



# TRANSFORMING TERTIARY EDUCATION

NTO

Nurturing Talent and Opportunities

 **National** Tertiary Office  
Oifig Thrasachta **Náisiúnta**



# Policy Context

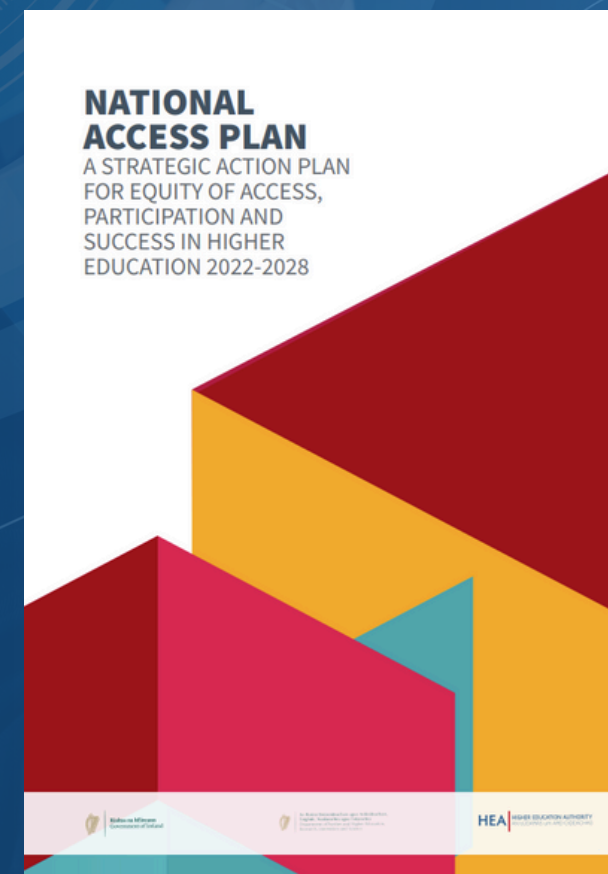
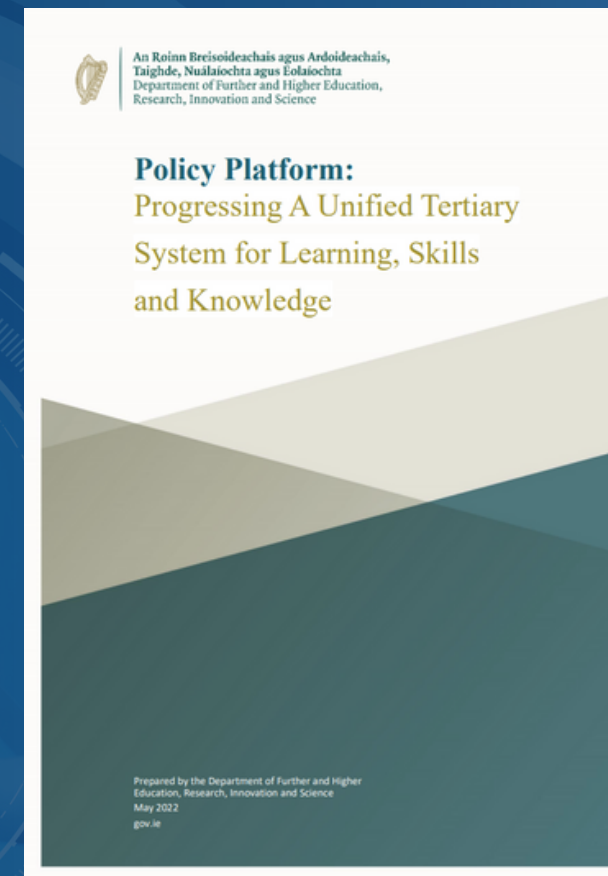
 **National Tertiary Office**  
**Oifig Thrasachta Náisiúnta**

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Transitioning pathways from Further Education to Higher Education

**HEA** | HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY  
AN tÚDARÁS um ARDOIDEACHAS

**SOLAS**  
learning works





# National Tertiary Office

The NTO facilitates thematic engagement between Education and Training Boards (ETB) and Higher Education Institutions (HEI), to underpin the development process of tertiary degrees.

