the technology required to engage in blended online learning and create collaborative peer learning communities.

VCC has established partnerships with a growing number of community groups around the country to share knowledge and experience and to bring community education, particularly higher education programmes, to communities experiencing injustice and inequality.

We see these partnerships as mutually beneficial. Partnerships create valuable, supportive education experiences for students; they also provide a range of e-learning tools and resources to community education organisations and tutors. Moreover, as knowledge and skills develop, community partnerships will allow quality programmes and best practice emerging at a local level to be mainstreamed nationally.

Learner Supports

At VCC, we support our learners fully so that they can achieve their full potential.

- Technology moderators provide technical support and encouragement to learners in advance of and during online sessions.
- Qualified tutors with in-depth classroom experience and subject matter expertise are readily available to discuss programme content.
- One-to-one online mentors are available throughout the programme.
- Learners are actively encouraged to support one another and build collaborative learning communities.

Programme Fees and Bursary

- Unaccredited programmes (6 week) €200
- Accredited programmes (10 week) €300
- Certificate programmes (1 year) €1,800

The course fee includes a **non-refundable** deposit of €50 payable to secure a place. Please note that 50% of the fees must be paid upfront with the balance to be paid before the course finishes. Bursaries and phased payment options available for individual learners.

Learners can access a small bursary/scholarship fund, if required. To apply for a bursary email bursary@ancosanvcc.com for further information.

Where possible, all bursary requests should be accompanied by a note from an organisation, a tutor or mentor with a reference and recommendation for a bursary. All bursaries awarded are partial bursaries.

Format

Each unaccredited and accredited programme begins with an 'Induction Day', or six-hour face-to-face workshop, which introduces students to the course content, the technology, as well as one another. This is followed by weekly live online sessions using a variety of interactive tools. Learners access readings, watch videos, and undertake assignments in their own time and at a pace that suits them. We also offer tutorial sessions in the virtual classroom to help learners with their study skills and assignments. **Unaccredited programmes** involve an Induction Day and five virtual classroom sessions. **Accredited programmes** involve an Induction Day and eight virtual classroom sessions. Mid-way through accredited programmes, we offer learners a second face-to-face workshop.

Unaccredited	Accredited Standalone	Accredited module as part of Certificate	Description
Induction Day	Induction Day	Induction Day	6-hour face-to-face workshop, including technology induction
5 Online Sessions	4 Online Sessions	6 Online Sessions	1-hour online technology refresher 2-hour synchronous teaching per week
-	Workshop	-	6-hour face-to-face workshop
-	4 Online Sessions	-	2-hour synchronous teaching per week

Introductory Programmes – Foundation Level Unaccredited | Duration: 6 weeks | Fee: €200

An Cosán VCC's unaccredited programmes provide a supportive, fun, and collaborative virtual learning environment in which we encourage learners to participate actively in their own development.

Introduction to Community Development (Unaccredited)

The **Introduction to Community Development** programme introduces learners to the core concepts of community development and social action. We will use animation, video, and music to examine key themes such as power and democracy in society, the role of the state, the ethics of community development, and digital citizenship. We draw on case studies and learners' own experiences to discuss key issues facing their communities, including youth visibility, identity politics, and community empowerment. Learners will identify practical approaches and strategies to support their community's development.

Introduction to Community Drugs Work (Unaccredited)

The **Introduction to Community Drugs Work** programme explores the causes, course, and consequences of drug addiction and how they relate to the individual, the family, the community, and society. Addiction issues related to diverse populations are presented, and the connections between local and global contexts in relation to drug use will also be explored. Learners will identify practical approaches and strategies to support community drugs work. We will examine case studies and contemporary response alternatives regarding intervention, treatment, education, and prevention.

Introduction to Community Leadership (Unaccredited)

The **Introduction to Community Leadership** programme will explore the role of leadership in the community. Learners will investigate a model of grassroots community leadership in practice, nationally and globally. Learners will also examine the concept of leadership and analyse different leadership styles and qualities. Learners will identify their own leadership skills as well as identify strategies and practices fitting to community leadership development. Learners will also explore the contribution of technology to community leadership. We will draw on case studies and learners' own experiences to discuss key issues facing their communities, including inequality, discrimination, and community empowerment. We will use animation, video, and music to examine key themes such as power and democracy in our community, the role of the state, and digital citizenship.

Introduction to Gender Studies (Unaccredited)

The **Introduction to Gender Studies** programme introduces learners to critical questions about the meanings of gender in society. We introduce foundational ideas, including how gender is socially constructed, how gender structures our ways of being and thinking, and how the personal is political. Participants will apply these insights to a variety of contemporary social, political and economic problems. Key themes for collective inquiry and discussion include the difference between sex and gender, identity, gender inequality, cultural assumptions, media representations, and feminism in the 21st century. An Introduction to Gender Studies will enrich learners' self-understanding, enhance their understanding of the world, and facilitate their advancing gender equality.

