



TRANSFORMING TERTIARY EDUCATION

NTO

Nurturing Talent and Opportunities

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

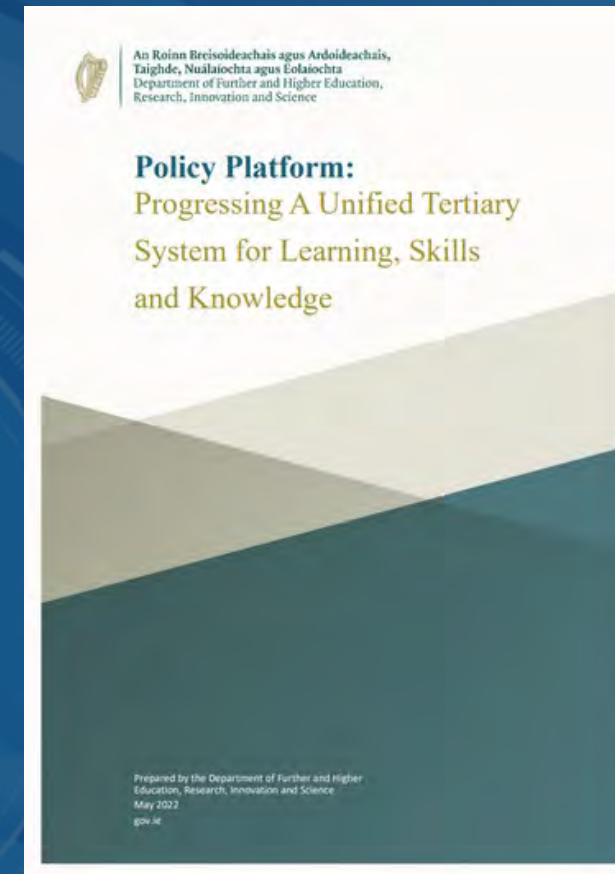
Transitioning pathways from Further
Education to Higher Education

HEA

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas
The Higher Education Authority

SOLAS
learning works

Policy Context



 **National Tertiary Office**
Oifig Thrasachta Náisiúnta

Transitioning pathways from Further Education to Higher Education

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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 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

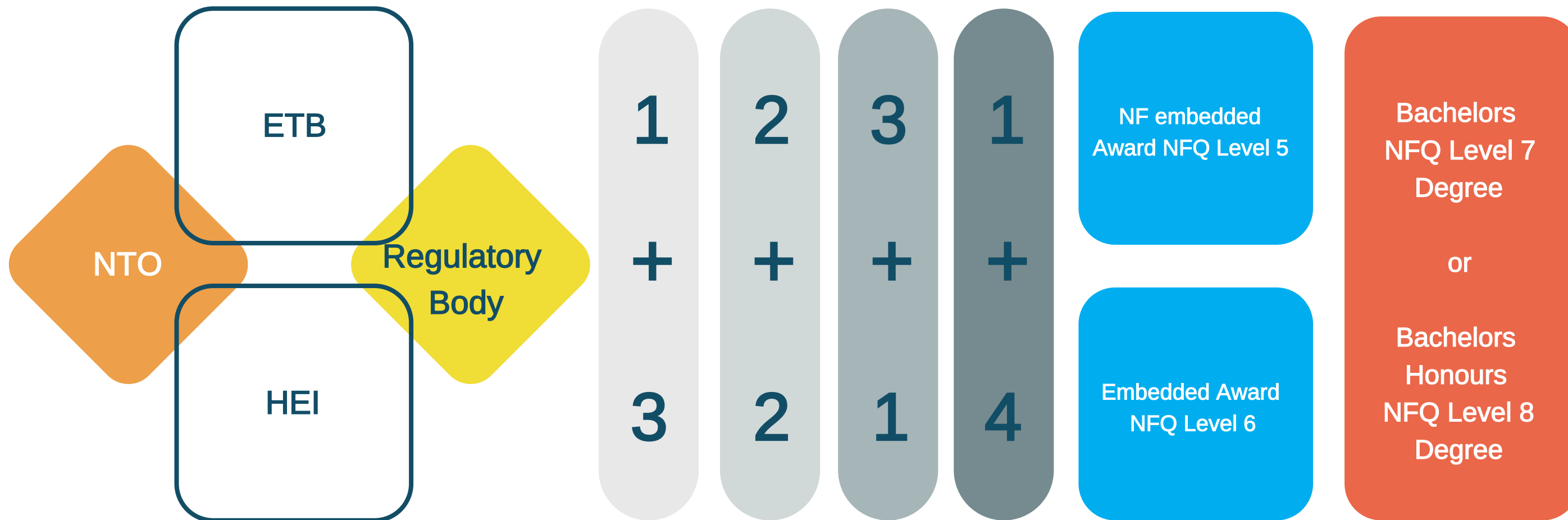
Entry requirements are not
based on points system

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 proficiencies required by a regulator are achieved.

