

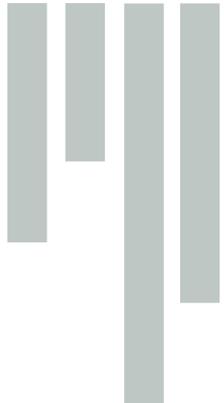
HEA

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas
The Higher Education Authority

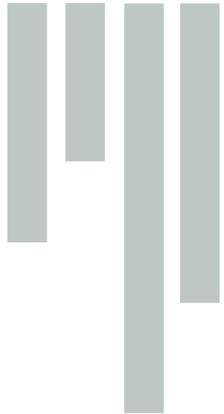
Micro- credential Learner Fee Subsidy 2026

Call for Proposals

March 2026



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Incentivising Micro-credential Learning 2026

1. Call for Micro-credential Learner Fee Subsidy Proposals

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) invites Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to submit applications for funding under the 2026 Call for Micro-credential Learner Fee Subsidy (LFS). Funding has been allocated for this Call from the National Training Fund (NTF). This is a Call which expands on the Human Capital Initiative (HCI) pilot of 2024 to incentivise registrations on micro-credentials by providing a subsidy to the learner micro-credential fee.

2. Policy Context

The HEA invites applications for subsidised micro-credentials. This Call will build on the momentum of the HCI and support micro-credentials which were developed by the HCI and other micro-credentials developed across the higher education system. It will also support learners on newly developed micro-credentials. This support will assist in increased participation in micro-credentials by reducing the fee paid by the learner by **80%**.

The LFS will complement the core state-funded education and training system and is one of several initiatives designed to meet the current and future skills needs of the Irish economy. The further development of skilled workers remains central to our ability to have a competitive economy that can attract ongoing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and the further development of our Small Medium Enterprise (SME) sector.

The LFS is embedded in national skills policy and will allocate NTF monies to address key skills needs for enterprise and the economy. The LFS 2026 programme will prioritise digital skills and objectives of the twin digital and decarbonising strategy, addressing objectives of the government as detailed in the National Skills Strategy, Climate Action Plan, Digital Ireland Strategy, and EU Objectives under the European Commission Union of Skills.

Subsidising the learners' fees across micro-credentials will:

- Raise the profile of micro-credential learning with the aim to build upon existing momentum in participation in micro-credentials. Providing subsidised places aims to raise national awareness of what a micro-credential is and the many types of micro-credentials on offer.
- Directly increase Ireland's lifelong learning participation rates. The national participation in lifelong learning is at 16% as of Q4 2024. 80% of these lifelong learners are in employment. Providing more flexible and short learning opportunities through micro-credentials will increase the number of people participating in lifelong learning.
- Offer micro-credentials at a reduced fee rate for learners.

- Deliver skills needed for enterprise with enhanced focus on high skill needs disciplines, including digital skills and sustainability skills.

3. About Micro-credentials

The LFS builds upon the HCI and other higher education innovations which are embedding flexible lifelong learning across the higher education system.

The Council of the European Union adopted a recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability on 16 June 2022 (Council of the EU, 2022). This includes 10 principles for “the design and issuance of micro-credentials” and it includes the following understanding:

“Micro-credential’ means the record of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a small volume of learning. These learning outcomes will have been assessed against transparent and clearly defined criteria. Learning experiences leading to micro-credentials are designed to provide the learner with specific knowledge, skills and competences that respond to societal, personal, cultural or labour market needs. Micro-credentials are owned by the learner, can be shared and are portable. They may be stand-alone or combined into larger credentials. They are underpinned by quality assurance following agreed standards in the relevant sector or area of activity.”

For the purposes of the 2026 LFS we will use an adapted, shorter definition:

Micro-credentials are small courses designed to meet the demands of learners, enterprise and society. Micro-credentials **award between 5 and 20 ECTS** and are aligned to **Levels 6 to 9** on National Framework of Qualifications.

Micro-credentials address the barriers to participation in lifelong learning, including time constraints for learners and inflexibility in current programme provision and delivery. The inherent flexibility in micro-credentials means that learners can access learning in discrete small units, at a time and pace which allows greater balance with both life and work commitments.