Introduction to Climate Change and Environment (Unaccredited)

The **Introduction to Climate Change and Environment** programme introduces learners to climate justice, one of the defining issues of our times. Participants will learn the foundations of environmentalism and apply these insights to a variety of contemporary political and ecological problems. Key themes for discussion include understanding nature and climate change, the role of capitalism, technology and agriculture, and the emergence of sustainable alternatives. We will examine national and international case studies of community-led movements and projects for climate justice. An Introduction to Climate Justice will enrich learners' understanding of the world while developing visionary ideas to change it.

Introduction to Citizenship and Social Action (Unaccredited)

Where does democracy come from? What does it mean to be a citizen? How can we change society and who is going to do it? The **Citizenship and Social Action programme** will explore the ideas and practices associated with democracy, citizenship, and social action. Students will examine Irish and European Union policies regarding citizenship and participation. Learners will further analyse digital citizenship in the age of the internet and social media, as well as strategies and practical approaches to support community empowerment.

Higher Education

Special Purpose Awards | QQI Level 6 | 10 Credits | Duration: 10 weeks | Fees: €300

An Cosán VCC and IT Carlow provide the following 10-week accredited, blended learning programmes.

Learning to Learn at Third Level (QQI Level 6)

The **Learning to Learn at Third Level** programme is designed to support learners to develop skills and confidence in preparing for education at third level. Students will explore a range of different learning styles and will be introduced to academic reading and writing; reading techniques and strategies; planning, structuring, writing assignments and using academic conventions. The module will also introduce learners to key ideas in social studies.

Citizenship and Social Action (QQI Level 6)

The **Citizenship and Social Action** module will explore theoretical concepts of democracy, citizenship and social action. Students will also analyse specific case studies in relation to citizenship, social action and democratic participation in the age of the internet. Alongside this, they will investigate and identify strategies and practical approaches to support digital citizenship. Finally, learners will examine the Irish and European Union policy frameworks with regard to citizenship and participation.

Community Leadership (QQI Level 6)

The **Community Leadership** module will explore the role of leadership in the community sector. Learners will investigate a model of grassroots community leadership in practice, nationally and globally. Learners will also examine the concept of leadership within the context of social activism and analyse different leadership styles and qualities. Learners will identify their own leadership skills and style and identify strategies and practices fitting to community leadership development. Learners will also explore the contribution of technology to community leadership.

Introduction to Social Enterprise Development (QQI Level 6)

The **Introduction to Social Enterprise Development** module is designed to support learners to develop skills and confidence in creating social enterprises. Learners will explore key theories and concepts, examine the role of social enterprise in the community, and undertake a basic analysis of local community needs. Learners will gain a better understanding of business planning and funding, as well as key governance and management issues. Learners will also plan their future progression paths as social entrepreneurs.

Community Development (QQI Level 6)

The **Community Development** module explores the key principles and practices of community development. It provides an overview of the historical and contemporary infrastructure of the community and voluntary sector in Ireland. Learners will assess diverse community development case studies and approaches, exploring their implications within local communities and wider Irish society. Learners' own participation in the community development process will be examined throughout and consideration given to assessing their practice and approaches through the lens of community development theory.

Group Work and Facilitation Skills (QQI Level 6)

The **Group Work and Facilitation Skills** module will develop learners' understanding of group dynamics, of the principles underpinning facilitation styles and interventions, and of a range of group work techniques. Learners will practice and improve their facilitation and presentation skills as well as their capacity to plan, deliver and evaluate a group. The programme will build on learners' ability to critically reflect on their own knowledge, skills and experience both as a group participant and a group facilitator.

Social Analysis (QQI Level 6)

The **Social Analysis** module will explore key concepts of sociology, including the concept of power and social change. Learners will examine the relationship between social, economic and political development as well as analyse the potential of community activism to effect social change. Particular attention will be paid throughout the programme to Irish society and to the key influences shaping its development.

The Nature and Context of Addiction (QQI Level 6)

The **Nature and Context of Addiction** module will introduce students to the meaning and nature of addiction. Will provide an overview of predominant theories of causation – biological, psychological, sociological and cultural. Will introduce students to the theoretical orientations in the treatment of addiction – medical, pharmacological, spiritual, psychological and psychoanalytic. Will provide an overview of the pharmacology of drug use. Will introduce learners to models of treatment.

Drug Prevention, Education & Awareness (QQI Level 6)

The **Drug Prevention, Education and Awareness** module will introduce students to best practice in the area of preventative education and family support in an Irish context. To provide a general introduction to prevention education theory & practice.

