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Careers with Irish

Le tacaíocht ó

**Do Ghairm
le Gaeilge**

 Foras na Gaeilge

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with Irish:

- media
- culture
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- translation
- public sector
- law, technology and more

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Your career with Irish

Le tacaíocht ó

**Do Ghairm
le Gaeilge**

 Foras na Gaeilge



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Titles in this series

- Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences*
- IT
- Construction
- Engineering
- Finance
- Hospitality & Tourism*
- Journalism & Media*
- Law
- Languages
- Property*
- Psychology*
- Retail*
- Science*
- Social Work*
- Teaching & Education*
- Work Experience & Time Out*

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Introducing your career with Irish

Careers with Irish

There are many career possibilities for graduates who are fluent Irish speakers. Opportunities are diverse and exist in sectors such as media, IT, marketing, sales, voluntary, community and the arts to name but a few. The census of the Republic of Ireland in 2011 recorded a 7.1 per cent increase in the number of people who stated they could speak Irish, accounting for 41.4 per cent of the population.

To avail of these opportunities, it is not a requirement to have studied Irish at third level. The most important attributes for securing a job enabling you to use your knowledge of Irish are a determination to use the language and the ability to identify employers and contacts who can provide this opportunity, whatever your degree discipline.

It is important to note that such career opportunities are not confined to Gaeltacht areas. Many businesses throughout the country are increasingly tapping into the Irish language sector to expand their market reach.

Since the publication of the first edition, there has been a profusion of new job titles, reflecting developments in media, social media and the IT sector. The 'Areas of work' section on pages 9–23 provides further information on this. Demand continues to be strong in the areas of translation, and administrative roles in the EU. It is envisaged that there will be further growth in education (all aspects), due to demographic trends.

Developing your skills

Practical experience helps to develop a range of skills. Experience includes activities through student clubs and societies and volunteering as well as paid and unpaid work.

A broad selection of postgraduate courses are currently available through the medium of Irish for students who wish to further their education and to complement their primary degree with additional knowledge and skills. Graduates are encouraged to use the online resources suggested in this booklet and to keep abreast of the Irish language media and information resources. These will help develop an understanding of the various sectors and the opportunities available.

See pages 28–32 for information about postgraduate study.



Did you know?

- Barristers with Irish make up a significant proportion of the Bar Council and there are over 182 registered as having fluent, or a working knowledge of, Irish.
- At least 194 translators are working through Irish and licensed by Foras na Gaeilge.
- In 2015, there were over 370 primary and secondary Irish-medium and Gaeltacht schools throughout Ireland.
- Many job opportunities exist for bilingual researchers, producers, journalists, IT and other technical specialists in the area of broadcast media.
- Opportunities exist for Irish speaking actors and writers, especially in programmes commissioned for television.
- Many Irish speakers have been employed by PR companies because of clients' needs to be represented in the Irish media and to comply with the requirements of the Official Languages Act.
- The European Union regularly advertises upcoming competitions for various positions within the EU on the EPSO website, including lawyer-linguist positions.
- Demand for Irish teachers abroad is increasing. Scholarships are available to those interested in travelling to America and Canada.



Where could I work?

Opportunities are available throughout Ireland, especially in the Gaeltacht areas in Counties Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, Cork, Waterford, Dublin and Meath.

Opportunities to work abroad exist primarily in the European Commission. In the area of Irish language teaching, opportunities are available in North America and EU countries.

See pages 8–23 for details regarding different sectors of work.

Incorporating Irish into your working life – ten tips

- Use mobile phone services provided through Irish.
- Choose an Irish language internet browser such as Mozilla Firefox.
- Demonstrate knowledge of your sector of choice by using digital media skills, eg maintaining a blog. You will impress your peers and prospective employers.
- Ensure your LinkedIn profile includes your level of Irish language proficiency.
- Include 'Cuirtear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge' in your email signature box.
- Use a bilingual phone message, or say 'Go raibh maith agat' at the end.
- Buy a *Fáinne*. This is a little pin that indicates a proficiency and a willingness to converse in Irish. These are available from www.fainne.ie.
- Suggest incorporating Irish into your organisation's marketing strategy or publicity material.
- Offer to represent your organisation (if appropriate) on Irish-speaking national and local radio and television programmes, or provide copy in Irish for the media.
- Read *Tuairisc.ie. Nós* (www.nos.ie), or get the *peig.ie* app.

Getting a job

Things to consider when looking for a job using your Irish language skills.

When choosing where to apply for a job, consider to what extent you wish to use Irish on a daily basis. Some organisations operate exclusively through Irish, whereas others incorporate Irish into a mainly English context. If you are looking to immerse yourself in the language, focus on Irish language organisations, the Irish language media or Gaeltacht-based organisations. If you want to use some Irish, identify companies whose clients include Irish language organisations or whose senior management have a keen interest in the language.

Applications and interviews

Establish whether or not your application should be in Irish and also what the working language of the recruitment and selection process will be. It is essential that the spelling in your CV is accurate (both in the Irish and English versions). There are a number of Irish spell and grammar checkers available online (eg Ceart, GaelSpell or Anois) or via the free Irish language add-ons for Firefox, LibreOffice and Thunderbird. They are also available to purchase for Microsoft Word on PC and Mac platforms. If you are unable to access one of these commercial products, ask someone to proofread your CV before sending it.

See pages 6–7 for a sample CV that highlights the candidate's interest and aptitude in the Irish language.

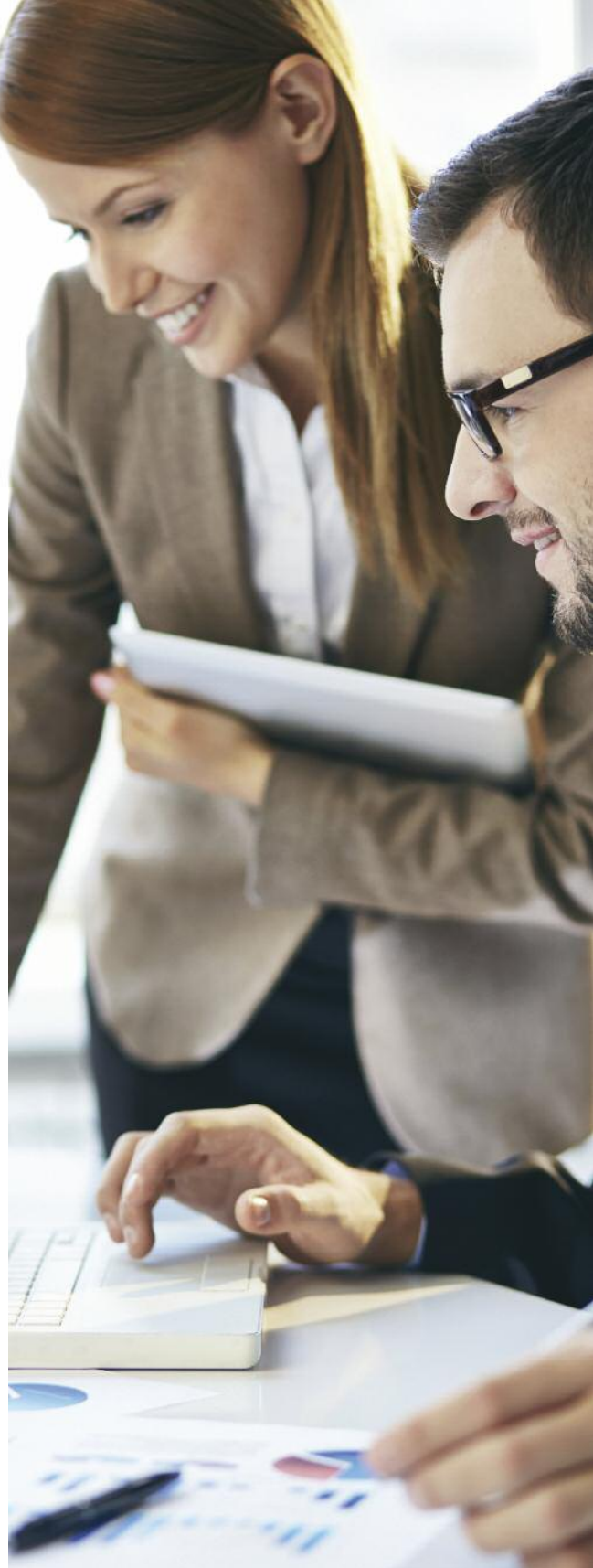
When you are called for interview, find out if your interview will be in Irish or English and whether it will include a written test.