There is still work to be done to promote and incentivise learners and employers to engage with micro-credentials, and to foster a sustained culture of lifelong learning in Ireland.

The HEA invites applications from HEIs to directly benefit learners by subsidising the learner fee by 80%, to incentivise more learners to undertake micro-credentials.



An 80% subsidy will be provided to directly subsidise the learner fee for a target number of places on the approved micro-credentials. **Micro-credentials must be offered in the period from signature of award contract up to 4th December 2026.** The final number of supported places will be determined by the fees of the approved micro-credentials.

4. Application Criteria and Guidance

4.1 HEI and Course Eligibility

Only HEA-designated institutions ([Appendix VI](#)) and non-HEA designated higher education providers ([Appendix VII](#)) whose quality assurance procedures have been approved under the 2012 Act (re-engagement / QA approval processes) are eligible to apply.

Micro-credentials submitted for funding **must award between 5 and 20 ECTS** which can lead to a higher education qualification that is **aligned to the NFQ at Levels 6 to 9**, from one of the following Irish awarding bodies:

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), including combinations of modules from already validated courses leading to a major award. (**Important:** Combinations should be submitted to QQI for approval prior to or at the same time as submission to ensure adequate time for validation.)
- Institutes of Technology
- Universities
- Technological Universities
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- Mary Immaculate College

Micro-credentials should address skills needs as identified by **Ministerial needs and in national skills needs policy**.

4.2 Collaborative Micro-credentials

Collaborative micro-credentials from two or more HEIs will be considered for funding. A lead institution must, however, be clearly identified as part of the proposal and the proposal must adhere to all requirements regarding quality assurance and the making of awards. Collaborative proposals should be submitted by the **lead institution only** and not by each individual institution. **The lead institution will also be responsible for the financial management and reporting of the subsidy.**

4.3 Eligible Micro-credential Types

Micro-credential Learner Fee Subsidy funding will provide an 80% subsidy to the learner fee for:

- Higher Education micro-credentials that award **between 5 and 20 ECTS** and are aligned to **Levels 6-9** on the National Framework of Qualifications.
- Micro-credentials should fall under one of the **eligible discipline areas** (i.e. ISCED Codes), as outlined in [Appendix I](#). Micro-credentials outside of these discipline areas **may apply** for the learner fee subsidy, however **priority will be given to the Appendix I ISCED areas**.
- Proposed micro-credentials should be stand-alone courses that upskill learners for the labour market upon completion.
- Micro-credentials should also have potential for a “stackability” component to encourage learners to return and build upon the micro-credential for further qualifications.

4.4 Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Validation

For micro-credentials that are subject to QQI validation:

- LFS 2026 funding will be subject to the proposed micro-credential being validated by QQI.
- The QQI validation process and criteria for proposed LFS 2026 micro-credentials will be the same as for other kinds of courses. This is to ensure that LFS 2026 micro-credentials are of a comparable quality. Validation is typically for five years.
- **Proposed LFS 2026 micro-credentials must be submitted to QQI for validation in advance of submission to the LFS 2026 Call for Proposals.** This is to ensure adequate time for the QQI validation process to be completed. This can take up to 25 weeks. **Evidence that this process has commenced at the time of application is required ([Appendix II](#)).** Upload facility will be available on [WizeHive](#).
- Proposed micro-credentials may be marketed to learners before determination of the application for validation but following acceptance by QQI of a completed application, if it is made clear that the micro-credentials are offered subject to being validated by QQI.
- The current version of the Programme Validation Manual for Courses of HET should be used for preparing applications.

- A template form ([Appendix III](#)) has been provided to confirm that micro-credentials have been validated by QQI. Confirmation of validation must be completed and sent to the HEA by **1st October 2026 at the latest, or in advance of the micro-credential start date, should that be sooner.**
- Written evidence that the micro-credential has received QQI validation must be submitted within 10 days of receipt of same from QQI.
- LFS 2026 micro-credentials leading to QQI awards must be validated for the applicable academic year before any learners are enrolled.