- Same quality and vocational pedagogy
- Same quality of the final award

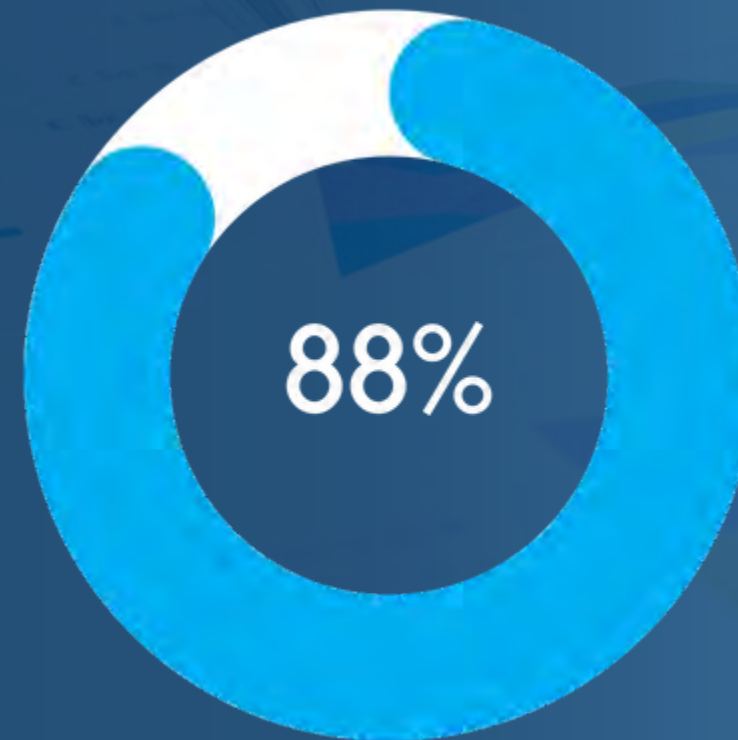
Tertiary Degrees

2023 -2024

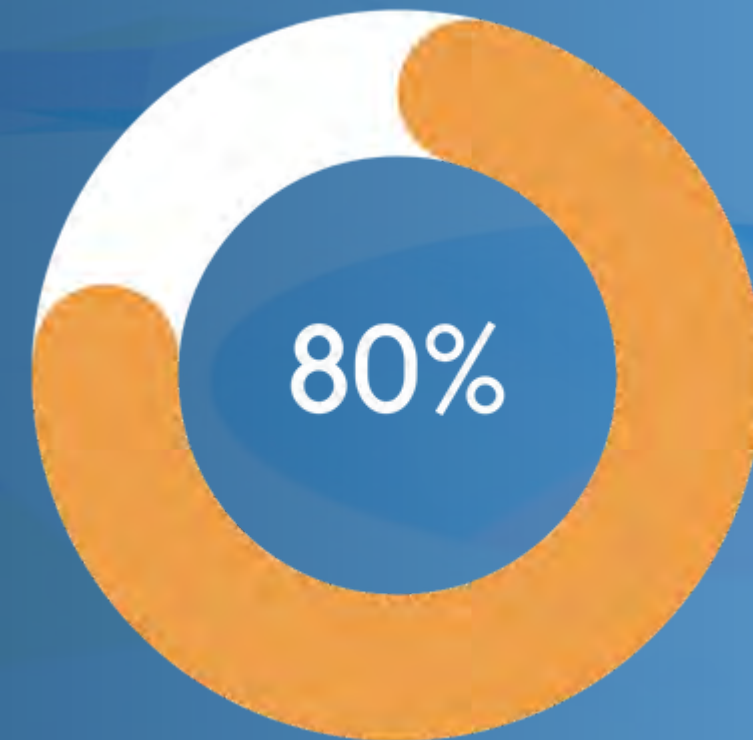
- FET partners - 14 Education and Training Boards across 19 locations
- HE Partners - 11 Higher Education Institutions across 14 Campuses
- 13 Degree Programmes