Stay up to date with the sector by keeping an eye on the Irish-language media. Brush up on any relevant terminology. Useful resources include **teanglann.ie**, **tearma.ie**, **focloir.ie** and **potafocal.com**.

For more CV and interview tips, consult the gradireland directory and **gradireland.com** or your college careers service.

Finding vacancies

Joining a professional networking site such as LinkedIn can be beneficial. Twitter and Facebook are useful sources for vacancies: many jobs are advertised on Twitter under the hashtags #jobfair, #siógnabpost and #folúntais, and companies and individuals regularly post links to jobs. Job vacancies are published on the news website **tuairisc.ie** and on the information website **peig.ie**.



Work experience, placements and internships

Many companies offer structured work experience in conjunction with college courses while others offer paid internship programmes. In the absence of such internships, you can take the initiative yourself. Decide which career area appeals to you and then investigate the possibility of gaining experience within an organisation where fluency in Irish would be an asset. Organisations in the following sectors welcome applications:

Publishing: It is worth sending a cover letter and CV to organisations such as Publishing Ireland (Foilsíú Éireann) and Children's Books Ireland. There are various Irish language publishing houses such as Cló-lar Chonnacht, Cois Life and An Gúm. Most of these are small companies and worth approaching for work experience, as students can expect to be involved in many different aspects of the job.

Media: Many Irish language media personalities started out by working voluntarily in radio stations, television stations and newspapers throughout the country. It is vitally important to make contacts and to broaden your skills base, and work experience is a great way to do this.

Irish language organisations: There are six lead organisations funded by Foras na Gaeilge: Gaelscoileanna (www.gaelscoileanna.ie), Gael Linn (www.gael-linn.ie), Glór na nGael (www.glornangael.ie), Oireachtas na Gaeilge (www.antoireachtas.ie), Conradh na Gaeilge (www.cnag.ie) and Cumann na bhFiann (www.colaistenabhfiann.ie).

Private companies: There are a range of options, especially in Gaeltacht areas, including media, publishing, IT and education.

The arts: Festivals provide excellent opportunities for relevant experience both paid and unpaid in areas such as event management, administration and performance.

Occasionally placements with events such as Oireachtas na Samhna and Pan Celtic are advertised through college careers services. More usually, they are not advertised and many candidates secure their own placements through contacts made socially and by researching possible opportunities.

Official work experience schemes

Fiontar DCU runs graduate internship schemes and also offers work experience which is open to graduates of all degree disciplines, particularly in the area of research. Some graduates have been part of research project teams, working on projects such as tearma.ie and logainm.ie.

Údarás na Gaeltachta often advertise internships in areas such as language planning, marketing and accounting.

European Commission: The Directorate General of Translation in the European Commission offers graduate traineeships of five months' duration twice each year. The Commission also offers similar administrative traineeships. Applicants must have a very good knowledge of at least two EU languages to be eligible.

Resources

Vacancies

- gradireland.com Vacancies and careers advice
- Tuairisc www.tuairisc.ie Irish language news and information with daily job updates
- PEIG www.peig.ie An information hub for events, vacancies, Irish language classes, businesses, organisations, and much more
- Local Government Jobs www.localgovernmentjobs.ie Vacancies in local Government
- Northern Ireland Civil Service's Recruitment Website www.nicsrecruitment.gov.uk
- Public Appointments Service www.publicjobs.ie
- EducationCareers.ie www.educationcareers.ie Education careers search engine
- EducationPosts.ie www.educationposts.ie Education recruitment website

Other resources

- tearma.ie www.tearma.ie National terminology database
- Pota Focal www.teanglann.com, www.foclóir.ie Online dictionaries
- Údarás na Gaeltachta www.udas.ie Gaeltacht regional authority
- Nascanna www.nascanna.com Information about software and apps available in the Irish language
- Scriobh www.scriobh.ie Computer resources that relate to the writing of the Irish language
- Foras na Gaeilge www.gaeilge.ie The cross-border language promotional agency. www.forasnagaeilge.ie (corporate site)

Sample CV

Aisling Ní Cheallaigh
19 Charlemont Road
Clontarf
County Dublin

Tel: 01 2827390
Email: aisling.nicheallaigh@gmail.com
LinkedIn profile: ie.linkedin.com/a-ni-cheallaigh

Education

2013–2015

MSc i nGnó agus i dTeicneolaíocht an Eolais
Fiontar DCU

Result: Honours 2.1

Relevant Modules: Strategic Marketing Management, Project Management, Leadership, Human Resources Management, Multimedia, Research Methods

Thesis topic: Advertising and the Irish Language Market

2009–2013

BA Gnó agus Cumarsáid
Galway-Mayo IT, Galway

Result: Honours 2.1

Relevant subjects: Business Information Technology, Computing, Economics, Marketing and Communications

Work experience: One semester with national broadcaster TG4 in 2008/09

2004–2009

Leaving Certificate
Dominican College, Galway

Results: Irish A1, English B3, French A2, Mathematics B2, Business A1, Geography C1, Biology C2.

Employment history

September 2011 to date

Marketing Executive
Conradh na Gaeilge, Dublin

- Liaising and networking with colleagues, partner organisations, the media and the public
- Sourcing advertising opportunities
- Managing the production of marketing materials including pens, leaflets and stickers
- Writing and proofreading press releases
- Organising events including the Conradh na Gaeilge Ard-Fheis where over 500 people attended
- Developing the organisation's use of social networking which resulted in 15% more traffic to website over the course of six months
- Co-ordinator of the 'Is Leor Beirt' scheme (national network of Irish-language conversation circles).

June–August 2012

Summer Colleges' Co-ordinator
Conradh na Gaeilge, Dublin

- Successfully co-ordinated Glac Leis campaign which encouraged and enabled people across all ages/sectors of society to use services through Irish.

Sept 2011–May 2012

Project Assistant

Maithú IT Solutions, Dublin

- As part of a team of five, worked on the development of Get the Focal (English-Irish Translator for your mobile phone)
- Contributed to the further development of this product, which resulted in the development of an App, available for download on iTunes.

Summer 2011

Marketing Intern

Gaillimh le Gaeilge

- Responsible for communicating with partners, customers and the general public
- Attended and helped organise events
- Established social networking sites for the company

Voluntary work**2012 to date**

Radio Presenter/Producer

Raidió na Life, Dublin

- Presented and produced *I mbun ghnó*, a weekly business and current affairs programme
- Produced *Caint agus Ceol*, a series of music and chat programmes.

2009–2012

Youth Club Leader

Áras na nGael, Galway

Skills profile**Languages:** Fluent Irish and French**Communication:** Excellent presentation and social skills, experience in public relations**Organisational:** Successfully organised range of events and campaigns, including Salthill camogie blitz, now run annually**Team work:** Involved in sports teams and former youth club leader**IT:** Microsoft Office, Keynote, Audacity, Adobe Audition, QuarkXpress**Interests and achievements****Sport:** Active member of Salthill GAA Club**Acting:** Acted in various plays with Na Cósóga, Irish Language Drama Club**Film:** Particular interest in world cinema and French films**Music:** Fiddle player, member of Irish traditional music group Téada**Referees**

Mr/Ms ...