Approaches to Treatment and Rehabilitation (QQI Level 6)

The aims of the **Approaches to Treatment and Rehabilitation** module are to provide an understanding of a range of models and approaches to the treatment of addiction problems. To provide an historical overview of approaches and rehabilitation to substance abuse. To develop an understanding of treatment and rehabilitation as central tenet of the National Drugs Strategy. To give an outline of harm reduction principles, context & approaches

Community Development Practical Approaches (QQI Level 6)

The aims of **Community Development Practical Approaches** module are to examine community development practices using a cross-sector sample of established community and voluntary organisations. Demonstrate the application of the community development process using a framework to investigate the sample organisations. Identify any barriers and challenges within the community development process observed. Support learners to develop practical skills which are central to the community development process.

Understanding and Managing Conflict in a Community Development Context (QQI Level 6)

The aims of **Understanding and Managing Conflict in a Community Development Context** module are to introduce the main models and strategies for conflict resolution and mediation within a social justice context. Consider the issues which contribute to conflict in disadvantaged communities. Introduce essential skills for conflict resolution and negotiation. Build on participant's ability to critically reflect on their own response to conflict both as an individual and as community leaders.

Reflective Practice, Knowledge, Skills & Attitude (QQI Level 6)

The aims of **Reflective Practice, Knowledge, Skills & Attitude** module are to support students to gain experience as a practitioner in a community development context and integrate relevant theory with practice. Develop self-awareness and core skills to critically reflect on their practice in a comprehensive and ethical manner. Be responsible for managing their continuous professional development.

Leadership & Organisational Development (QQI Level 6)

The aims of **Leadership and Organisational Development** module are to define the role of leadership and its relationship to management in the community and voluntary sector. Examine appropriate organisational structures in community organisations. Explore the importance of governance and current legislation governing the community sector. Explore the process of strategic planning and development and the relevance of evaluation. Explore the shadow side of organisations.

Equality and Diversity (QQI Level 6)

The aims of **Equality and Diversity** module are to introduce learners to theories and concepts of identity, equality and diversity. Explore the social construction and status implications of identity, culture and diversity within Irish society. Support learners to examine and reflect on their own understanding of equality, diversity and anti-discrimination and the relationship to community work in practice. Explore legislation, policy and practice with regard to the promotion of equality in Irish society. Consider the nature of discrimination and equality in relation to gender and ethnicity.

Social Policy (QQI Level 6)

The aims of the **Social Policy** module are to examine the executive functions of state and the processes involved in decision making and social policy development within government. Outline the historical development of Irish social policy. Introduce the social policy framework with regard to Health, Education and Community and Voluntary Activity. Examine the relationship between social policy, service provision and community development in a local context.

Introduction to Counselling and Motivational Interviewing (QQI Level 6)

The aims of Introduction to **Counselling and Motivational Interviewing** module are to introduce participants to a range of counselling theories and concepts. Explore key components of each counselling methodology from an addiction perspective. Explore ethical principles of addiction counselling. Introduce participants to the key concepts of Motivational Interviewing. Facilitate the practice of motivational counselling skills and techniques.

Community Development & Technology (QQI Level 7)

The aims of **Community Development & Technology** module are to introduce the national and European policy framework which supports e-engagement and e-inclusion To develop an understanding of the digital divide from a community development context To gain an overview of digital planning and management concepts for community development. To introduce a range of tools to research and plan a digital

communications strategy. To develop ICT skills to support the execution of a digital communications strategy.

Research Methods & Practice (QQI Level 7)

The aims of **Research Methods & Practice** module are to develop learners' understanding of the research process and the role of research in informing theory and practice particularly in relation to community development/social science. Provide learners with an understanding of a range of research methodologies and methods utilised in social research. Develop learners' critical analysis and practical research skills. Introduce a range of data collection techniques. Provide students with an appreciation of ethical issues in social research. Provide a model research framework.

Project Cycle Management in the Community & Voluntary Sector (QQI Level 7)

The aims of **Project Cycle Management in the Community & Voluntary Sector** this module are to introduce students to project cycle management using the logical framework approach for results oriented project planning. To provide a framework for project cycle & financial management for planning, proposal development, monitoring & evaluation and impact assessment.

Leadership and Social Change (QQI Level 7)

The aims of **Leadership and Social Change** module are to critically examine the relationship between leadership and social change and analyse the challenges within the process. Explore approaches to leadership for social change. Consider strategies for leading, influencing and promoting social change in the context of globalisation and social transformation. Examine the psychology of leadership, theories of internalised oppression and the impact of internalised oppression on leadership.