Micro-credentials validated by other entities (i.e. non-QQI validation) should complete the template form in [Appendix IV](#)

4.5 Course Validation and Quality Assurance

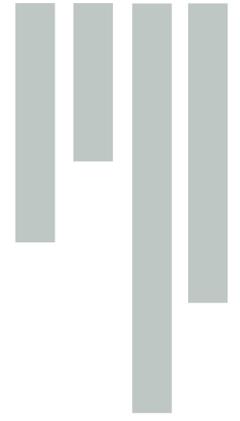
A supporting document detailing the quality assurance and /or validation status is **mandatory for all proposals**, HEIs must upload the relevant document from the list below, using the templates provided.

Category	Upload Required
HEIs awaiting validation of a micro-credential by QQI	APPENDIX II Form
HEIs with a QQI micro-credential validation covering 2026/27	APPENDIX III Form
HEIs with a non-QQI micro-credential validation covering 2026/27	APPENDIX IV Form
Universities, Technological Universities, Institutes of Technology self-validating micro-credentials	APPENDIX V Template Letter

4.6 Springboard+ Micro-credentials & LFS 2026 Funding

Micro-credentials that received funding under Springboard+ 2026 may apply for LFS 2026 funding. If a Springboard+ 2026 funded micro-credential is successful in achieving LFS 2026 funding, it must relinquish all Springboard+ funding. Micro-credentials cannot hold both Springboard+ and LFS funding at the same time.

Micro-credentials which have commenced accepting applications under the Springboard+ 2026 programme, i.e. micro-credentials which were approved to continue in 2026 and have commenced accepting applications, are **not eligible** to apply for LFS 2026 funding.



5. Eligible Learner Cohorts

5.1 Cohort Categories

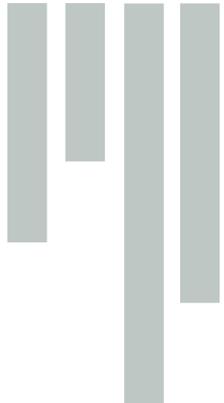
The following categories of applicant will be considered eligible for funding, subject to further guidance from the Department of Social Protection, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. Full eligibility criteria will be confirmed and communicated to successful HEIs with the Call outcomes.

TABLE 1: ELIGIBLE COHORT CATEGORIES

CATEGORY	PREVIOUS EDUCATION ATTAINMENT
Employed <i>(including Self-Employed)</i>	Individuals at all qualifications levels wishing to upskill or reskill to meet required skills needs.
Unemployed <i>(and in-receipt of a qualifying payment from the Department of Social Protection)</i>	Individuals who meet the required course education eligibility requirements; OR with a previous history of employment who already hold a higher-level qualification at NFQ Levels 6 to 9, who may require additional upskilling or reskilling to re-enter employment.
Formerly Self-Employed	Individuals at all qualifications levels who may require new qualifications to return to self-employment or to enter employment.
Returner	Individuals who already hold a NFQ award at Level 5 or 6 or equivalent, with a previous history of employment; OR with a previous history of employment who already hold a higher-level qualification at NFQ Levels 6 to 9, who may require additional upskilling or reskilling to re-enter employment.
Recent Graduate	A graduate from a full-time NFQ Level 8 degree within the 12-months prior to the start of the micro-credential course and who does not fit into one of the above categories.

5.2 Applicants to Multiple Micro-credentials

Applicants **may not enrol on more than three micro-credentials** funded in the LFS 2026 programme.



6. Micro-credential Learner Fee Subsidy Funding

6.1 Micro-credential Funding

- HEIs are required to submit the **total cost per learner** in their proposal through WizeHive.
- Funding to successful HEIs will be an **80% (of total cost) learner fee subsidy for a target number of learners** on an identified micro-credential. HEIs will source the remaining 20% fee from learners.
- Funding will be released in several tranches depending on the micro-credential duration and the numbers of learners enrolled/registered.