Chief Executive Officer, Conradh na Gaeilge

6 Harcourt Street,

Dublin 9

Tel: 01 8482019

Email: ...

Dr ...

Fiontar DCU,

Dublin City University

Tel: ...

Email: ...



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Media

Over 750 people are employed in the Irish language media sector, between television, radio, newspapers and digital media. This figure is growing rapidly as the sector develops an online presence to complement traditional print and broadcast media.

TG4, the Irish language television channel, reported a 56 per cent increase in unique web visitors in 2011 and a 143 per cent growth in page impressions compared with the previous year. And as digital and social media become more popular and accessible this brings new employment possibilities for journalists, technicians, researchers and translators.

Media is a competitive sector and by its nature is constantly changing and developing. Graduates with multimedia skills and an openness to learn are an asset to this sector.

Fluency in the Irish language and knowledge of the Irish language sector is also an advantage, as it allows you to work on a wider range of projects and develop new ones.

For graduates with an interest in Irish language media and training, see the Training and development section on pages 28–32.

National Irish language media awards (Gradaim Chumarsáide an Oireachtais) are presented annually to journalists, actors, presenters, and many more people involved in the sector.

Print media

Newspapers

Tuairisc.ie is the main Irish language news source, publishing national and international news daily.

Seachtain is a supplement that is distributed weekly with the *Irish Independent*. They publish news and educational materials for students.

Regular articles in the Irish language are published in the national newspapers, such as *The Irish Times* and *The Irish News*, as well as in local papers. These provide opportunities to submit work with the potential to get published.

Magazines

There are many journals available in Irish, including *Comhar*, *Feasta*, *An tUltach*, *An Sagart* and *An Timire*.

Nós is an online magazine covering lifestyle, technology, sport, culture and more.

Broadcast media

The level of broadcasting funds available for Irish programming ensures that graduates with fluency in Irish are employable in this sector. There are job opportunities in broadcasting for bilingual researchers, producers and journalists as well as IT and other technical specialists.



BBC Northern Ireland has a website with links to articles, videos, interviews, podcasts and more.

Social media and blogs

Most Irish language newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations have a social media presence, connecting with listeners and readers through Facebook, Twitter, and other social media.

An Irish language version of both Facebook and Twitter is available. There are various Irish language groups on Facebook, including Gaeilge Amháin which has over 8,000 members. There are a variety of subjects covered on various blogs, for example, As an Nua (www.asannua.com), Gaeilge le Glam (www.gaeilgelegram.com) and Cosa gan Chompás (www.cosaganchompas.wordpress.com).

Mobile and computer technology

Graduates with IT and multimedia skills may find a role in mobile and computer technology. There are opportunities for graduates with an interest in technology and a knowledge of Irish to break into this market and develop further services through Irish.

There is a wide variety of Irish language apps available for download. Apps for some Irish language print and broadcast media have been created to allow the public to access their services through different platforms and devices. Other Irish language apps include Irish language dictionaries, translators, books and more.

Other Irish language developments include the following:

- Samsung provide an Irish language option on their phones.
- TechSpace provide training and materials in Irish to schools and youth clubs who wish to provide technology classes to young people 13–19.

- Several computer software products have the option of an Irish-language interface. Prominent examples include KDE, Mozilla Firefox, Mozilla Thunderbird, LibreOffice.org, and Microsoft Windows and Gmail.
- Vbulletin, the most popular software for hosting online chat forums, has an Irish-language option. It is used by Political World and PeoplesRepublicOfCork.com.
- Code.org and Scratch (scratch.mit.edu) allow users to learn how to code through the medium of the Irish language.

Funding

Funding for Irish language film and programme makers is available in the Republic of Ireland from the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, the Irish Film Board, and Filmbase, and in Northern Ireland from the Irish Language Broadcast Fund. The broadcasters TG4, RTÉ and BBC NI also commission programmes. The Irish Language Broadcast Fund, also has a range of schemes.

See the Training and development section on pages 28–32.

Resources

General

- gradireland.com/media Media and publishing section on gradireland.com

Print media

- Feasta www.feasta.ie A monthly Irish language literary journal
- Comhar www.comhar.ie Irish language magazine

Television

- TG4 www.tg4.ie Irish language television channel.
- BBC www.bbc.co.uk/gaeilge BBC Irish language website
- Gréasán na Meán Skillnet www.greasannamean.ie Network of media businesses based in the Connemara Gaeltacht
- Irish Film and Television Network www.iftn.ie
- RTÉ www.rte.ie
- Screen Producers Ireland www.screenproducersireland.com Representative body for independent film, television, and animation producers

Digital media

- Tuairisc www.tuairisc.ie Irish language news source
- NÓS www.nos.ie Irish language magazine
- PEIG www.peig.ie Information about classes, businesses, events and more.



- Meon Eile www.meoneile.ie Online news service based in Belfast
- nuacht1.com www.nuacht1.com Links to Irish language news stories and events
- Boards.ie www.boards.ie Includes Irish language forum
- TechSpace www.techspace.ie Technology programme for young people.

Radio

- Blas www.bbc.co.uk/gaeilge Irish language radio programme
- Raidió Rí-Rá www.rrr.ie Online Irish language radio station
- Raidió Fáilte www.raidiofailte.com Irish language radio station, based in Belfast
- Raidió na Life www.raidionalife.ie Irish language radio station, based in Dublin
- Splanc on Newstalk www.newstalk.com/splanc Irish language programme on Newstalk
- Raidió na dTreabh rnat.airtime.pro Irish language programme on Newstalk
- RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta www.rte.ie/rnag National Gaeltacht and Irish language radio station

Funding and support

- Broadcasting Authority of Ireland www.bai.ie
- Filmbase www.filmbase.ie Not-for profit filmmakers' resource centre. Publishes *Film Ireland* and oversees award schemes; provides networking support for Irish filmmakers.
- Irish Film Board www.irishfilmboard.ie Ireland's national film agency
- Northern Ireland Screen www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk National screen agency for Northern Ireland

Irish language production companies:

- Abú Media www.abumedia.com
- Animo www.animo.ie
- Fíbin www.fibin.com
- Nemeton www.nemeton.ie Provides training in conjunction with WIT
- Red Shoe Productions www.redshoe.ie
- Rosg www.rosg.ie
- Telegael www.telegael.com
- Tobar www.tobarproductions.com

Translating and interpreting

The Official Languages Act (2003) and the recognition of Irish as an official working language of the European Union has resulted in increased opportunities in the area of translation and interpreting.

Translation involves producing a text in a different language ensuring the original meaning is retained, for a specific audience and purpose. Interpreting differs from translation in that it is based on verbal and not written communication.

To become a Professional Member of the Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association (ITIA) you are required to pass the Professional Membership Examination, in addition to having between two and five years' translation experience and/or a qualification as a translator/interpreter.

Foras na Gaeilge holds an annual exam as part of their accreditation system – Séala Creidiúnaithe d'Aistritheoirí Gaeilge. Those who pass this exam are included on the Foras na Gaeilge panel of accredited translators.

Much of the subject matter dealt with by both translators and interpreters is specialised in nature, so preparation and familiarity with the subject area in question is required. Professionals in this area often develop expertise in and knowledge of a subject area such as business, law or medicine after a number of years. Subject-specific terminology is an integral part of that expertise. To work in this sector, a postgraduate qualification in translation studies or interpreting is advisable. A primary degree in languages is desirable, though not essential.

Translation

Opportunities available include translating, proofreading, software localisation, sub-titling, project management, language co-ordination and quality management.

Employment opportunities for translators exist in public organisations, government bodies, the European institutions and private organisations. The Houses of the Oireachtas have their own translation (and interpreting) service – Rannóg an Aistriúcháin.