Leadership in Practice (QQI Level 7)

The aims of **Leadership in Practice** module are to support students to: 1. Critically reflect on the application of theory to practice. 2. Consider how they can exercise leadership within their work as community development practitioners. 3. Develop their skills and capacity to undertake a specific collaborative leadership project. 4. Critically reflect on the nature and impact of their own leadership styles within that project, the challenges faced and overcome, and areas for professional development identified. 5. Experience the opportunities and challenges of working in a collaborative context.

Drugs and Crime in a Global Context (QQI Level 7)

The aims of **Drugs and Crime in a Global Context** module are to introduce students to globalisation theory and determine the implications of globalisation on the local context. To provide an overview of global & regional drug trends and crime patterns. To introduce students to international case studies on drugs & alcohol policy.

Community Drug Work and Leadership in Practice (QQI Level 7)

The aims of **Community Drug Work and Leadership in Practice** module are to support students to Critically reflect on the application of theory to practice. To engage in the practical application of course material in a planned experiential learning activity. Develop collaborative skills and capacity with regard to a specific community drug work project. Critically reflect on the nature and impact of their own contribution within that project, the challenges faced and overcome, and areas for professional development identified. Experience the strengths and challenges of working in a collaborative context

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Awards

Special Purpose Award | QQI Level 7 | 10 credits | Duration: 10 weeks | Fees: €300

An Cosán VCC and IT Carlow provide an innovative and creative approach to continuous professional development through our accredited higher education blended learning programmes.

Technology Enhanced Learning (QQI Level 7)

The **Technology Enhanced Learning** programme focuses on developing digital skills and competencies to enable learners to use a range of educational technologies. Learners will be introduced to the concept of communities of practice in technology enhanced learning. They will investigate and identify effective approaches to building digital skills in their own practice. Learners will also examine the Irish and European Union policy frameworks with regard to technology enhanced learning, community education and higher education.

Transformative Community Education (QQI Level 7)

The **Transformative Community Education** programme will explore theoretical concepts of community education, lifelong learning transformation and social change. 2. Analyse specific case studies in relation to community education, social action and transformation. 3. Investigate and identify strategies and practical approaches to curriculum design, development and delivery for transformative community education and support digital citizenship and social media activism. 4. Examine the Irish and European Union policy frameworks with regard to life long learning further education and training and community education. 5. Support practitioners to appreciate the value of e-learning in community education through experiential engagement and support the continuing professional and educational development of practitioners in the sector.

Progression Paths

The following progression pathways towards Certificate, Higher Certificate and BA Degree are open to all current and new An Cosán learners:

Certificate in Leadership and Community Development
QQI Level 6 | Minor Award | 60 Credits | 1 Year | €1,800 |
7th September 2019 – June 2020
(Commencing 7th September 2019)

Programme Overview

The aim of this interdisciplinary 1 year blended online certificate programme is to develop graduates who are equipped with sufficient knowledge, skills and competencies in the theory and practice of leadership and community development to enable them to make a professional contribution to communities, groups, societies and organisations and to prepare graduates for life-long learning so that they will be able to further develop and consolidate their knowledge and skills through experience, professional and/or academic education.

VCC has worked in partnership with IT Carlow to develop a blended online Bachelor of Arts in Leadership and Community Development (QQI Level 7). Learners who complete Stage 1 at Level 6 of the NFQ (60 credits) are eligible to exit the programme with a “Certificate in Leadership and Community Development” (Minor Award Level 6) or to progress to Higher Certificate and BA award.

Format:

Each Module begins with a 'Face to Face' Saturday Workshop 10am - 4pm followed by 6 Online sessions every Tuesday 10.00am-12.00m / 18.00-20.30pm

Modules at a Glance:

Stage 1 / 60 ECTS

Module	Title	Date
Module 1	Learning to Learn at Third Level	7 th September 2019
Module 2	Introduction to Community Development	19 th October 2019
	<i>Midterm Break</i>	<i>29th October – 2 November 2019</i>
Module 3	Social Analysis	7 th December 2019
	<i>Christmas Break</i>	<i>23rd December 2019 – 3rd January 2020</i>
Module 4	Group Work and Facilitation Skills	8 th February 2020
Module 5	Introduction to Community Leadership	28 th March 2020
Module 6	Citizenship and Social Action	16 th May 2020

*All 6 programmes above are included in the Certificate but the order in which they run may vary. Participants can take modules at their own pace over 1 to 2 years.

Registration and information Sessions:

- Deadline for Expressions of interest 15th June 2019
- Registration & Information Sessions: Wednesday 19th, 26th June & 3rd July 2019
- Registration Deadline: Friday 19th July 2019

Higher Certificate in Leadership and Community Development
QQI Level 6 | Minor Award | 60 Credits | 1 Year | €1,800 |
14th September 2019 – 24th June 2020
(Commencing 14th September 2019)

Programme Overview

The aim of this interdisciplinary 1 year blended online Higher Certificate programme is to develop graduates who are equipped with sufficient knowledge, skills and competencies in the theory and practice of leadership and community development to enable them to make a professional contribution to communities, groups, societies and organisations and to prepare graduates for life-long learning so that they will be able to further develop and consolidate their knowledge and skills through experience, professional and/or academic education.