7. Application Process

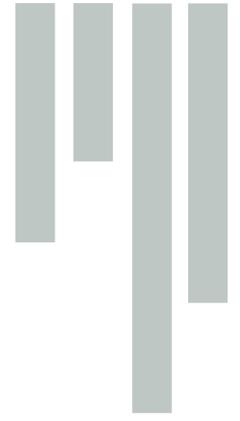
7.1 Application Portal

In previous Calls the Skills Direct platform or direct email submissions were used for the application submission process. A new platform – **WizeHive** – has been developed for the Micro-credential Learner Fee Subsidy 2026 Call and **instructions will be issued separately** on how to submit proposals using the new WizeHive platform. Support will be available, if required.

Proposals must be submitted via the **WizeHive** portal using the Micro-credential Learner Fee Subsidy online application form. **Applications via other methods will not be accepted.** The deadline for submissions is **Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 12:00 noon**. It will not be possible to submit a proposal after this time.

7.2 Considerations in Advance of Applying

- **Maximum Number of Applications:** There is a limited budget and we expect a highly competitive Call. As such, a **maximum of 20 proposals is allowed** for most HEIs. **Technological Universities can submit a maximum of 35 proposals**, given their significant multi-campus/region nature. HEIs are asked to be cognisant of the number of successful proposals from previous years when considering how many proposals to submit. When assigning a ranking of proposals please ensure a mix of skills and levels. **The single ‘Ranked List of Proposals’ must include all micro-credential proposals submitted through the WizeHive portal.** Technological Universities should include the campus location in micro-credential titles.
- **Ranking Applications:** Applications must be assigned a rank based on the HEI’s priority for funding of micro-credentials (i.e. you should rank the proposal you most want funded as #1 and so on). **If a micro-credential proposal does not meet the eligibility requirements, it will not be considered, regardless of its ranking.**



The final agreed Ranked List of Proposals **must** be signed off by the HEI's **President/CEO or Vice President/Registrar**.

The final signed off Ranked List of Proposals must be submitted to hci@hea.ie no later than 12.00 noon, Tuesday 14th April 2026

Course applications should:

Be nationally and/or regionally focused.

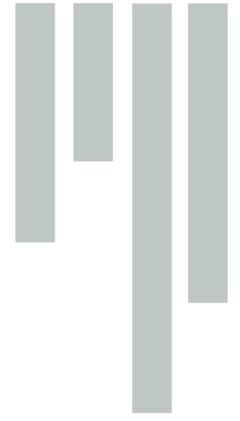
Demonstrate clear evidence of engagement with enterprise / industry partners.

Identify target cohorts for the course.

8. Assessment Process

The HEA will consider the list of micro-credentials proposed for funding with consideration of the application eligibility criteria and available budget. It is important to note that funding may not be available to fund all proposed eligible applications. Funding will be awarded based on the following assessment criteria:

- a. HEI application ranking.
- b. The Minister may require prioritisation of certain eligible discipline areas post the submission of proposals, where specific interventions are required to meet government policy commitments.
- c. NFQ level (a mix of levels is required to meet applicant cohort needs).
- d. Geographical spread (required to meet national and regional needs). CSO and the National Skills Bulletin will be taken into consideration under this heading.
- e. Enterprise needs, has there been enterprise engagement in the development of this micro-credential and a clear indication of the enterprise demand?
- f. Assessment of cost. Does the proposed cost represent good value for money?
- g. Available budget and relevance to regional and national skills needs.



It should be further noted that those proposals that are awarded funding are not guaranteed to receive the number of places they requested.

Proposals that do not receive funding from the available budget will be placed on a reserve list, should additional funding become available.

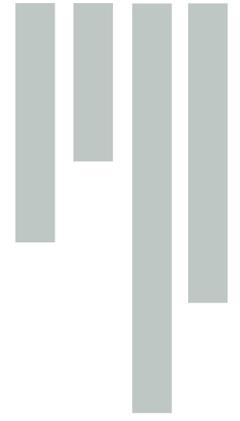
9. Reporting Process

All HEIs funded through LFS 2026 will be required to use **the Springboard+ Application Management System (AMS)** to manage micro-credential information, applications, and place offers, as well as return relevant data. The AMS is accessible to registered HEI users via www.springboardcourses.ie

10. Call Timeline

Pre-Call invite to briefing session	13 th March 2026
Call Launch	Friday 20 th March 2026
Online Briefing session	Thursday 26 th March 2026
Application Portal Opens	12:00 noon 26 th March 2026
Application Portal Closes	12.00 noon 14 th April 2026
Call Outcomes	May 2026
Courses Commence	May – December 2026

It is planned that notification of approved micro-credentials will be sent to HEIs in May. Contracts will be agreed between project leaders and the HEA, and subsidised places can be offered to learners.