For those looking to pursue a career in translating legal documents, Europus and King's Inns offer courses and training. These courses are often subsidised by Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht.

The European Union operates the largest translation service in the world. Opportunities are available as administrators, translators and lawyer-linguists. To secure a permanent position within EU institutions, candidates must pass an open competition. From time to time, temporary or contract positions arise. To obtain secure employment as a translator within the EU, it is necessary to have the ability to work with three European languages. Since Irish became an official working language of the EU in 2007 there has been a steady demand for people who can translate into Irish and this demand may well increase over the next few years.

Some translators work in-house, but most work on a freelance basis. In-house translators are salaried employees, working on a full-time basis in public organisations or in private translation companies, some of which specialise in the Irish language. Freelance translators are usually self-employed and work from home. They are commissioned by translation agencies or companies directly. Companies source these from the list of accredited translators from the Foras na Gaeilge website and from the ITIA register.

The highest standards of translation are demanded by all customers, including public organisations, government bodies in Ireland, the European institutions and private organisations. Experienced translators would be expected to produce up to 2,000 words per day, depending on the type of text. Many professional translators use translation software in their day-to-day work.

Interpreting

Opportunities in Ireland are primarily available in Oireachtas proceedings, international conferences, legal proceedings and in healthcare, interpreting for people whose first language is Irish. Irish language interpreters are also used in the European Parliament and the European Commission.

To secure a permanent position as an interpreter within EU institutions, candidates must pass an open competition. The basic minimum requirement for an interpreter working within the EU is the ability to work with three European languages (including the mother tongue). Due to a shortage of suitably qualified candidates, the requirement for a third European

language may be waived for interpreters working with the Irish language.

Freelance interpreters interested in working with the EU institutions may apply to sit an interpreting test in order to be registered on the list of auxiliary conference interpreters whose services are called upon by the European Institutions.

For those interested in interpreting, see the Training and development section on pages 28–32.

Related jobs

Other opportunities related to this sector include editors, proofreaders, lexicographers and terminologists. A lexicographer compiles dictionaries and a terminologist studies terms or specialised words. Editors and proofreaders ensure that texts due for publication are well written, grammatically correct and accessible.

See Breda Ní Mhaoldáin's profile on page 24 to read about her work as a translator and interpreter.

Foras na Gaeilge launched a new accreditation system specifically for editors in 2011 and eight people have

received this accreditation to date. Foras na Gaeilge's Terminology Committee approve, develop and provide authoritative, standardised Irish language terminology in order to increase the capacity of the language as a modern medium in modern society, in accordance with the statutory requirements. The Terminology Committee staff give workshops about different aspects of terminology work on a regular basis, and are a prospective employer for graduates with an interest in this area. Fiontar DCU also offers fellowships and employment in this area.

An tAcadamh um Logánú is a voluntary organisation that translates software to Irish. Projects include Gmail, Twitter, Mozilla Firefox, Scratch, Code.org, LibreOffice and more. There may be opportunities for those seeking experience and training in the area of translation.

See pages 28–32 for information about postgraduate study.

Resources

General

- www.acmhainn.ie Terminology facility for translators
- www.teaglann.ie, www.foclóir.ie Online dictionaries
- www.tearma.ie National terminology database
- Foras na Gaeilge's accreditation systems for translators and editors www.forasnagaeilge.ie/an-earnail-phoibli-agus-na-healaiona/na-corais-creidiunaithe-daistritheoiri-agus-deagarthoiri and Terminology Committee www.forasnagaeilge.ie/fuinn/focloireacht and also for Seal of Accreditation see www.forasnagaeilge.ie/seala
- Údarás na Gaeltacha www.udas.ie Gaeltacht regional authority
- www.translatorsassociation.ie The Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association
- www.proz.com Directory of professional translation resources
- gradireland.com/career-sectors/languages-and-culture Languages and culture section on gradireland.com
- gradireland *Graduate Careers in Languages* Booklet available to download from gradireland.com/publications
- [www.twitter.com/riomhacadamh](https://twitter.com/riomhacadamh) An tAcadamh um Logánú

Europe

- GairmAE www.gairm.eu Information about careers for translators in Europe
- epso.europa.eu European Personnel Selection Office
- ec.europa.eu/dgs/translation EU Directorate-General for Translation
- ec.europa.eu/dgs/scic/ EU Directorate-General for Interpretation.

Useful tips

- Improve your ability in the language.
- Learn about the various software applications that are used in the translation industry, such as Trados, Worfast or Déjà Vu.
- Research the dictionaries and other Irish language resources that are available online, www.tearma.ie for example.
- Visit the EU Directorate-General for Translation and Interpreting websites (see below).
- Upload your CV and send samples of your work to www.proz.com, a professional resource for translators.
- Send your CV to relevant translation companies.
- Seek relevant work experience.
- Get a qualification.
- Undertake the Foras na Gaeilge exam.
- Glac ballraíocht le Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Teangairí na hÉireann. Become a member of the Irish Translators and Interpreters Association.
- Research and practise new terminology.
- Increase your knowledge of current affairs (which is of particular importance to interpreters).



Private sector

The Irish language community represents a considerable potential market for goods and services. To exploit this potential, many companies have begun to target this market and to offer their services through the medium of Irish.

The census of the Republic of Ireland in 2011 recorded a 7.1 per cent increase in the number of people who stated they could speak Irish, accounting for 41.4 per cent of the population. In business terms, this statistic translates to 1.77 million potential customers in the Republic (with a further 167,490 in Northern Ireland) and as the current Irish-medium education sector continues to grow, this market will grow too. The opportunity to exploit the marketing potential of Irish has never been more important, both at home and abroad.

As with all sectors, career progression is based on performance. In the case of larger companies, in particular, the ability to make yourself stand out from the crowd is considered to be an important attribute: fluency in Irish is evidence of this.

In recent years the Irish language has attracted significant attention within business circles, with market leaders becoming aware of its properties as a marketing tool. Irish is an untapped asset for many businesses, and graduates with proficiency in the Irish language are an asset to employers.

Employment options

There are opportunities for Irish speakers and those with an interest in Irish in several areas. Companies will recruit graduates with qualifications, experience and technical skills relevant to their business. Graduates who offer these skills in addition to a high level of fluency in Irish may be of interest to companies targeting the Irish language community.

Some small and medium-sized enterprises involved in the provision of services may conduct their business solely through Irish. Examples include translation, legal services, accounting, technical support, graphic design, web design, advertising, PR, marketing, architecture, sales and customer services.

For companies that deal mainly in English, having a competent bilingual member of staff gives them the

Graduates who offer these skills in addition to a high level of fluency in Irish may be of interest to companies targeting the Irish language community.

opportunity to offer services to the Irish-language community, who appreciate dealing in their language of choice when doing business.

Public relations, marketing and advertising specialists play a key role in publicising a company and its services or products. Allied to these roles are bilingual designers who prepare material for publication, whether it be books, PR material or advertising. Many Irish speakers have been employed by PR companies so that their clients' interests can be represented in the Irish media and to comply with the requirements of the Official Languages Act.

Specialist IT companies

Some IT companies develop software and technologies addressing issues unique to Irish language users. A graduate with the right blend of technical skills and language fluency could find a rewarding career in this area, not only in Ireland, but also in minority bilingual communities around the world.

Multinationals

Multinational companies welcome cultural diversity in their organisations and relish the opportunity to become part of the local community in their branches around the world. In Ireland, this may involve incorporating the Irish language into their marketing or publicity material, their marketing strategies or their corporate social responsibility programmes.

Entrepreneurs

There are plenty of opportunities for graduates to establish and grow their own businesses. If you have the ability to identify and exploit a niche in the market, this might be the choice for you.

Demand is growing for language-specific products that gain mass appeal such as Bábógbaby and Scrabble as Gaeilge.