VCC has worked in partnership with IT Carlow to develop a blended online Bachelor of Arts in Leadership and Community Development (QQI Level 7). Learners who complete Stage 1 at Level 6 of the NFQ (60 credits) are eligible to exit the programme with a “Certificate in Leadership and Community Development” (Minor Award Level 6) or to progress to Higher Certificate and BA award.

Format:

Each Module begins with a 'Face to Face' Saturday Workshop 10am - 4pm followed by 6 Online sessions every Wednesday 10.00am-12.00m / 18.00-20.30pm

Modules at a Glance:

Stage 2 / 60 ECTS

Module	Title	Date
Module 1	Community Development Practical Approaches	14 th September 2019
Module 2	Understanding and Managing Conflict in a Community Development Context	26 th October 2019
	Midterm Break	29 th October – 2 November 2019
Module 3	Reflective Practice, Knowledge, Skills & Attitude	11 th January 2019
	Christmas Break	23 rd December 2019 – 3 rd January 2020
Module 4	Social Policy	29 th February 2020
Module 5	Equality & Diversity	25 th April 2020
Module 6	Leadership & Organisational Development	29 th May 2020

*All 6 programmes above are included in the Certificate but the order in which they run may vary. Participants can take modules at their own pace over 1 to 2 years.

Registration and information Sessions:

- Deadline for Expressions of interest 15th June 2019
- Registration & Information Sessions: Wednesday 19th, 26th June & 3rd July 2019
- Registration Deadline: Friday 19th July 2019

Certificate in Applied Addiction Studies & Community Development
QQI Level 6 | Minor Award | 60 Credits | 1 Year | €1,800 |
7th September 2019 – June 2020
(Commencing 7th September 2019)

The aim of this interdisciplinary 1 year blended online certificate programme is to develop knowledge, skills and competencies in the theory and practice of applied addiction studies and community development. The purpose of the programme is to build the capacity of community drugs workers and those working and volunteering in the wider community within an addiction context.

VCC has worked in partnership with IT Carlow to develop a blended online Bachelor of Arts in Applied Addiction Studies and Community Development (QQI Level 7). Learners who complete Stage 1 at Level 6 of the NFQ (60 credits) are eligible to exit the programme with a “Certificate in Applied Addiction Studies and Community Development” (Minor Award Level 6) or to progress to Higher Certificate and BA award.

Format:

Each Module begins with a 'Face to Face' Saturday Workshop 10am - 4pm followed by 6 Online sessions every Tuesday 10.00am-12.00m / 18.00-20.30pm

Modules at a Glance:

Stage 1 / 60 ECTS

Module	Title	Date
Module 1	Learning to Learn at Third Level	7th September 2019
Module 2	Introduction to Community Development	19th October 2019
	<i>Midterm Break</i>	<i>29th October – 2 November 2019</i>
Module 3	Social Analysis	7th December 2019
	<i>Christmas Break</i>	<i>23rd December 2019 – 3rd January 2020</i>
Module 4	Group Work and Facilitation Skills	8th February 2020
Module 5	The Nature and Context of Addiction	28th March 2020
Module 6	Drug Prevention, Education & Awareness	16th May 2020

*All 6 programmes above are included in the Certificate but the order in which they run may vary. Participants can take modules at their own pace over 1 to 2 years.

Registration and information Sessions:

- Deadline for Expressions of interest 15th June 2019
- Registration & Information Sessions: Wednesday 19th, 26th June & 3rd July 2019
- Registration Deadline: Friday 19th July 2019

Higher Certificate in Applied Addiction Studies & Community Development
QQI Level 6 | Minor Award | 60 Credits | 1 Year | €1,800 |
14th September 2019 – 24th June 2020
(Commencing 14th September 2019)

The aim of this interdisciplinary 1 year blended online Higher certificate programme is to develop knowledge, skills and competencies in the theory and practice of applied addiction studies and community development. The purpose of the programme is to build the capacity of community drugs workers and those working and volunteering in the wider community within an addiction context.

VCC has worked in partnership with IT Carlow to develop a blended online Bachelor of Arts in Applied Addiction Studies and Community Development (QQI Level 7). Learners who complete Stage 1 at Level 6 of the NFQ (60 credits) are eligible to exit the programme with a “Certificate in Applied Addiction Studies and Community Development” (Minor Award Level 6) or to progress to Higher Certificate and BA award.