2023 INTAKE



COMPLETED YEAR 1



PROGRESSED TO YEAR 2

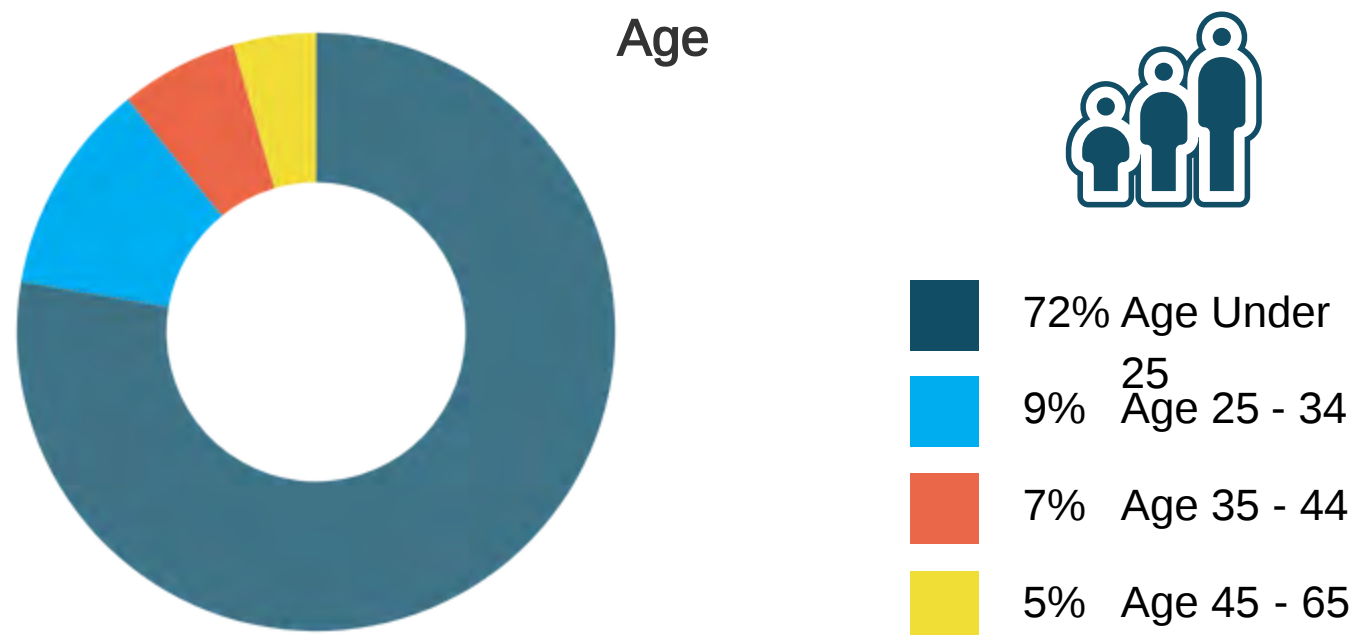
National Tertiary Student Profile

2023 - 2024

Gender



Age



Country of Origin



Ireland 48%

Ukraine 6%

EU Countries 7%

Non EU Countries 8%

Other 12%

Not reported 19%

Tertiary Degrees

2024 -2025

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



+68%

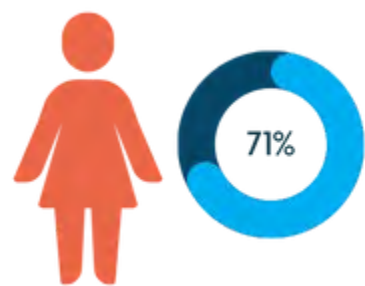
New Tertiary Degrees are offered in:

- Mental Health Nursing
- Social Work
- Tourism and Hospitality
- Public Health
- Mobile and Web Computing