11. Regulatory Information

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) makes this document available to HEIs who wish to submit proposal(s) for higher education micro-credentials as part of the Micro-credential LFS 2026 Call for Proposals. The document must not be used for any other purpose. The Micro-credential LFS 2026 is managed by the HEA on behalf of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

The HEA has taken all reasonable care to ensure that the information set out in this Call for Proposals is true and accurate in all material respects as at the time of publication. However, no warranty or representation is given as to the accuracy or completeness of this material. The HEA does not accept any liability or responsibility for the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of the information set out herein.

The HEA will not be liable or responsible for any opinion, statement, or conclusion contained in, or any omission from this document, or for any other written or oral communication made available during the Call process. No representation or warranty is made in respect of such statements, opinions, or conclusions.

The HEA reserves the right to amend this document and any information contained herein at any time by notice in writing to the applicants.

None of the information set out herein will constitute a contract, or part of a contract, or an offer to enter a contract, between the HEA and any HEI. Nothing in this document is, nor shall be relied upon, as a promise or representation as to the HEA's ultimate decision in relation to the award of the contract for the services.

However, the HEA reserves the right to take such steps as it considers appropriate, including but not limited to: changing the basis of, or the procedures (including the timetable) relating to, the Call process; rejecting any, or all, of the proposals; abandoning the competition (or any part of it) at any time prior to a formal written contract being executed by and on behalf of the HEA; procuring the services by alternative means if it appears that the services can be more advantageously procured.

No legal relationship or other obligation shall arise between any applicant and the HEA unless and until a contract has been entered into.

Each applicant's acceptance of delivery of the Call for Proposals constitutes its agreement to, and acceptance of, its terms.

Under no circumstances will the HEA be liable for any costs, charges or expenses incurred by applicants because of participating in this Call process, however caused. Any costs associated with the submission of a proposal are the sole responsibility of the applicant and will not be reimbursed.

11.1 Statutory Requirements

All HEIs making a proposal(s) for micro-credentials to be supported via the Micro-credential LFS 2026 must confirm compliance with statutory requirements regarding their financial and legal status and be prepared to furnish any additional supporting documents as requested by the HEA.



The HEA reserves the right to exclude applicants on the basis that the supporting documents are considered inadequate.

11.2 GDPR

The Micro-credential LFS 2026 is financed by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. Any applicant data processed as part of Micro-credential LFS 2026 is subject to the HEA Springboard+ Privacy Statement which is available at [HEA Springboard+](#)

11.3 Freedom of Information

Information held by the HEA on the Micro-credential LFS 2026 will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act), which was passed into law in October 2014 and repealed the 1997 and 2003 Acts. The Act has applied to the HEA since the 1 October 2001. Policies and procedures on access to information is set out in the following link: <http://www.heai.ie/en/freedom-of-information>

The HEA Data Privacy Notice is available at https://heai.ie/about-us/data_protection/

11.4 Audits

The Micro-credential LFS 2026 is funded through the National Training Fund.

Please note that all approved HEIs are subject to audit by the HEA and other national bodies (including the DFHERIS, and their designated auditors). These audits may comprise financial and/or communication and publicity elements. Checks may also be carried out on material retained as part of learner's eligibility for courses. It is imperative that all application material is retained by HEIs.