Government-funded organisations that support new business start-ups include Údarás na Gaeltachta, Foras na Gaeilge (language-based businesses only), Gael-Taca and Forbairt Feirste. Other locally-based organisations include Gaillimh le Gaeilge (Galway); Gnó Mhaigh Eo (Mayo); Gradam Gnó na nDéise (Waterford).

Irish language business awards

- **Gradam Gnó na nDéise:** annual award recognising efforts of Waterford-based businesses in promoting the language
- **Gradam Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh:** Galway's annual bilingual Business Award

- **Gradam Phádraig Uí Cuanacháin:** annual award presented by Gael Taca to Cork businesses every year
- Foras na Gaeilge also sponsor the **All-Ireland Marketing Awards** which highlight the work of marketing campaigns through Irish.

Funding

Foras na Gaeilge awards funding to new businesses for bilingual signage and marketing material. One of the remits of Glór na nGael is to promote Irish language in business. They provide support to businesses wishing to use Irish in their workplace. Support is available from Údarás na Gaeltachta for companies in Gaeltacht areas.

Resources

- Forbairt Feirste www.forbairtfeirste.com For businesses located in Belfast
- Foras na Gaeilge www.gaeilge.ie The cross-border language promotional agency www.forasnagaeilge.ie (corporate site)
- Údarás na Gaeltachta www.udaras.ie Gaeltacht regional authority
- Gael-Taca www.gael-taca.com For businesses located in Cork City
- Gaillimh le Gaeilge www.gleg.ie For businesses located in Galway city
- Gnó Mhaigh Eo www.gnomhaigheo.ie For businesses located in Co. Mayo
- Comhlucht Forbartha na nDéise www.deise.ie For businesses located in the Déise Gaeltacht
- Tuairisc www.tuairisc.ie Irish language news website lists job vacancies and funding opportunities
- Social networks like LinkedIn have groups such as Gnó le Gaeilge where people interested in promoting business as Gaeilge can exchange ideas and network.
- Peig.ie www.peig.ie Online Irish language information resource
- Gnómeansbusiness gnomeansbusiness.ie Explores the use of Irish in business.



Culture: arts, heritage and language

The culture sector is a vibrant section of the Irish social and economic landscape. While some graduates work as arts practitioners, there are also opportunities for technical, educational and administrative staff. Good opportunities exist for Irish speaking actors and writers, especially in commissioned programmes for television.

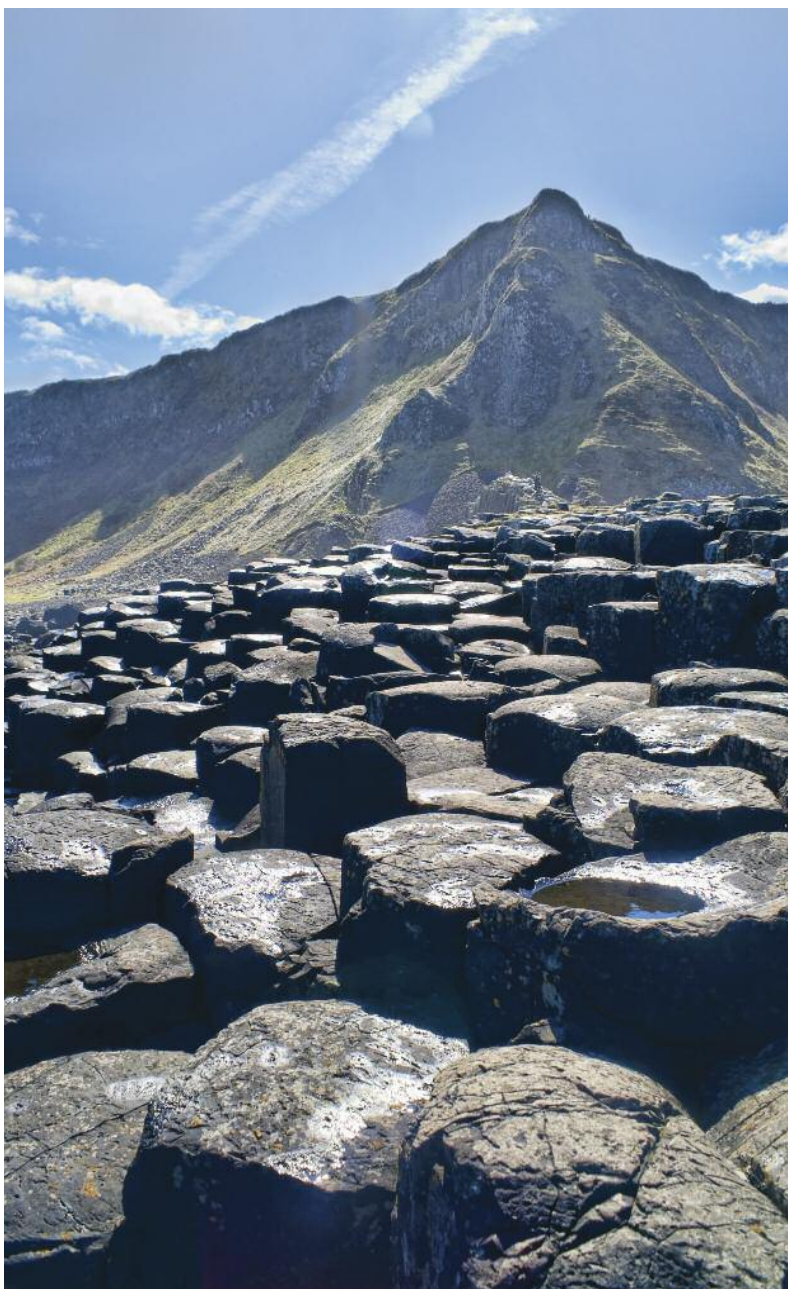
Arts

There are opportunities for graduates in this sector within local authorities, community arts, event management, multimedia, galleries and self-employment. A qualification in an art or design discipline, or in art history, arts management or the performing arts, is a distinct advantage.

Foras na Gaeilge, Ealaín na Gaeltachta and the Arts Councils, north and south, all support Irish language arts organisations through project funding and individual artists through bursaries and residencies. Cultural centres in the north are also thriving, with Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich in Belfast and Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin in Derry being prime examples of these.

Festivals

Oireachtas na Gaeilge promotes traditional Irish arts and holds an annual festival every year to recognise singers, dancers, and performers in traditional arts. The organisation also organises awards and competitions for writers and media professionals. Other annual festivals include the IMRAM Irish Language Literature Festival, Pan Celtic Festival, Sean-Nós Cois Life, Merriman Summer and Winter Schools, Oireachtas Chois Fharraige, Traidphicnic and Strokestown International Poetry





Festival. There are Irish language events at Dublin Books Festival, International Literature Festival Dublin, Mountains to Sea, Cúirt and other festivals.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann also supports the Irish language, holding Irish language events as part of fleadh and throughout the year and offering support for Irish language traditional music events and training.

Drama

Irish language drama is constantly evolving and developing, with groups such as Fíbín, Aisling Ghéar, TiAitreo and Aisteoirí Bulfin producing great Irish language plays. An Taibhdhearc, the Galway based national Irish language theatre, reopened its doors in 2012. Many Irish language actors performed in this theatre and it gives playwrights an opportunity to showcase their work and talent to an Irish speaking audience.

Radio dramas are also being broadcast on Raidió na Life, Raidió na Gaeltachta and RTÉ, many of which are supported by Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) scheme, Sound and Vision. Oireachtas na Gaeilge run annual literary competitions for Irish language writers, with a specific section for drama scripts.

Language promotion and development

Language promotion officers are employed at local and national level, in public and not-for-profit organisations. Local authorities employ Irish language officers who collaborate with local arts and language organisations in their locality.