Format:

Each Module begins with a 'Face to Face' Saturday Workshop 10am - 4pm followed by 6 Online sessions every Wednesday 10.00am-12.00m / 18.00-20.30pm

Modules at a Glance:

Stage 2 / 60 ECTS

Module	Title	Date
Module 1	Community Development Practical Approaches	14 th September 2019
Module 2	Understanding and Managing Conflict in a Community Development Context	26 th October 2019
	Midterm Break	29 th October – 2 November 2019
Module 3	Reflective Practice, Knowledge, Skills & Attitude	11 th January 2019
	Christmas Break	23 rd December 2019 – 3 rd January 2020
Module 4	Social Policy	29 th February 2020
Module 5	Introduction to Counselling and Motivational Interviewing	25 th April 2020
Module 6	Approaches to Treatment and Rehabilitation	29 th May 2020

*All 6 programmes above are included in the Certificate but the order in which they run may vary. Participants can take modules at their own pace over 1 to 2 years.

Registration and information Sessions:

- Deadline for Expressions of interest 15th June 2019
- Registration & Information Sessions: Wednesday 19th, 26th June & 3rd July 2019
- Registration Deadline: Friday 19th July 2019

Certificate in Leadership and Social Enterprise

QQI Level 6 | Minor Award | 60 Credits | 1 - 2 Years | €1,800

QQI Level 6 | Minor Award | 60 Credits | 1 Year | €1,800 |

7th September 2019 – June 2020

This interdisciplinary 1 – 2 year blended online certificate programme aims to develop knowledge, skills and competencies in the theory and practice of leadership and social enterprise development. The purpose of the programme is to build the capacity of people working in the social enterprise ecosystem and volunteering in the wider community within a social enterprise context.

Format:

Each Module begins with a 'Face to Face' Saturday Workshop 10am - 4pm followed by 6 Online sessions every Tuesday 10.00am-12.00m / 18.00-20.30pm

Modules at a Glance:

Stage 1 / 60 ECTS

Module	Title	Date
Module 1	Introduction to Social Enterprise Development	7 th September 2019
Module 2	Introduction to Community Development	19 th October 2019
	<i>Midterm Break</i>	<i>29th October – 2 November 2019</i>
Module 3	Social Analysis	7 th December 2019
	<i>Christmas Break</i>	<i>23rd December 2019 – 3rd January 2020</i>
Module 4	Leadership & Organisational Development	8 th February 2020
Module 5	Introduction to Community Leadership	28 th March 2020
Module 6	Management Development	16 th May 2020

*All 6 programmes above are included in the Certificate but the order in which they run may vary. Participants can take modules at their own pace over 1 to 2 years.

Registration and information Sessions:

- Deadline for Expressions of interest 15th June 2019
- Registration & Information Sessions: Wednesday 19th, 26th June & 3rd July 2019
- Registration Deadline: Friday 19th July 2019

For more information about all course and application process contact:

Foluke Oladosu, Higher Education Administrator

Office: 01 534 1847 | Email info@ancosanvcc.com

Young Adult Education Programme



Virtual Community College

Young Adults Education Programme

Are you aged 18-30 and based in Dublin?

Join your peers and take a QQI Level 5 / 6 module to help you progress to:

- College, Institute of Technology or University
- Work related apprenticeships

Flexible (one module at the time)

30 ECTS by IT Carlow

In your local community

Bursaries Provided

An Cosán Virtual Community College have received funding from the Social Innovation Fund to develop an access programme and alternative pathways to education, specifically targeting young adults (18-30 years old). The programme consists of 3 modules (QQI level 5 and 6) with the aim to prepare and support young individuals to progress to further and higher education. The programme format is flexible and delivered in the local community, where students can advance at their own pace with no pressure. Organisations working with young adults who are interested in learning more are invited to contact us.

Next Steps?

For more information about how you can join the programme contact our Youth Engagement Coordinator today to arrange an initial call. Contact Details below:

Dragana Soro

Youth Engagement Coordinator and Community Educator

Office: 01 534 1847 | Mobile: 086 4178737 | Email: d.soro@ancosanvcc.com

Young Women's Education Programme

The start of A New Journey

Young Women's Education Programme

Are you a lone parent aged 18-30 looking to get back in to the workforce? Take the first step into your new adventure and come join our course free of charge, with help and support along the way. Be the change you want for yourself!

WHAT WE OFFER	YEAR 1	YEAR 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > QQI Major Award in Business Administration and Digital Skills for work > One to one mentoring > Peer support > Childcare places available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Basic Digital Skills > Personal Development > Communications Skills > Team Building > Career Guidance > Employability Skills > Financial Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Business Administration > Bookkeeping & Accounts > The Internet > Word Processing > Reception & Frontline Office Skills > Work Experience

This programme is based in Tallaght West and Dublin Inner City

To Register your interest contact Bess on 01-4628488 or email b.mcbride@ancosan.com

A Programme Supported by **J.P.Morgan**

Virtual Community College
AnCosán

Next Steps?