Proposals must be submitted through the WizeHive portal. Applications via other methods will not be accepted. The deadline for submissions is **Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 12:00 noon. It will not be possible to submit a proposal after this time.**



Appendix I:

Eligible Discipline Areas (ISCED Codes)

0211 Audio-visual techniques and media production

Audio Visual, Media, Animation, Games Development

0212 Fashion, interior and industrial design

Need for design skills - product design, design innovation, creative design

0231 Language Acquisition

Languages for sales and customer services

0313 Psychology

Buyer behaviour, smart leadership

0410 Business and administration not further defined

Stock Management, Quality Management, Supervisory Practice, Payroll, E commerce, Supervisory Practice

0412 Finance, banking and insurance

Data Analytics Financial, Fintech, Regulation, Compliance and Risk, International Fund admin, Insurance, Data Governance, Lineage & Architecture, Asset Management, Investment Funds & Securities Services, Insurance and Reinsurance, Wholesale Capital Markets, International Banking, Fintech & Payments, Aircraft Leasing & Finance, Creative Arts Management, Anti Money Laundering, Data Visualisation, Data Analytics for Users

0413 Management and Administration

Business internationalisation, Business management, Lean fundamentals, International Trade and customs, Leadership, Supervisory Management, Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Creativity, Design thinking, Strategic Planning, Human Resource Management, Change Management, Business Process Optimisation

0414 Marketing and Advertising

Marketing in a digital world, Virtual Selling, Selling Strategies, Digital marketing for SMEs

0417 Workskills

Resilience skills, Inclusion and diversity, Critical Creative thinking, Entrepreneurship, Transversal, Workforce Development, Talent Management, Coaching, Wellness

0419 Business and administration not elsewhere classified

HR Management, Talent Development

0421 Law

Company Law, Corporate Administration, Corporate Secretarial

0488 Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving business, administration and law

Procurement, Purchasing Tendering, Customer Experience

0511 Biology

Cell culture, Analytical Microbiology

0512 Biochemistry

Pharmaceutical Technology, Biopharmaceutical Analysis, Validation, Sterilisation Therapy, Chromatographic techniques, Advanced Spectroscopy

0519 Biological and related sciences not elsewhere classified

International Regulatory affairs, Good Manufacturing Practice, Quality Management
Biopharma/Pharma

0521 Environmental Sciences

Sustainability, Biocircular economy, Climate Change, Energy sustainability, Business sustainability, Introductory ESG for corporates/directors/board members, Applied Renewables for qualified trades/engineers, Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Policy including CSRD Reporting

0531 Chemistry

Analytical Science, Drug formulation, Advanced Materials, Industrial instrumentation, Calibration and advanced PLC

0542 Statistics

Statistics

0588 Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving natural sciences, maths and stats

Data Analytics, Business Information Systems, Validation & CSV, Data Analytics for Non-Data Analysts

0610 Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) not further defined

Information System Design / Interactive Design

0612 Database and network design and administration

Big data, Data Science, Data analytics, Networking systems, Maintenance Systems, Service Design

0613 Software and applications development and analysis

Cloud Technologies, Software Development Technologies, Mobile Technology, Programming, Software Engineers, AI for Software Engineers, Automated Software Testing, Machine Learning

0619 Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) not elsewhere classified

ICT Systems, Business Systems, Cybersecurity, Digital Forensics, Dev Ops, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence, Applicability of AI in an industry/enterprise setting

0688 Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

Product Management for Product Owners, Twin Transition, Digitalisation

0700 Engineering, manufacturing and construction not further defined
Good Manufacturing Practice, Process Safety, Lean systems and New Product Design- move
0710 Engineering and engineering trades not further defined
Building Services Engineering, Fire Engineering
0711 Chemical engineering and processes
Chemical Process Engineering Technologies
0712 Environmental protection technology
Water and Waste Water Management, Renewable Offshore Wind Energy
0713 Electricity and energy
High and Medium Voltage Electrical Engineering, Renewable Energy, Industrial Electricity, Sustainable Energy Engineering
0714 Electronics and automation
Industry 4.0/5.0, Automation Engineering, Advanced PLCs, Automation and Control, Autonomous Vehicles, Robotics, Mechatronics, Fundamentals of AI, Blockchain
0715 Mechanics and metal trades
Manufacturing Engineering
0716 Motor vehicles, ships and aircraft
Aviation, Leasing
0719 Engineering and engineering trades not elsewhere classified
Estimating for Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Quality Engineering, Polymer processing
0720 Manufacturing and processing not further defined
Lean and Sigma, Introduction to best manufacturing Practice, Smart Manufacturing IOT, Production Management for all types of Manufacturing, Quality Technician for Medtech
0721 Food processing
Food Safety, Food Hygiene, Food Science, Food Manufacturing, Food Innovation/ Entrepreneurship, New Product Development
0723 Textiles (clothes, footwear and Leather)
Textile Manufacturing
0729 Manufacturing and processing not elsewhere classified
Process optimisation & LEAN – people, process technology
0732 Building and civil engineering
Construction Site Management, Computer Aided Design CAD, Building Information Modelling BIM incl MEP Applications, NEAR Zero Energy Buildings NZEB, Retrofitting, Utilities Design, Modern Methods of Construction, Construction/Sustainable Built Environment
0788 Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving engineering, Manufacturing and construction
ESG for Management, renewables as add on for engineers/trades