Community groups and co-operatives throughout the Gaeltacht are particularly involved in Irish language promotion and development. Foras na Gaeilge is the national, cross-border funding body for Irish language promotion and development and funds the employment of Irish language officers in local communities north and south. Other organisations include the following:

- Irish language youth organisations, such as Feachtas, Ógras and Cumann na bhFiann, run youth clubs throughout the country.
- Gael Linn and Gaelscoileanna provide a wide variety of educational and cultural services throughout the country.
- Glór na nGael provide support to the community, businesses and families.
- Conradh na Gaeilge are responsible for raising awareness, language protection and representation (on behalf of the language with state authorities)
- Similarly, Pobal and Comhaltas Uladh promote the language and events in Northern Ireland.

As the remit of many of the language-promotion organisations is quite broad, they employ people from a

Useful tips

- Get involved in the arts/language associations in college.
- Read *Tuairisc.ie*, *Nós* or find events through **PEIG.ie**.
- Volunteer with or attend arts or Irish language cultural events and festivals.
- Work as a guide or information worker at heritage sites during holiday periods.
- Take an interest in environmental conservation.
- Develop a track record of involvement in community and/or language activities.

wide range of disciplines such as marketing, education, finance, event management, publishing and public relations.

Heritage

Job opportunities exist for curators, education staff, tour guides/managers and administrators in museums and heritage sites around the country.

Libraries and archives may have a high proportion of Irish language material in their collections, and librarians employed in the public library system must meet an Irish language requirement. Archives exist in a wide range of organisations including media, local authorities, educational organisations and private enterprises.

The area of cultural tourism also offers opportunities for Irish speakers, especially in the Gaeltacht, and local authorities often employ heritage officers. Many who work in the heritage sector have a relevant qualification in history, archaeology, library or archive studies, folklore, art history, museum management, education or design.

Resources

General

- Foras na Gaeilge **www.gaeilge.ie** The cross-border language promotional agency. **www.forasnagaeilge.ie** (corporate site)
- Údarás na Gaeltacha **www.udas.ie** Gaeltacht regional authority

Arts

- Ealaín na Gaeltachta **www.ealain.ie** Developing indigenous and contemporary arts in the Gaeltacht
- Arts Council of Ireland **www.artscouncil.ie**
- Arts Council of Northern Ireland **www.artscouncil-ni.org**
- Oireachtas na Gaeilge **www.antoireachtas.ie**
- Aisling Ghéar **www.aislinghear.com** Professional Irish-language theatre company based in Belfast
- An Taibhdhearc **www.antaibhdhearc.com** National Irish Language Theatre

- Broadcasting Authority of Ireland **www.bai.ie** Runs Broadcasting Funding Scheme (Sound & Vision II)
- Colmille **www.colmille.net** Promotes the use of the Gaelic languages in and between Ireland and Scotland
- Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann **www.comhaltas.ie** Promoting Irish traditional music and culture
- Cultúrlann **www.culturlann.ie** Cultural centre located in Belfast
- Imram **www.imram.ie** Irish language Literature Festival
- An Comhlachas Náisiúnta Drámaíochta **www.drama-gaeilge.com** National Drama Association
- Fíbin **www.fibin.com** A puppetry and drama company based in Connemara. Fíbin also do radio and television productions, as well as educational projects
- Cumann Merriman **www.merriman.ie** Merriman Summer and Winter School
- Theatre Forum Ireland **www.theatreforumireland.com** Information, training and research opportunities
- Irish Theatre Institute **www.irishtheatreinstitute.com** Providing information, research and networking opportunities
- Pan Celtic Festival **www.panceltic.ie**
- Shean-Nós Cois Life **www.seannos.ie**
- Traidphicnic **www.traidphicnic.com**
- Strokestown International Poetry Festival **www.strokestownpoetry.org**
- **gradireland.com/arts** Performing and creative arts section on gradireland.com.


Language promotion

- Cumann na BhFiann **www.colastaenabhfiann.ie**
- Conradh na Gaeilge **www.cnag.ie**
- Gaelscoileanna **www.gaelscoileanna.ie**
- Gael Linn **www.gael-linn.ie**
- Glór na nGael **www.glornangael.ie**
- Ogras **www.ogras.ie** Irish language youth movement.
- Pobal **www.pobal.org** Umbrella organisation for the Irish Language community
- Feachtas **www.feachtas.ie** National Youth Council of Ireland
- **gradireland.com/career-sectors/languages-and-culture** Languages and culture section on gradireland.com

Heritage

- The Heritage Council **www.heritagecouncil.ie**
- Society of Archivists (UK and Ireland) **www.archives.org.uk**
- Irish Museums Association **www.irishmuseums.org** An All-Ireland body with a vacancy listing
- The Library Association of Ireland **www.libraryassociation.ie** Represents librarians and libraries in Ireland.

Public sector



The public sector encompasses the civil service, all central government departments, local authorities and publicly funded bodies. Job areas include both administrative and technical positions at varying grades, from entry level to senior management. Opportunities are also available in the following specialist areas:

Education: Republic of Ireland

Students and graduates looking to work in the area of education have a distinct advantage if they are fluent in Irish. Opportunities for Irish speakers are available from pre-school level to third level, throughout the country, north and south. Having a high standard of spoken Irish has become more important than ever, especially at secondary level, as the oral Irish Leaving Certificate exam now accounts for forty per cent of the final grade. Jobs exist for Irish speakers in mainstream primary and secondary schools, in addition to Gaelscoileanna, Gaelcholáistí and schools located in Gaeltacht regions.

Naíonraí

There are over 270 Irish-medium nurseries, or naíonraí, located throughout Ireland, catering for children from three to five years of age. Jobs in this area range from naíonraí assistants and leaders to directors. There are also opportunities in the area of early education development.

Gaelscoileanna

There is high demand for Irish-medium schooling at primary and secondary level, and new schools are being established and developed. This means that new teachers and administrators are being employed where fluency in Irish is a requirement. As of September 2015 there were 144 primary and 45 secondary Irish-medium schools in the Republic. In addition to this, there were 124 primary and 22 secondary Gaeltacht schools. These schools are constantly searching for suitably qualified graduates to fill vacancies, and a high level of written and spoken Irish is required. Secondary school teachers with fluent Irish also qualified to teach other subjects such as science, maths, home economics and accountancy are in demand.

Third level

There are many Irish-medium courses available in third level institutions. Students and graduates interested in researching or lecturing at third level should enquire about funding opportunities for PhD students, as well as opportunities to tutor undergraduates. There are numerous research opportunities in the area of Irish-medium education in particular.

See pages 28–32 for information about postgraduate study. See Siún Ní Dhuinn's profile on page 24 to read about work on lecturing and writing in the Irish language.

Adult learning

Adults living in Ireland and abroad who wish to improve their standard of Irish often attend Irish language classes offered in Irish language organisations, adult education centres and the third level sector. Education and Training Boards Ireland also provide a great service for adult learners of all levels of Irish throughout the country. Having the skills to teach adult learners opens up job possibilities for graduates and new teachers.

Other employment opportunities in education

Other jobs available in the area of education include curriculum development, inspectorate jobs and teaching resources development. There is a need for Irish language teaching resources, especially at secondary school level, and there are opportunities in this field for qualified teachers with a high level of Irish. Graduates with IT skills, teaching skills and creative ideas could assist in developing interactive resources for teachers. This type of work is

available at the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), the Teaching Council, An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (COGG) and the Department of Education and Skills.

Education: Northern Ireland

As of September 2015, there were 45 nurseries, 35 primary and six second level Gaelscoileanna in Northern Ireland. The demand for Irish-medium education in the north is constantly rising as more schools are being recognised as Gaelscoileanna. Students graduating from the Irish-medium Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE – Second Level) run jointly by Queen's University Belfast, the University of Ulster and St Mary's University College, Belfast represent a new generation of Irish speaking teachers in the north. St Mary's University College, Belfast also offers an Irish-medium PGCE course for Irish-medium teaching (Primary Level).

