

## **CAREER & COURSE INVESTIGATION**



A career investigation is a project that shows how you researched a career/s based on your knowledge of yourself, your abilities and your aptitudes and the career options available to you.

**A good career decision involves matching**



Decisions that are made today will impact your readiness for the world of work and your ability to move from one career to the next over the course of your lifetime.

### **So, where do you get the information?**

Network:	your family, friends, classmates and people they know...
Print:	public library, SOLAS leaflets, specialist books, newspapers and prospectuses.
Internet:	online resources like <a href="http://www.qualifax.ie">www.qualifax.ie</a> or <a href="http://www.careersportal.ie">www.careersportal.ie</a>
DVDs / Videos:	from colleges, agencies, companies...
Visits:	T.Y./LCVP/LCA activities, college open days, direct contacts, school visits, career seminars, summer camps...
Visitors:	inviting people to talk about careers or how to find career information...
Direct Experience:	school based work experience, voluntary work experience, summer job, part-time job...
School:	Ask your Career Guidance Teacher!



### **Career & Course Investigation Task**

The title of the Career you have chosen: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

What is doing the job on a daily basis like? (Description of the type of work involved)

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Can you describe at least two different entry pathways?

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

What are the Employment Opportunities? What is the starting salary, the average salary and the top salary?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do I apply for this career or job (where, application form, how is it advertised?).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What are the qualifications needed? (Junior Certificate / Leaving Certificate / Third Level /Teagasc / Fáilte Ireland / SOLAS / PLC...)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The nature of the training or education needed to enter the career (subjects studied, length of course in the relevant training or education institutions).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which Leaving Certificate subjects that are (a) required; (b) useful.

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

The points (if applicable) required to get into the course for the last three years.

\_\_\_\_\_

The costs of education or training for the career; any grant or scholarship available?

\_\_\_\_\_

Access Programs: Any assistance for disadvantaged students? Or students with dyslexia / dyscalculia / other conditions?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Accommodation: What are the options available? What are the costs involved? When do I make an application?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Are there any Age Requirements for the profession or the course?

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Application Procedure / Deadline: Is it in the C.A.O.? Does it require a Portfolio, Interview, Assessment or Audition? Do I apply directly to the College? Is there a closing date?

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Class Size / Gender? How many in a class, are they mostly male or female?

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What are the College Facilities like? Is there a Crèche / Computers / Gym / Counselling Services / Library / Career Services / Clubs / Societies / Banking / Shops etc.

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What are the costs of Materials /Administration Fees? Do you qualify for 'free' fees?

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What is the course content, i.e. what subjects will you study?

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What is the duration of the course?

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Course Satisfaction: Is this really what I want to do? Is there a difference between the course and the job?

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Daily/ Annual Timetable?

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Deferred Entry: Is it possible on this course? How does the college look at a Gap Year?

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Form of Assessment: Is it continuous assessment or terminal exam?

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International Work Programme / Industry Placement?

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What are the Lab / Workshop Facilities?

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Is there a Language Option?

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Location / Ease of Access:

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Progression: Higher Certificate / Ordinary or Higher Degree/ Post Graduate Diploma / Masters. What are the Research Options and Packages? What PLC are linked with your University or Institute of Technology Course?

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Retention Rates. Does the course have a high dropout rate? How might you find out?

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Staff: Student Ratio. How big are your tutorial classes?

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Have you talked to any students on the same course? What is the Teaching Quality like?

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Are there any travel options available to you? How would you finance this travel?

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Aptitude/ personality test(s) needed for entry to the career (get sample questions if possible).

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Do I know anyone in this career? What advice or information have they given me?

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How do I 'fit' this career? Do I have the skills/qualities required to successfully pursue this career?

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What is the key information I discovered about my chosen career:

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