The tertiary degree pathway is developed by ETB FET colleges and HEIs, working in partnership and with the NTO and profession regulator/s.

The final Bachelor or Bachelor (Hons) awards are awarded by the HEI.





# Key Drivers & Priorities

1

Progressing a More Unified Tertiary System for Learning, Skills and Knowledge.

2

Inclusive education promoting widening of access and diversification of learners.

3

Focusing on acknowledging the applicant's full talent and potential looking beyond the points and grades.

4

Promoting flexibility and lifelong learning pathways.





# WHAT is a Tertiary Degree?



A tertiary degree is one that commences in an Education and Training Board (ETB) and continues in a Higher Education Institution (HEI), culminating in the award of a degree that supports strategic and inter-disciplinary collaboration and specialisms that meet local/regional skills need.

Courses agreed by NTO for inclusion will support the diversification of professions, have a geographical need and meet a recognised skill need for that area.





# Tertiary Degree Features

Guaranteed and seamless transition.

Co-developed by ETB and HEI with input from Regulatory body and NTO.

Same quality of learning and pedagogy.

Entry requirements are not based on points system.

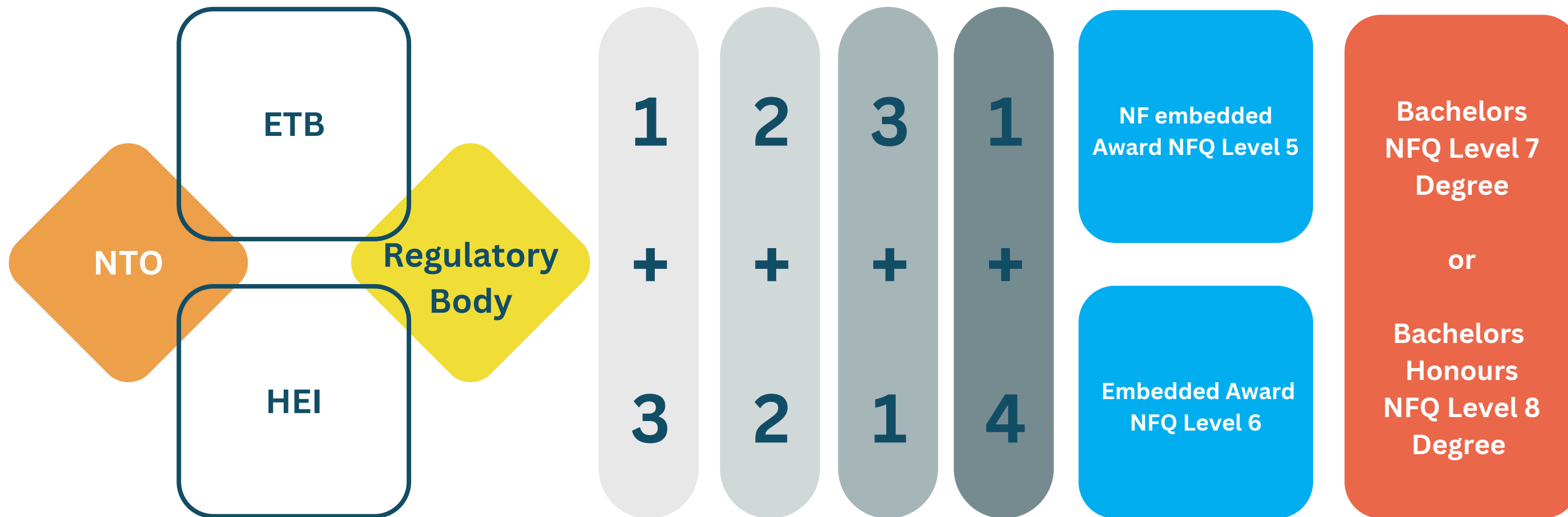
Embedded Awards.

