



2018 Call for Proposals

The purpose of this presentation is to summarise some of the information in the 2018 Call Document.

It is critical that all people involved in developing submissions for Springboard+ 2018 read the Call Document in full as a significant number of changes have been made that are dispersed throughout the document.

HEA will accept no responsibility for submissions not being approved on the basis that they do not meet the criteria as set out in the Call Document.

Overview of Changes to Springboard+ 2018

- All sectors of the economy *with a demonstrated skills shortage* are included
- All courses are open to people irrespective of their employment status
- In courses (except ICT conversion courses) where eligible applicants are a mix of all applicant categories, as outlined on the next Slide, applicant categories 1 and 2 should form a minimum of 30% of the student cohort.
- For employed participants on courses NFQ L7-9, HEA will fund 90% of the course fee with Providers collecting the remaining 10% from participants.
- Level 6 courses are free to all eligible participants

Springboard+ Target Cohorts 2018

1. Those in receipt of an eligible payment from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and the formerly self-employed.
2. People not in receipt of a payment from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection that have been out of the work environment for a number of years due to childcare or other caring obligations and have a previous history of employment but may require upskilling or reskilling to transition back to the workforce (“**Returns**”).
3. People in employment who wish to upskill or reskill to meet a specific emerging skills gap.

Returns and employed participants will be required to meet the residency requirements for Springboard+; that they must have been ordinarily resident in an EU/EEA/Swiss state for at least three of the five years preceding their entry to their course.

Restrictions regarding previous participants

1. Those who have completed a Springboard+ course within the past two years (i.e. graduated from a 2016 or 2017 Springboard+ call course) are **not eligible** to apply in 2018 (*unless the participant is seeking to progress their qualification level in the same discipline, e.g. level 7 to level 8*).
2. Participants who enrolled in more than one Springboard+ course since the inception of Springboard in 2011, and did not complete any course, are **not eligible** to apply in 2018.
3. Participants who enrolled in just one course, since the inception of Springboard+ in 2011, but did not complete, **are eligible** to apply in 2018, but will be required to meet all eligibility criteria.

HEA are exploring the possibility of including a pre screening tool on the Springboard+ website for potential applicants

Decisions on the awarding of places

HEA will expect that when providers are making decisions on the awarding of places to eligible applicants, in instances where two candidates meet the course academic admissions criteria, priority must be afforded to the unemployed / Returner applicant over those who are already in employment, in every instance.

Types of courses to be funded

1. Part-time higher education courses up to a maximum of 12 months in duration
2. One year full-time and two year part-time ICT Skills Conversion courses (NFQ Level 8)

As per 2017, two year conversion courses will not be open to those on job-seeker related payments

Where relevant, proposed Springboard+ programmes **must be** submitted to QQI for validation *in advance* of submissions to Springboard+ for funding.

Skills areas for 2018:

All sectors of the economy *with a demonstrated skills shortage* are included

However, to be considered eligible for approval, Springboard+ courses must seek to address an identified current or future skills need and include a precise labour market rationale, *which is demonstrated by clear evidence and supported by industry representatives*

Please note the following: (1)

HEA is, in particular, seeking courses that represent flexible provision, having regard to the upskilling needs of participants already in employment (evening, weekends, online etc). **This will be factored into the assessment process.**

Given the decreased level of unemployment, it is anticipated that in 2018/19 academic year demand will be greater for two-year part time ICT Conversion courses. **This will be factored into the assessment process.**

Courses being submitted for 2018 should be stand-alone programmes that upskill participants for the labour market upon completion (for example, not year 1 of a programme that takes two years, with the exception of ICT conversion)

Please note the following: (2)

Regard will be had to academic and employment outcomes of courses that ran in previous years. For a previously funded course to be re-approved it is essential the most recent academic and employment outcomes are updated on the AMS

HEA is seeking a mix of courses at different NFQ levels (6-9)

Final decisions will take into account the overall mix of courses by level, type and duration, as well as geographical spread and mode of delivery

Please note the following: (3)

All courses should

- Be flexible and innovative in the provision proposed to ensure the best possible opportunity for potential applicants to participate in Springboard+, particularly in the context of upskilling for those in employment,
- Be nationally or regionally focussed,
- Demonstrate clear evidence of engagement with enterprise/industry partners and Regional Skills Fora Managers in the development of the programme. For example, evidence of co-operation with industry on course design, guest lectures from industry, work placements etc. *Note that generic/pro forma letters of support from industry are not deemed sufficient*
- Include plans for work placements or credit-bearing projects as appropriate to the participant
- Demonstrate that there is an available supply of applicants,
- Include career guidance as part of the course delivery.

Evaluation Process

As per previous years, decisions on approval will be made by a panel of experts with industry and educational experience, supported by the HEA.

A process auditor will oversee the assessment process

Proposals will be made via Skills Direct (on line application system). HEA will notify all Providers when this system is live for 2018.

Skills Direct (online application system)

Section 1: General information (not scored)

Section 2: Course specifics (25 marks)

- course description & modules
- mode of delivery – *emphasis on flexible provision*
- target enrolment
- demonstrating a demand for the programme
- contact hours and what time classes will take place

Section 3: Links with Labour Market (40 marks)

- nature of industry collaboration (e.g. input to course, guest lecturing)
- engagement with local/regional employers and the regional skills fora
- addressing a current/future skills need
- work placement and companies committed to placements
- references/endorsements from industry representatives – *generic letters not considered sufficient*

Section 4: Supports for participants (15 marks)

- job readiness components (e.g. CV and interview prep)
- number of credits for job readiness
- student supports (e.g. induction, academic support)

Section 5: Costs and value for money (20 marks)

- cost per student per 10 ECTS credits
- regard will be had to programme costs previously approved and sectoral averages

The Skills Direct system is being finalised and the system will be operational soon. HEA will notify all Providers when it is available.

Springboard+ is co-funded under the European Social Fund Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.

This necessitates compliance with ESF financial and reporting requirements, as well as communication and publicity requirements. Any material publicising (including posters and signage) or promoting Springboard+ funded courses must explicitly acknowledge ESF co-funding and ESF logos must be incorporated into all Springboard publicity material

see www.esf.ie for details.



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Indicative Timeline for 2018

- Application deadline, 13.00pm 6th March 2018
- Providers notified of outcome, April
- Upload of course information to www.springboardcourses.ie, May
- Launch of new courses, May