0799 Engineering, manufacturing and construction not elsewhere classified

0819 Agriculture not further defined or elsewhere classified

0821 Forestry

Professional forester

0914 Medical diagnostic and treatment technology

Medical Technology, Medical Device Design, Product Design

0916 Pharmacy

Pharmacy Technician

0919 Health not elsewhere classified

Health informatics, Innovation, Interaction Design, Service Design

1013 Hotel, restaurants and catering

Culinary Skills/Arts, Chef, Revenue Management, Hotel Management

1015 Travel, tourism and leisure

Destination Leadership, Tourism and Travel

1022 Occupational health and safety

Occupation and Process health and Safety

1041 Transport services

Logistics, Supply chain, Transport Management, Freight Forwarding, Customs and Global Trade
(Incl Brexit)



Appendix II: QQI Course Validation Submission

Confirmation that micro-credentials have been submitted to QQI for validation prior to Micro-credential Learner Fee Subsidy 2026 application.

Micro-credential Name	
Higher Education Institute	
Course Leader	
NFQ Level	
ECTS Credits	
Duration of Micro-credential	
Date submitted for QQI approval	
Duration of approval requested	

Higher Education Institute sign off

Name:

Position:

Signature:



Appendix III: QOI Confirmation of Validation

Quality and Qualifications Ireland

Certification of Micro-credential Approval Micro-credential Learner Subsidy Fee 2026

Micro-credential Name	
Higher Education Institute	
Course Leader	
NFQ Level	
ECTS Credits	
Duration of Micro-credential	
Duration of Approval	
Approval Granted By	
Date Granted	

QOI Verification

Name:

Position:

Signature:



Appendix IV: Non-QQI Confirmation of Validation

Complete this form if micro-credential is validated by an awarding body other than QQI and your institution's quality assurance procedures have been approved under the 2012 Act (re-engagement / QA approval processes).

Name of Validating Body: _____

Certification of Micro-credential Approval Micro-credential Learner Subsidy Fee 2026

Micro-credential Name	
Higher Education Institute	
Course Leader	
NFQ Level	
ECTS Credits	
Duration of Micro-credential	
Duration of Approval	
Approval Granted By	
Date Granted	

Verification from Validating Body

Name: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____



Appendix V:

HEA Designated HEIs Confirmation of Validation /Quality Assurance, Template Letter

We confirm that the following micro-credentials have been validated **or** have undergone quality assurance assessment through the institution's internal processes, as a Designated Awarding Body.

[INSERT LIST OF MICRO-CREDENTIALS BEING SUBMITTED UNDER THE LFS 2026 CALL]

For new micro-credentials, insert expected date that validation or quality assurance will take place.