Learner financial, academic and wellbeing supports





# Tertiary Degree Model



- Integration of theory and practice through further education, university and placement-based learning.
- Competencies and learning outcomes aligned to ensure that required by a regulator proficiencies are achieved.
- Same quality and vocational pedagogy
- Same Quality of the final award

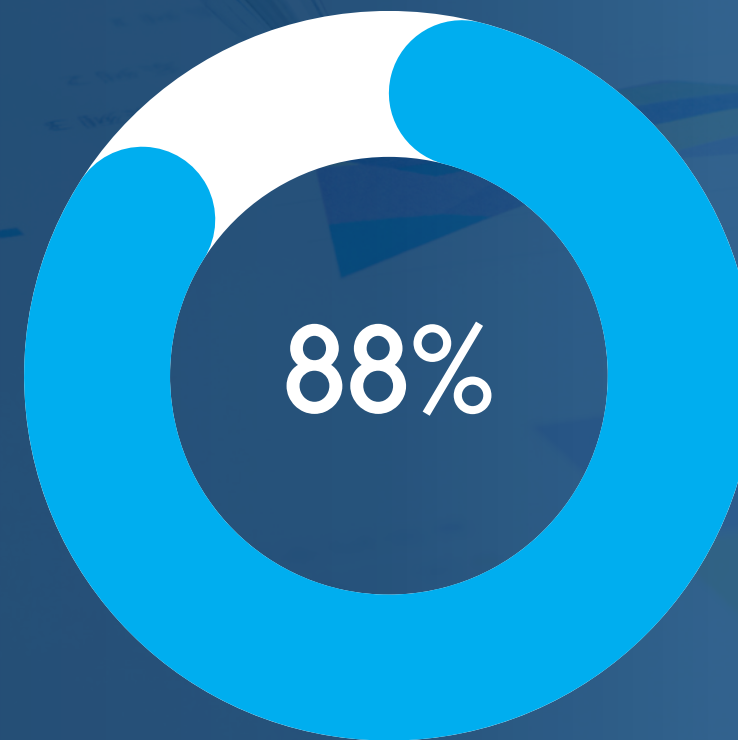


# Tertiary Degrees 2023-2024

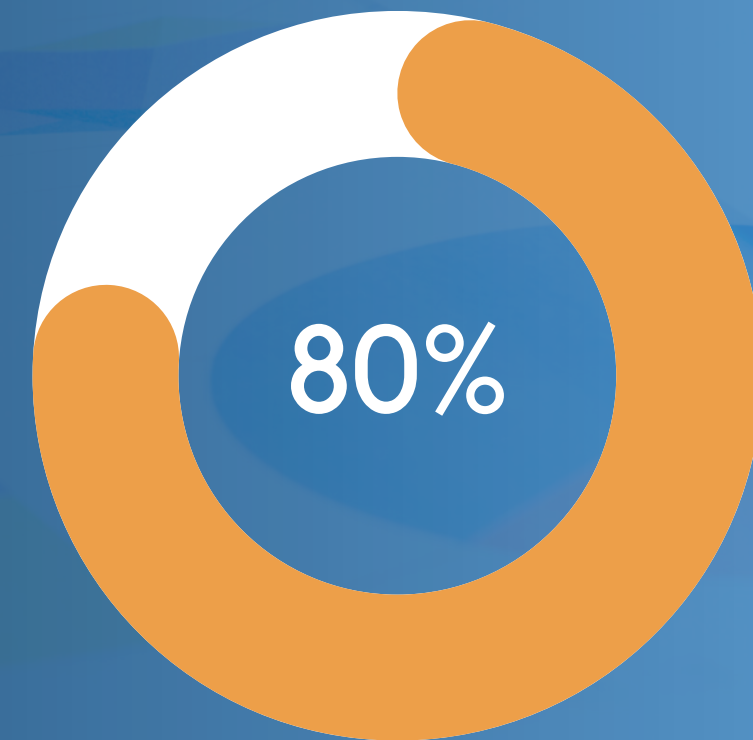
- FET partners - 14 Education and Training Boards across 19 locations
- HE Partners - 11 Higher Education Institutions across 14 Campuses
- 13 Degree Programmes