See pages 28–32 for information about postgraduate study.

Education: overseas

The Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Programme offers Irish-speaking graduates the opportunity to work at colleges and universities in the United States that offer Irish language classes. Eligibility criteria include fluent Irish, a primary degree, teaching experience and an interest in being a cultural ambassador for Ireland. Fulbright also provides opportunities for Irish-language academics at all levels to teach or conduct research in the USA. The Ireland Canada University Foundation (ICUF) also has Irish language awards, annually providing scholarships for graduates to spend time teaching Irish in Canada. There are currently over 30 third level colleges and universities in the USA, in Canada (where there is a Gaeltacht), in Australia, in European countries and further afield, actively providing Irish language and Celtic Studies programmes within their own institutions. Some institutions throughout Britain, such as Coláiste na nGael in London, provide Irish language classes. This gives graduates opportunities to travel and teach Irish abroad.

Health

Competence in spoken Irish is an advantage in the healthcare sector as it can set graduates apart from other health professionals and allows them to create a niche,

especially in the Gaeltacht. Health professionals who have direct contact with patients may be required to deliver services through the medium of Irish. Speech and language therapists, dentists, physiotherapists and other health professionals with Irish are in demand, in both Gaeltacht and non-Gaeltacht regions, where Irish speakers may seek services through Irish.

Acadamh na Lianna is a society of the medical and allied professions who have a shared interest in the Irish language. The society meets on a regular basis to discuss and debate health issues, organise lectures and build a network of Irish speaking health workers throughout Ireland.

Irish language development

The implementation of the Official Languages Act has precipitated a growth in opportunities for competent bilingual people in jobs promoting or developing the Irish language. The 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010–2030 also emphasises the importance of language development.

Irish language officers are employed north and south in local authorities, government departments and public bodies such as the Electric Ireland, the HSE and third level institutions. They are responsible for promoting the Irish language internally and overseeing the provision of the organisation's services through the medium of Irish. They co-ordinate the translation of online and printed documents, and organise language classes and cultural events. It is important to be enthusiastic and passionate about the language for this job as it is an important role in the development of the language.

Technical and professional services

Work is contracted out by the public sector to individuals or organisations working within the private sector who can provide services as translators, web designers, IT consultants, lawyers, accountants, graphic designers etc. The provision of these services through Irish is important to the Irish language community. Barristers with Irish

make up a significant proportion of the Bar Council and there are over 182 registered as having fluent or working Irish. A great number of solicitors use Irish in their work too, with 104 solicitors on the Law Society of Ireland's Irish language register as of September 2016. The EU also offers lawyer-linguist roles.

See Kate Ní Chonfhaola's profile on page 26 for information on working as a barrister.

Read John Ó Liodáin's profile on page 26 to read about working in the public sector with the Irish language at departmental level.

Working in the Gaeltacht

The Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht has offices in some Gaeltacht areas. Public sector bodies operating within Gaeltacht areas must have the ability to provide services through Irish.

Údarás na Gaeltachta is the public body responsible for the social, cultural and economic development of the Gaeltacht. It supports private enterprise start-ups as well as community and language development organisations. A number of broadcast and print media are located in the Gaeltacht (*see 'Media' on pages 9–12*). There is a vibrant arts community, including visual and performing arts, supported by Ealaín na Gaeltachta (*'Culture' on page 17–19*).

The Gaeltacht as it was traditionally defined, is changing. 26 language planning areas, recognised as a result of the 2012 Gaeltacht Act, are preparing Irish language plans which may mean an increase in demand for graduates with language planning and community development skills over the next few years, with further opportunities when the plans are implemented.

The Act also provides for the establishment of state-recognised Irish language networks. Community groups cultivating and promoting the language outside of Gaeltacht areas are set to be given additional recognition including Clondalkin in Dublin. An Cheathrú Gaeltachta in Belfast is a thriving urban Gaeltacht and has many

Useful tips

- Work as a youth leader or teacher with an Irish summer college.
- Participate in Irish language summer camps for children.
- Be aware of any training courses or classes which may help you develop your IT and creative skills.
- Participate in Irish language social events.
- Volunteer with an overseas education or development organization.
- Work on an education scheme in a disadvantaged area.
- Get involved in sports coaching.
- Get involved in your college's Cumann Gaelach and arts societies.
- Secure a summer job in the Gaeltacht.
- Participate in accredited voluntary and extra-curricular programmes (civic engagement).



opportunities for graduates wishing to work in language development, education and media, and for professionals interested in working through Irish.

European Commission

A variety of jobs are available in the European Commission such as administrators, assistants, contract agents, interim staff and temporary agents. Graduates with fluent Irish are ideal candidates as Irish is now an official EU language. The European Commission also offers graduate training and traineeships.

See pages 28–32 for information about postgraduate study.

Resources

General resources

- An Coimisinéir Teanga www.coimisineir.ie Protecting Language Rights: Official website of the Coimisinéir Teanga
- Local Government Jobs www.localgovernmentjobs.ie Vacancies in local government
- Northern Ireland Civil Service's Recruitment Website www.nicsrecruitment.gov.uk
- Public Appointments Service www.publicjobs.ie
- European Personnel Selection Office epso.europa.eu Careers at the European institutions
- gradireland.com/public Public sector and civil service section on gradireland.com

Health

- Acadamh na Lianna www.twitter.com/acadamhnalianna Society of the medical and allied professions who have a shared interest in the Irish language

Education

- Gaelscoileanna www.gaelscoileanna.ie Promotion and development of Irish-medium schooling
- An tÁisaonad www.aisaonad.org Providing educational materials for the Irish-medium sector
- An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta www.cogg.ie Resource for teaching of Irish in schools
- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta (CnaG) www.comhairle.org The representative body which aims to promote, facilitate and encourage Irish-medium education in Northern Ireland
- Gael Linn Directory www.eolaireg.ie Resources for Irish language learners and teachers
- EducationCareers.ie www.educationcareers.ie Education careers search engine
- EducationPosts.ie www.educationposts.ie Education recruitment website.
- An Foras Pátrúnachta www.foras.ie Patron of Irish medium schools in Ireland at both primary and secondary level
- The Fulbright Commission in Ireland www.fulbright.ie
- Ireland Canada University Foundation www.icuf.ie
- gradireland.com/teaching Teaching and education section on gradireland.com.

Graduate profiles

I'm an accredited conference interpreter for the European Union Institutions

Breda Ní Mhaoláin

Education BA Irish and Psychology, NUI Galway; MA – Translation Studies, NUI Galway; Pg Dip in Conference Interpreting, NUI Galway; Dip in French, NUI Galway

Job Translator – Grade II

Employer Houses of the Oireachtas Service



I got an MA in Translation Studies from the National University of Ireland, Galway in 2006. After that, I provided language services for a while on an independent basis – translations, interpreting, transcribing and language consulting. I'm an accredited conference interpreter for the European Union Institutions and I spent some time (2011–2012) as a lecturer on the Masters in Conference Interpreting at the National University of Ireland, Galway. At the moment, I'm a statute editor with Rannóg an Aistriúcháin (The Translation Section) in the Houses of the Oireachtas.

I applied for the position when it was advertised online in 2009 and I did an exam and an interview as part of the recruitment process. During that year, there was a freeze on recruitment, but eventually I got a letter offering me a position. I've been working with the Houses of the Oireachtas Service since then.

As a translator, you have to be really careful about your work and you need to be a grammar expert. You have to

I'm from Connemara and as I was brought up with Irish, I really enjoy having the chance to speak it here in Dublin and work with the language.

make sure that every single word is correct so you need patience to be able to achieve that goal. In a typical working week, I compile Acts, checking the grammar and all the terminology to bring the whole document together.

