

Other Courses in Information Technology

Fast track to IT	Fast track to IT is a not for profit industry led initiative whose mission is to promote an inclusive Smart Economy by creating a fast track to marketable technical skills for those at risk of long term unemployment. For more information and course listings visit www.fit.ie
FAS	Ecollege—Free online courses for jobseekers in a range of IT related areas including Networking, Web design, Programming, Software development. See www.ecollege.ie FAS training centres provide free courses to jobseekers in computer applications, programming and networks. See the course database at www.fas.ie for details of upcoming courses.
Skillnets	Originally set up to provide enterprise led training to employees, Skillnets are now also providing free training to eligible jobseekers under the Training Networks Programme 2012/2013. Their IT courses include various programming languages and database and web development. ACIST is the only skillnet currently operating in Clare. See www.skillsacist.ie
Momentum	Momentum is a government initiative which supports the provision of free education and training projects to jobseekers who have been unemployed for 12 months or more. See www.momentumskills.ie

Clare Adult Guidance and Information Service

Adult Education Centre, Ennis

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Computers and Information Technology



With over 75,000 people employed in Ireland the IT sector is relatively small in comparison to large employment sectors like Retail or Manufacturing. Nonetheless this sector is in good health and has been relatively immune from the effects of the recession so far. In fact there is currently a skills shortage in this sector with many companies having to look abroad to fill positions. According to the EGFSN the IT sector accounts for almost a third of 'difficult to fill' positions nationally.

The areas in which there is a shortage of skilled individuals currently are primarily in software engineering and development. There are also vacancies for IT security experts, network specialists and project managers. In some cases employers have also reported difficulties filling relatively lower level vacancies in areas such as IT online support, technical user support and IT testing and troubleshooting.

While most of the jobs in IT where there are skills shortages at the moment require some form of specialist skill, not all do and having the right 'attitude' is very important.

Fasttrack to IT completed a recent skills audit of employers in the ICT sector which showed that there is high demand in certain areas for workers with entry level or competent IT skills.

IT support/ Customer Care

This job may involve working in a call centre and providing technical support to customers. May also involve travelling to customers and sorting out problems onsite.

Very important in this job are excellent customer service and communication skills. An interest in IT e.g. online gaming, social media etc would be important. Being fluent in a foreign language is also very useful. Working in IT support does not necessarily require formal qualifications but depending on the job, qualifications up to third level may be required.

Software Engineer (also known as Software developer, Programmer, games developer, multimedia developer, analyst)

This job title can actually cover a multitude of roles as there are many types of software and their development involves a variety of stages e.g. specifying requirements, designing, writing and coding, testing, fault diagnosis etc. Essentially the job involves developing, modifying and creating computer software or systems in one or more programming languages or applications.

Important in this job are excellent problem solving skills. Good communication and team skills and a willingness to learn are also important. Certain roles in this field require high creativity also.

There are different routes into this career. Normally a third level qualification in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Software Development or similar is required. Excellent knowledge of one or more programming languages or applications is essential.

Project Management

In addition to jobs requiring technical or creative skills there are also jobs in IT requiring strong business and people skills. Project Managers lead teams of IT professionals to deliver projects on time and within budget. They liaise with clients and suppliers as well as managing their own team.

A project manager needs excellent organisational and managerial skills as the role is all about organising resources. Excellent people skills are also a must. Being flexible and having a positive attitude are also important.

Some people will move into this role after starting in a technical role, others will enter as business graduates with some technical knowledge.

Other jobs in the IT sector include **Network Specialist, Web Development, System Architect, Localisation Specialist, Social Media Specialist, Cloud developer, Systems Administrator, Technical Writer, IT Consultant, Digital Marketer** and many more.

Courses in Information Technology- Local PLC Courses

Course Title	Provider	Qualification	Duration
Computer Network & Maintenance	Limerick College of Further Education	FETAC level 5	1 yr full time
Networks & Software Systems	Limerick College of Further Education	FETAC level 6	1 yr full time
Multimedia Production	Limerick College of Further Education	FETAC Level 5	1 yr full time
Information Technology	Galway Technical Institute	FETAC level 5	1 yr full time
Business IT & Web Design	Galway Community College	FETAC level 5	1 yr full time

Courses in Information Technology- Higher Education

There are a lot of IT related courses at third level, too many to list here. See www.qualifax.ie for a full list.

First time applicants to higher education should apply through the CAO for entry to full time undergraduate courses.

Some people choose to enter IT with a degree from an unrelated area by doing a postgraduate course or conversion course. If you have a degree and are currently unemployed then the postgraduate route may be financially difficult as most postgraduate courses aren't eligible for BTEA.

In these circumstances you should consider doing a conversion course see for example www.ICTskills.ie. Check also www.springboardcourses.ie These are free part time courses which allow you to keep your social welfare payment while studying. Free training for jobseekers is also available under the momentum programme (www.momentumskills.ie).