2023 INTAKE



COMPLETED YEAR 1



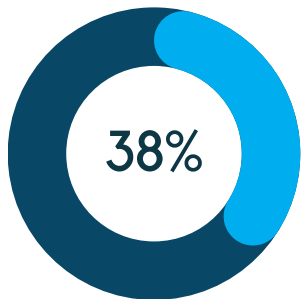
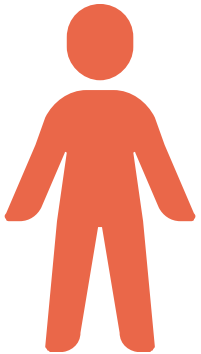
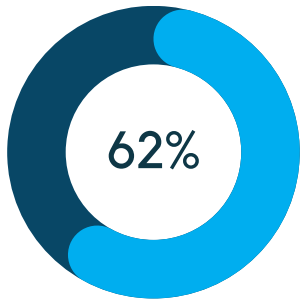
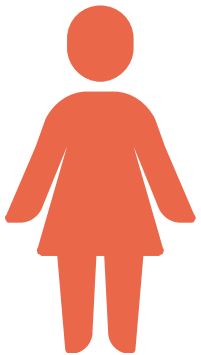
PROGRESSED TO YEAR 2



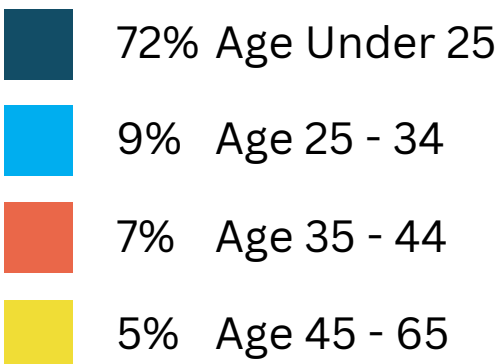
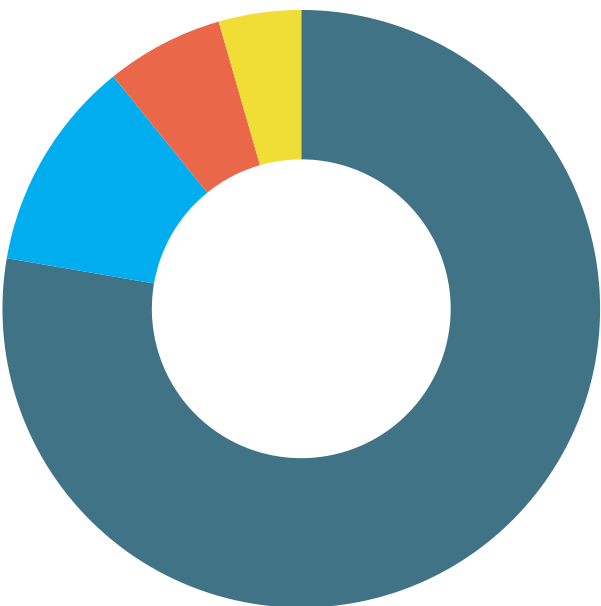
# National Tertiary Student Profile