For more information about how you can join the programme contact our Young Women's Education Programme Coordinator today to arrange an initial call. Contact Details below:

Bess McBride

Young Women's Education Programme Coordinator

Office: 01 462 8488 | Email: b.mcbride@ancosanvcc.com

Skills to Succeed Academy



Accenture and An Cosán VCC have come together to roll out a virtual 'Skills to Succeed Academy' around Ireland. The interactive online training programme, developed by Accenture, gives people the skills and confidence to choose the right career and ultimately better position them to get a job or build a business. Registration for the Skills to Succeed Academy is free and can be applied for through local community-based employment support organisations that are working with An Cosán VCC as Academy advisors.

For more information visit www.ancosanvcc.com/s2sacademy/ or follow #S2SAcademy on Twitter.

Next Steps?

To find out more about becoming an Academy Advisor and to sign up for the free training contact our Skills to Succeed Project Manager today to arrange an initial call. Contact Details below:

Mark Kelly

Skills to Succeed Project Manager

Office: 01 534 1847 | Mobile: 086 0499643 | Email: m.kelly@ancosanvcc.com

Right to Work Programme

Who is this programme for?

International Protection Applicants who are looking to work or to start their own business.

We offer training and support in:

Career Guidance | CV Writing | Interview Skills | Employability Skills | Job Searching | Self-Employment | Social Enterprise | Dignity in the Workplace | Human Rights and Equality in Ireland

Where? Weekly workshops will take place in An Cosán VCC, 4 Usher's Court, Usher's Quay, Dublin 8

When? Round 1: Friday 31st May - 28th June | Round 2: Friday 2nd August - 30th August

Information Meeting:

We invite Community Partner organisations who work with International Protection Applicants to attend an Information Meetings to find out more about the programme. These sessions will take place in An Cosán VCC on:

- Tuesday 21st May 11am-12.30pm
- Tuesday 4th June 4.30pm-6pm

Next Steps?

To find out more about the Right to Work Programme and to avail of the free training please contact:

Dr Thomas Murray / Foluke Oladosu

Office: 01 534 1847 | Email: right2work@ancosanvcc.com |

Places are limited so contact us today!

Virtual Community College
AnCosán

The Right to Work Education Project

[The Right to Work Education Project | Dublin Workshops]

Who is this for?
International Protection Applicants who are looking to work or to start their own business.

We offer training and support in:
Career Guidance | CV Writing | Interview Skills |
Employability Skills | Job Searching | Self-Employment | Social Enterprise
Dignity in the Workplace | Human Rights and Equality in Ireland

Weekly workshops will take place in An Cosán VCC, 4 Usher's Court, Usher's Quay, Dublin 8
Round 1: Friday 31st May - 28th June | Round 2: Friday 2nd August - 30th August

Information Meetings for Community Partners will take place in An Cosán VCC on:
Tuesday 21st May 11am-12.30pm
Tuesday 4th June 4.30pm-6pm

For more information, please contact Foluke Oladosu or Thomas Murray.
Tel: 01 534 1847 | Email: right2work@ancosanvcc.com |

Places are limited so contact us today! www.ancosanvcc.com
#LoveLearning

Comisiún na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine agus Comhionannas
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

This project is supported under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Grant Scheme

Become a Community Partner

Working closely with our Community Partners, An Cosán VCC caters for learners who have not benefitted from mainstream education, offering a wide range of accessible accredited and non-accredited courses. We see these partnerships as mutually beneficial. As knowledge and skills develop at a local level, quality programmes and best practice will be mainstreamed nationally. All our courses are designed to respond to community education needs and we fully support students to reach their potential. Working closely with our Community Partners, An Cosán VCC caters for learners who have not benefitted from mainstream education, offering a wide range of accessible accredited and non-accredited courses.

Hospitality, providing ‘a place of heart and home’ and recognising that learners’ basic needs must be met before they can excel in their studies is integral to our ethos. Our continuously growing network of Community Partners provide funding support or facilities what we call ‘Learning Hubs’ where students can access the technology required to engage in blended online learning and create collaborative, supportive peer to peer ‘learning communities’.

Our Community Partner Network is made up of a wide range of organisations across Ireland and includes: community and adult education organisations, Family Resource Centres, community development organisations, social enterprises and independent non-profit organisations that work and support people across a wide range of social issues, Local Development Companies, regional Education & Training Boards, national membership organisations (e.g. Aontas, Leargas).