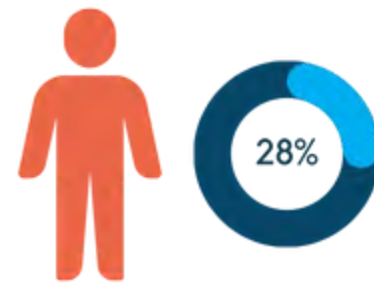
National Tertiary Student Profile

2024 - 2025

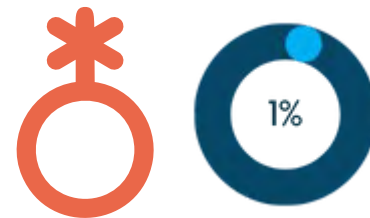
Gender



Female



Male



Non-binary

Country of Origin



Ireland



84%

Ukraine



2%

EU Countries



1%

Britain



2%

Other



5%

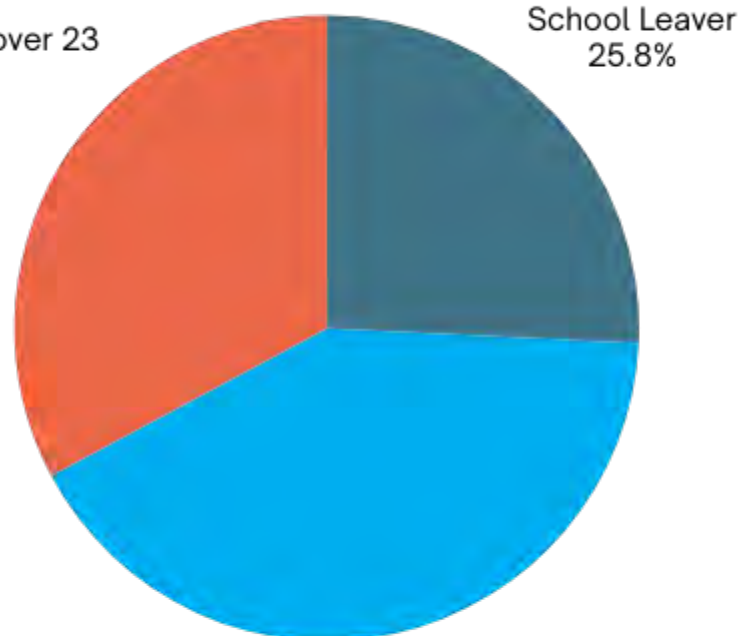
Not reported



6%

Age

Adult Learner/Student over 23
32.8%



Young Adult 19-23
41.4%

School Leaver
25.8%



Tertiary Degrees 2025

Art and Media

- BSc(Hons) Digital Arts
- BA (Hons) Immersive Media Production
- BSc(Hons) Software Development
- BA (Hons) Digital and Business Skills
- BA (Hons) Animation, Visual Effects & Motion Design

IT & Technology

- BSc(Hons) in Information Technology Management
- BSc(Hons) in Mobile & Web Computing
- BSc(Hons) in Software Development
- BScin Process Manufacturing Practice & Technology

Health

- BSc(Hons) in General Nursing
- BSc(Hons) in Mental Health Nursing
- Bachelor of Social Work (Hons)
- BSc(Hons) in Occupational Therapy
- BScin Applied Health Care
- BSc(Hons) in Public Health and Health Promotion
- BSc(Hons) Intellectual Disability Nursing
- BA (Hons) Social Care Practice

Other

- BBs in Tourism and Hospitality Services
- Bachelor in Business (Hons); Bachelor of Business; BB (Hons) in Business
- BA (Hons) in Business Studies with Beauty and Spa Management
- BSc(Hons) Applied Sports Science
- BBs (Hons) Business and Psychology
- BA (Hons) Politics, Society and Media

**Availability of all courses is subject to approval and validation*

Tertiary Degrees

2026

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.