Higher Education Institute sign off

Name:

Position:

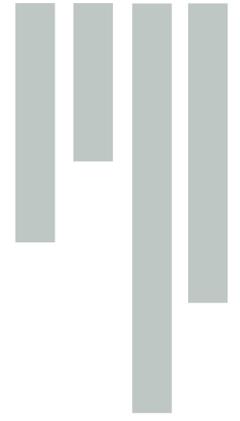
Signature:



Appendix VI:

Eligible HEA-Designated Institutions

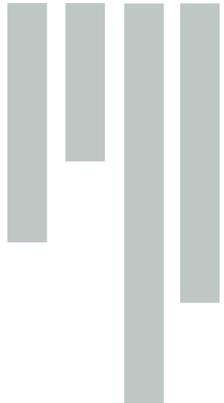
- Atlantic Technological University
- Dublin City University
- Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art and Design
- Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Mary Immaculate College
- Maynooth University
- Munster Technological University
- National College of Art & Design
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- South East Technological University
- St Angela's College
- Technological University Dublin
- Technological University of the Shannon
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Cork
- University College Dublin
- University of Galway
- University of Limerick



Appendix VII:

Non-HEA Designated Eligible Higher Education Providers (Eligible for LFS 2026 Funding)

- American College Dublin
- Bridge Mills Galway Language Centre
- Carlow College, St Patricks
- CCT College Dublin
- Chevron College
- Children's Therapy Centre Limited
- City Education Group
- City of Dublin Education and Training Board
- Clanwilliam Institute
- Consortium of Centres for Nursing and Midwifery Education (CCNME) (HSE)
- Dorset College
- Dublin Business School
- Dublin International Study Centre
- Gaelchultúr Teoranta
- Galway Business School
- Griffith College
- Hibernia College
- Holmes Institute Ireland Limited
- IBAT College
- ICD Business School
- ICEP Europe
- IICP Education and Training Limited
- Independent Colleges
- Innopharma Education
- International College for Personal and Professional Development
- International School of Business
- Irish College of Humanities and Applied Sciences Limited
- Irish Payroll Association
- Microsoft Ireland Operations Limited
- National College of Ireland
- Microsoft Ireland
- PCI College
- Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
- Setanta College
- Sport Ireland
- SQT Training Limited
- Teagasc
- The Open Training College



Appendix VIII: Indicative WiseHive Application Questions

Section 1: Micro-credential Funding Proposal

- **Course Provider** (only HEIs listed in Appendix VI and VII will be able to apply)
- **Course Title** (must match Course Title on Ranked List of Proposals)
- **NFQ Level**
- **Skills Category**
- **ECTS Credits**
- **ISCED Code**
- **Region**
- **Duration in Weeks**
- **Target Enrolment**
- **Mode(s) of Delivery**
- **Does this course lead to an award**
 - [If “Yes” -> Award Type]
- **Is this course validated / QA approved**
- **Awarding Body**
- **Validation / QA Evidence Document Upload** (see Appendices II-V)
- **Can this course be “stacked” into an award**
- **Is this a new course for 2026/27 or an existing course**
- **Have you engaged with enterprise in the development of this course**
- **Confirm:**
 - **RPL policy in place**
 - **Proposal included on Ranked List of Proposals**
- **Course Description (max 500 words)**

Please ensure this section addresses the following:

 - Clearly identify how the course will facilitate participants to obtain labour market relevant skills
 - How have you engaged with enterprise in the development of this course?
 - Please provide evidence of demographic demand at a regional and national level, sufficient to run this course successfully.
 - Please reference any specific target cohorts identified.
 - If course is transversal, please briefly describe range of skills areas.

- **Confirm that course intakes will start no later than 4th December 2026**
- **Intakes (if applicable)**
 - Campus
 - Intake Description
- **Confirm if this is a consortium proposal**
- Course Coordinator / Contact
 - First Name
 - Surname
 - Email
 - Phone

Section 2: Course Costs

- Total Cost per Learner (**100% cost; successful learners will receive 80% of the cost entered here**)
- Target Enrolment
- ECTS Credits

[Note: Estimated Subsidy Value will be 80% of Cost per Learner x Target Enrolment]

Section 3: Other Mandatory Information

- **Confirm:**
 - **Course funded under HCI Pillar 3 Micro-credential Learner Fee Subsidy**
 - **Course funded under Springboard+**
- Detail how the course will address the targets set out in the National Climate Action Plan, Digital Ireland: National Digital & AI Strategy 2030, or other relevant national policies (**max 250 words**)

Any questions above in **bold blue font** contain dropdown responses or checkboxes on the WizeHive application form