Community Partners have access to the Technology Enhanced Community Education Network (TECEN) which was launched in 2018. This will provide staff in our community partner organisations with access to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programmes. [Read about the launch in 2018 on Irish Tech News.](#)

Visit our website to [here to see our growing Community Partner Network.](#)

Together, we work with you to empower learners, their families and communities across Ireland.

Benefits of joining the An Cosán VCC Community Partner Network:

- Access to An Cosán VCC's innovative model and ethos
- Access to a National Programme delivering foundation, further and higher-level education
- Access to Impact Driven National & Regional Events
- Access to our National Network
- Membership of Technology Enhanced Community Education Network (TECEN)
- Access to Consultancy Support Services from our team
- Increased visibility through our national communications and digital marketing campaigns
- Access to our Advocacy work
- Opportunity to develop your centre as a quality assured Learning Hub which follows principles of best practice in Technology Enhanced Learning
- Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Opportunities
- Access to Consultancy Supports in various specialty areas

If you are interested in becoming a Community Partner and joining the Technology Enhanced Community Education Network (TECEN) contact our Community Partner Lead today to arrange an initial call. Contact details below:

Maria Flanagan

Community Partner Lead

Office: 01 534 1847 | Mobile: 086 8223808 | Email: m.flanagan@ancosanvcc.com

Follow Us on Social Media

Visit our website and follow us on Social Media to keep up to date with our latest news:



www.ancosanvcc.com



www.facebook.com/AnCosanVCC



www.twitter.com/AnCosan_VCC



[www.linkedin.com/company/an-cosan-virtual-community-college-vcc-/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/an-cosan-virtual-community-college-vcc/)



www.youtube.com - Search for: An Cosán VCC



Learners Blogs: <http://ancosanvcc.com/blog>

Contact Us

If you need further information about registering for a programme or would like to speak to someone about your progression options, get in touch with our team today. We look forward to speaking to you.

Address: An Cosán Virtual Community College (VCC)
Ground Floor, 4-5 Usher's Court, Usher's Quay, Dublin 8

Email: info@ancosanvcc.com

Phone: 01 534 1847

Website: www.ancosanvcc.ie

We look forward to hearing from you!

Summary of all programmes and progression paths offered to learners:

Introduction Programmes – Foundation Level Unaccredited Duration: 6 weeks Fee: €200		
Introduction to Community Development	Introduction to Community Drugs Work	Introduction to Community Leadership
Introduction to Climate Change and Environment	Introduction to Gender Studies	Introduction to Citizenship and Social Action
Special Purpose Awards QQI Level 6 & 7 10 credits Duration: 10 weeks Fee: €300		
Learning to Learn at Third Level	Citizenship and Social Action	Community Leadership
Introduction to Social Enterprise Development	Group Work and Facilitation Skills	Community Development
Social Analysis	The Nature and Context of Addiction	Drug Prevention, Education & Awareness
Community Development Practical Approaches	Understanding and Managing Conflict in a Community Development Context	Reflective Practice, Knowledge, Skills & Attitude
Social Policy	Equality & Diversity	Leadership & Organisational Development
Introduction to Counselling and Motivational Interviewing	Approaches to Treatment and Rehabilitation	Community Development and Technology
Research Methods and Practice	Project Cycle Management in the Community and Voluntary Sector	Leadership and Social Change
Leadership in Practice	Drugs and Crime in a Global Context	Community Drug Work and Leadership in Practice
Continuous Professional Development Awards QQI Level 7 10 credits Duration: 10 weeks Fee: €300		
Transformative Community Education		
Technology Enhanced Learning		
Certificate Awards QQI Level 6 60 credits Duration: 1 year Fee: €1,800		
Certificate in Leadership and Community Development		
Certificate in Applied Addiction Studies and Community Development		
Certificate in Leadership and Social Enterprise		
Higher Certificate Awards (QQI Level 6) 120 credits Duration: 2 years		
Higher Certificate in Leadership and Community Development		
Higher Certificate in Applied Addiction Studies and Community Development		
Bachelor of Arts Awards (QQI Level 7) 180 credits Duration: 3 years		
BA Degree in Leadership and Community Development		
BA Degree in Applied Addiction Studies and Community Development		

VCC has worked in partnership with IT Carlow to develop a blended online Bachelor of Arts in Leadership and Community Development & Bachelor of Arts in Applied Addiction Studies & Community Development (QQI Level 7). Learners who complete Stage 1 at QQI Level 6 of the NFQ (60 credits) are eligible to exit the programme with a “Certificate in Leadership and Community Development” or “Certificate in Applied Addiction Studies and Community Development” (Minor Award Level 6) or to progress to Higher Certificate (QQI Level 6) and BA Degree Award (QQI Level 7).