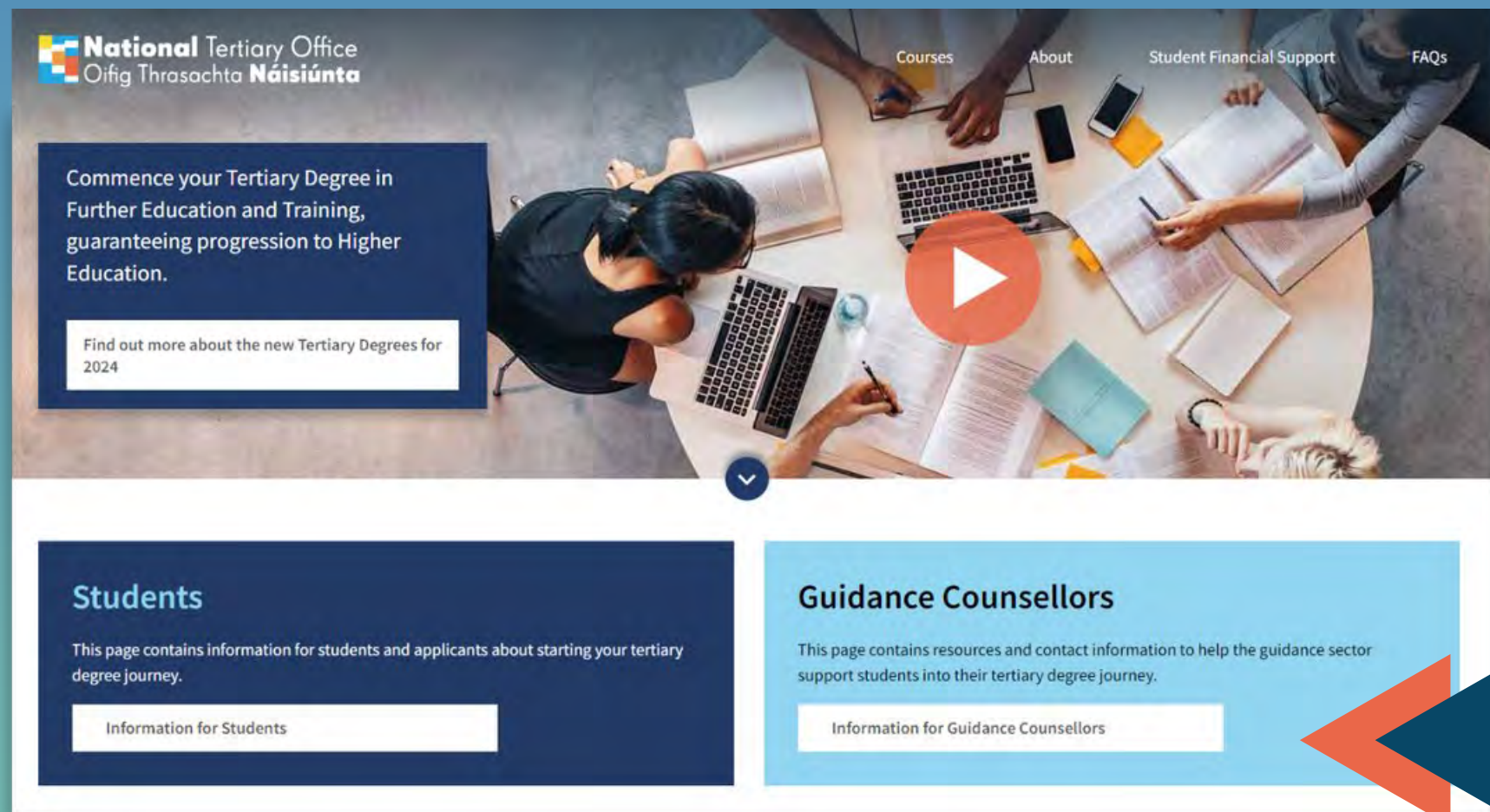
HSE TERTIARY PATHWAY – Nursing and wider healthcare

- 
- 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
 - Veterinary Nursing
 - Sport
 - Technical Theatre
 - Dance
 - Other*

Tertiary Guidance Toolkit



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



TRADITIONAL
DEGREE
ROUTE

TERTIARY
DEGREE
ROUTE

Tertiary Guidance Toolkit

[NTO Brochure](#)



[Application Timeline](#)



[NTO Flier](#)



[Applicant Guidelines](#)



[Guidance Presentation](#)



[Information Video](#)



How to Apply:

Courses | National Tertiary Office



National Tertiary Office
Oifig Thrasachta **Náisiúnta**

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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

Apply



How can NTO help you?

- Resources on the NTO.ie
- Contact Tertiary Manager in your region
- School talks
- Talk to IGC branch
- Open days in schools
- Career fairs
- School leadership support
- Information webinar

➤ MEET THE NTO ◀

AT



17 - 19 SEPTEMBER 2025
RDS MAIN HALL



MEET THE NTO AT



25 OCTOBER 2025
ONLINE



➤ MEET THE NTO ◀

AT



25th of November 2025
Green Isle Hotel, Clondalkin
Co. Dublin



Contacts:

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Facebook: National Tertiary Office

Instagram: ntoireland



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