



PLC Student



Are you eligible?

If you have not already done so, you should use our Eligibility Reckoner on our website (www.susi.ie) to give you an idea if you meet the criteria to receive Student Grant funding.

(The Eligibility Reckoner will give an indication only and does not guarantee your eligibility for a grant).

To be eligible for a grant you must qualify under the following criteria.

Nationality and Residency:

- You must be an Irish, EU, EEA or Swiss National or have specific leave to remain in the State; and
- You must be ordinarily resident in Ireland or the EU, EEA or Switzerland for 3 of the last 5 years. If you were resident outside the Irish State for this period but were resident in the EU, EEA or Switzerland you are deemed to be a tuition student which would normally make you eligible for the course fee portion of a grant. However, as you are applying for a PLC course of study (and SUSI does not provide funding for course fees on PLC courses, i.e. funding on PLC courses is provided for maintenance only) **you will not qualify** for any funding from SUSI. (See www.susi.ie for more information).

Course:

- You must be progressing in your education (increasing your NFQ level); and
- You must be attending an approved course in an approved institution. (See www.susi.ie for more information).

Previous Education and Progression – PLC

Previous Education

SUSI may need to know your academic history to determine if you are eligible for a grant.

Progression

Further Education	Level	Progression
Further Education	Post Leaving Certificate Level 5	Certificate
Further Education	Post Leaving Certificate Level 6	Advanced Certificate

You must be increasing your NFQ (National Framework of Qualifications, www.nfq.ie) level to be considered eligible for a grant.

You must be attending an approved course:

- that leads to a higher level of qualification than any you may already hold;
- that is at a higher level than any course you may have previously attended; and
- in which you are progressing from one year to the next and not repeating a year (save in exceptional circumstances).

However, you may be considered eligible for funding as a “second chance” student where you:

- have previously attended but not completed a course; and
- have had a 5-year break in studies since leaving that course.

Repeat/Equivalent Period of Study

If you are a student who is repeating a year on the same course then you are not eligible for a grant, for that repeat year. However, if you previously started a further education course but left prior to finishing, you may be eligible for a portion of a student grant once you have completed a repeat/equivalent period of study.



PLC Students – Approved Institutions/Courses

PLC courses are only available within the Irish State and similar courses which lead to further education awards outside of the State are not eligible for student grant funding from SUSI.

The list of approved Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses is determined by SOLAS, the Further Education & Training Authority (www.solas.ie), and these courses meet the following criteria:

- they are provided by one of 170 PLC centres;
- they are full-time and take at least one year to complete; and
- they lead to a major education and training award at Level 5 or Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications (www.nfq.ie), or equivalent.

For a list of centres (listed by county) and the approved courses available in those centres, visit www.susi.ie

Income:

- Who is included in the calculation of your income for grant purposes depends on what **class of applicant** you are, dependent or independent. Please note that applicants who apply under the incorrect class will have their applications cancelled and will need to apply again;
- Your reckonable income (income calculated for grant purposes) must fall under the specified thresholds. This income will be a factor in determining what type of funding you could receive; and
- Applications are assessed with regard to gross household income from the previous year. (See www.susi.ie for more information).

Maximum periods of grant assistance available:

- Funding is only available to students at PLC level for a certain amount of years and depends on their previous education.

Category	Level	Maximum Period of Grant Assistance
Post Leaving Certificate	Level 5 and 6	3 years maximum (1 year at level 5 and 2 years at level 6)



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Visit www.susi.ie for more information.