2023 - 2024

## Gender



## Age



## Country of Origin



Ireland



48%

Ukraine



6%

EU Countries



7%

Non EU Countries



8%

Other



12%

Not reported



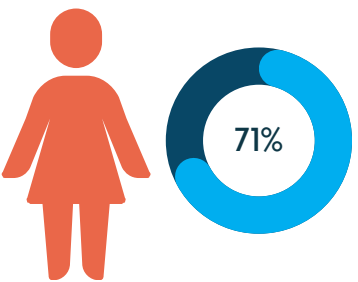
19%



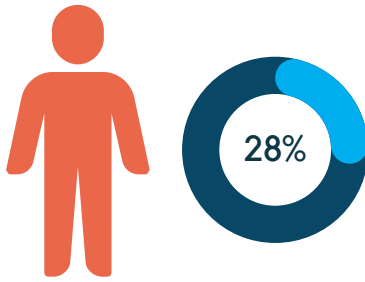
# National Tertiary Student Profile

2024 - 2025

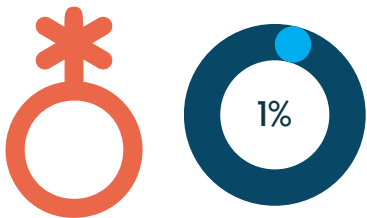
## Gender



Female



Male



Non-binary

## Country of Origin



Ireland



Ukraine



EU Countries



Britan



Other



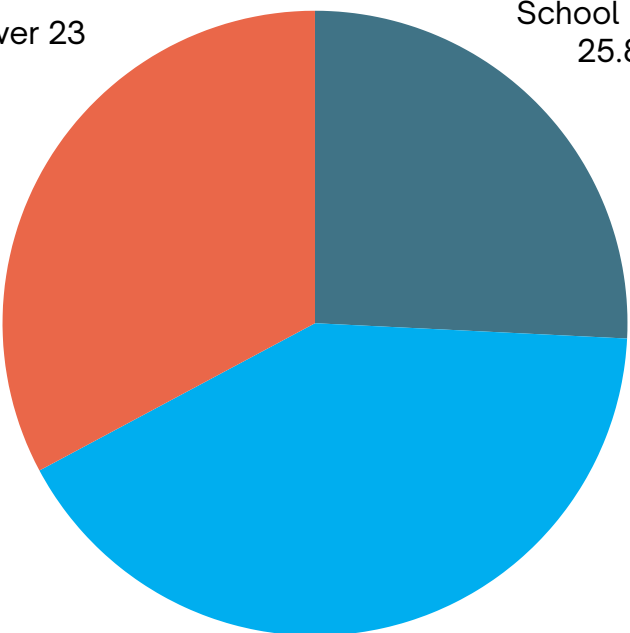
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## Age



Adult Learner/Student over 23  
32.8%



Young Adult 19-23  
41.4%

School Leaver  
25.8%



# Tertiary Degrees 2024-2025

- 19 Degree Programmes
- 68% increase in Student Numbers
- New HEI partners
- New ETB Partners



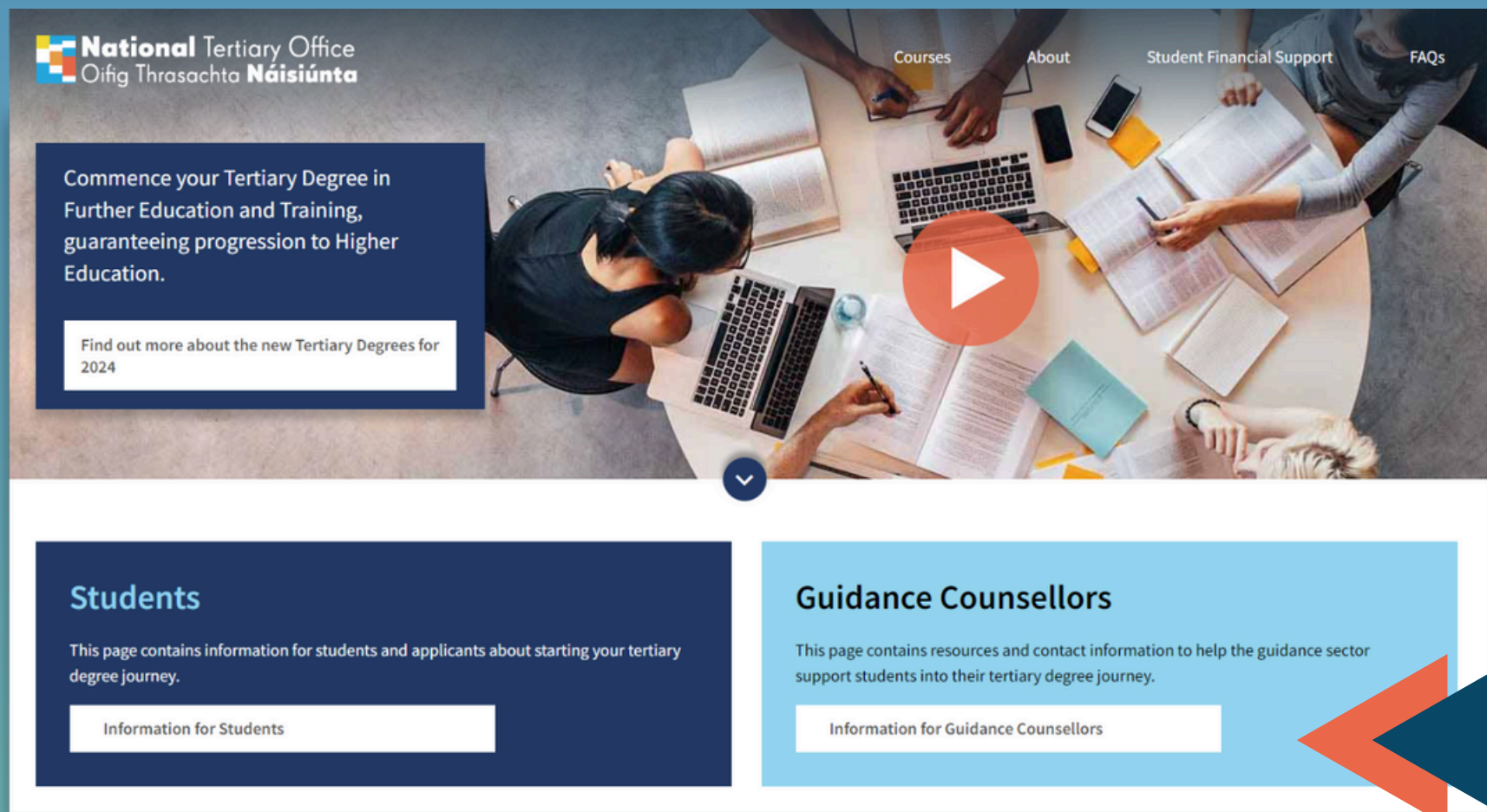
+68%

New Tertiary Degrees are offered in:

- Mental Health Nursing
- Social Work
- Tourism and Hospitality
- Public Health
- Mobile and web computing



# Tertiary Guidance Toolkit



<https://nto.hea.ie/information-for-guidance-counsellors/>

TRADITIONAL  
DEGREE  
ROUTE

TERTIARY  
DEGREE  
ROUTE

Closing date

Applications open until Mid September

Embedded Awards

No tuition or student contribution fees during study years in ETB

No limit on choices

No fee to apply

Points

No Points

Fees

Local

Dual student card

Smaller class groups

HEI Bursaries

Dual support and services: libraries, sports, academic, health and wellbeing supports

Accommodation

Higher Education SUSI grant

Access to both campuses



# Tertiary Guidance Toolkit

## NTO Brochure



## Application Timeline



## NTO Flier



## Applicant Guidelines



## Guidance Presentaiton



## Information Video





# How to Apply:

## Courses | National Tertiary Office

You are here: [Home](#) / [Courses](#) ↓

### Courses

Tertiary Degrees are co-designed and co-delivered by the Education and Training Boards and Higher Education Institutions to provide seamless pathways from Further Education to Higher Education.

I want to study



Province



Search by keyword

Find your course

Search

Apply



# Tertiary Degrees 2025

## PRIMARY TEACHER TRAINING TERTIARY PATHWAY +

- Opens opportunity to diversify the profession.
- Collaborative development by ETBI and HEIs in partnership with NTO, DoE, DFHERIS and Teaching Council.
- Removing existing structural barriers to access the degree.
- Ensuring that high standard of ITE continue to be delivered.

## HSE TERTIARY PATHWAY – NURSING AND WIDER HEALTHCARE

- Working with HSE on supporting resourcing in the priority areas.
- Building pathway for progression with access to employment at different points of a learner journey.
- Assist with addressing retention issues.

## OTHER AREAS OF PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT

- Immersive Software Engineering
- Sport
- Business and psychology
- Technical Theater
- Dance
- *Other*



# Proposed Tertiary Degrees 2025

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business & Psychology
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Politics, Society and Media
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Creative Media Production +
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Digital Arts / Creative Media
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in ICT Support Specialist (Working Title)
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Care Work
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Animation
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Costume & Makeup
- Bachelor of Science in Network and Systems Administration
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Process Technology
- Bachelor of Arts in Visual Communications and Design
- Bachelor of Education (Honours) in Primary Teaching
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Dietetics
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Mental Health Nursing
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Occupational Therapy
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Intellectual Disability Nursing
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in General Nursing
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Radiography





# TERTIARY CONVENTION



**22 OCTOBER 2024**  
**HOGAN STAND MEZZANINE**  
**CROKE PARK**









## Contacts:

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**Twitter:** @NTOIreland

**Instagram:** ntoireland



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