Sometimes I'm on a rota translating long titles of Acts or I could also be on the night shift, when the Houses sit late. As well as that, I sometimes attend meetings of the internal Communications Committee.

I'm from Connemara and as I was brought up with Irish, I really enjoy having the chance to speak it here in Dublin and work with the language. In the Rannóg an Aistriúcháin offices, I speak Irish every day and I get to use the different elements which I studied on a daily basis.

The Irish language has been a huge advantage to me

Siún Ní Dhuinn

Education BA – English and Irish, UCD; MA Scríobh agus Cumarsáid na Gaeilge (Irish Language Writing and Communications), UCD

Job Irish Language Digital Co-ordinator

Employer RTÉ



I've had quite varied work experiences. I started out as a language lab assistant in University College Dublin and my work in Irish since then includes: lecturing in University College Dublin and Maynooth University, coordinating schemes with Conradh na Gaeilge, teaching for Gaelchultúr, working as a higher executive officer with Foras na Gaeilge and as an Irish Language Officer with Maynooth University. Now, I'm working in RTÉ as Irish Language Digital Co-ordinator.

I saw an ad for the Digital Coordinator (Irish) post for RTÉ on Twitter. I thought I'd be interested in the job and would like that kind of work – I like dealing with the media and working online – so I applied.

Whilst I've been working with Irish in professional terms for a decade, outside work, I'm involved with it in a general way. I use the Irish language in my personal life, and that's what led to my website, www.AsAnNua.com. I started the site about a year ago and it's going from strength to strength. My goal is to provide online material about culture and the arts in Irish and English.

The best advice I'd have for a young person who's interested in this field would be to start anywhere – start by writing or publishing online in Irish or English. I believe there are opportunities in Irish that don't exist in English. There are niches that Irish hasn't explored yet and so there are brilliant opportunities for people there.

The Irish language has been a huge advantage to me. If it wasn't for Irish, I wouldn't have got any of the jobs that I've had, and so I'm really grateful to the language. I think I'll be using it even more in the future too.

Whilst I've been working with Irish in professional terms for a decade, outside work, I'm involved with it in a general way. I use the Irish language in my personal life.

There will be plenty of opportunities for you

Seán Ó Baoill

Oideachas BA Irish and Geography, UCD; MA Scríobh agus Cumarsáid na Gaeilge (Irish Lang Writing and Communications), UCD; HDip Applied Communications, Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge
Job Video Journalist/Actor
Employer TG4, Meon Eile (www.meoneile.ie)



Irish is my first language, but I never imagined that it would give me so many advantages in terms of employment. Since leaving college I've had a wealth of opportunities. At the moment, I'm working fulltime as a video editor on the Irish language website *Meon Eile*. Aside from that, this is my third season acting as Adam Ó Murchú in *Ros na Rún*, the Irish language soap on TG4.

There are lots of independent production companies providing Irish language programming for RTÉ, TG4 and BBC Northern Ireland. Online platforms are growing all the time, and with *Meon Eile*, *Tuairisc.ie* and *Nós* amongst others, there are plenty of chances for people to work with Irish language media.

You need to have technical and video-editing skills to be a video journalist. There is also the news reporting aspect of course – you have to have integrity and tell the truth to your audience or readership. You need to be able to find a story and tell it in a neutral manner, showing both sides. It's up to the audience then to figure out their own opinions on the matter.

The best advice I'd have for anyone interested in being a journalist is that experience is just as important as the academic side. I'd recommend contacting the RTÉ and TG4 newsrooms, and *Meon Eile* and *Tuairisc.ie* to let them know that you're keen to get practical experience. If you are serious and ready to learn new skills, there will be plenty of opportunities for you.

I've been acting since I was a little boy and I've always wanted to be on *Ros na Rún*. The actor's life is a hard one, as you have to try out for so many auditions. There are roles you don't get and you need to be able to set that aside and focus on the next audition. Acting is a craft and you will always be learning and improving your craft through practice.

I love working in an Irish-language environment

Colm Ó hArgáin

Education BA Communications, DCU; MA Scríobh agus Cumarsáid na Gaeilge (Irish Language Writing and Communications), UCD
Job Higher Executive Officer
Employer Foras na Gaeilge



In college I did a Communications BA in Dublin City University and an MA in 'Scríobh agus Cumarsáid na Gaeilge' in University College Dublin. After that, I got a lecturing position in the Church of Ireland College of Education in Rathmines, training future teachers. I spent a few years lecturing there and I also taught some classes in other institutes. Now I work for Foras na Gaeilge as a higher executive officer.

I love working in an Irish-language environment, where I can speak Irish to my colleagues every day. I really like the work I'm doing at the moment, travelling all over the country working with community groups and encouraging them to use the funding schemes and other supports which Foras na Gaeilge provides. I enjoy the diversity of the work and I've learned a lot from the various fields I've been dealing with since I started working here.

I'm a musician and am very involved with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. As part of that, I was appointed Irish Language Officer for Leinster. In this job, I'm in contact with Irish Language Officers in the different Leinster counties and with the various branches so as to promote Irish amongst young people.

Irish has been a fantastic advantage for me so far in my life. When I left college in 2008, the economic situation in this country was not great, but I must say I've never been short of work and I've always been able to use my Irish. I have taught evening classes in UCD, DCU and Maynooth also. I worked in the secondary school Coláiste Eoin for a while as a Special Needs Teacher and I continue to work as an examiner with Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (European Framework Certification for Irish). I've always been able to use Irish in all the different areas I've worked in. Irish has really opened plenty of doors for me over the past few years, not to mention providing an interesting social life.

Experience is just as important as the academic side.

You need a lot of self-discipline in this profession

Kate Ní Chonfhaola

Education BCL Civil Law, NUI Galway; Masters in International Law, University of Edinburgh; Barrister-at-Law Degree, King's Inns; Advanced Diploma in Legal Practice through Irish, King's Inns

Job Barrister

Employer Self-employed



I got a job as a barrister thanks to the year-long course in the King's Inns which I did after my law degree in National University of Ireland, Galway. After that course, you can start working as a barrister, although you have to spend two years devilling (working with another barrister) to get the necessary experience.

A typical working week for a barrister would depend on what comes up: if you're in the country, you have to travel around to different courts and if you're based in Dublin, you spend most of your time in the Four Courts. I'm based in Dublin, so I spend one or two mornings a week in court in the Four Courts. Apart from that, I'd be drafting correspondence or advising clients.

You need a lot of skills to become a barrister, and if you have them, you can use them in different ways, depending on the actual work you have to do. However, I don't think you should set about being a barrister if you're not able to cope with stress or if you can't imagine being able to live on very little money for the first few years. Another really important thing is to have effective interpersonal communication skills.

There are plenty of things I like about my job, but one of the best is that you work for yourself, and that brings lots of advantages. For example, after tax, you keep the fee you were paid for your work. As well as that, it's up to you to decide when to take your holidays and you don't have to ask anyone for permission. Of course, you need a fair amount of self-discipline for this profession in order to be successful in it.

You need a lot of skills to become a barrister, and if you have them, you can use them in different ways.

Irish has really been an advantage in my working life

John Ó Liodáin

Education BCL Law and Modern Irish, National University of Ireland, Maynooth

Job Administrative Officer

Employer Department of Public Expenditure and Reform



I began my working life as an instructor with Beijing Foreign Studies University in China. When I came back to Ireland, I started working for Conradh na Gaeilge, as a multimedia developer on peig.ie. I had a very interesting year with Conradh na Gaeilge developing the platform which is now live. After a while, I applied for a promotion and I got a role as multimedia executive and consultant for the organisation. Both jobs were challenging but the work we did was really interesting. Then, I felt that I needed a new challenge, and so now I'm an Administrative Officer with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

I had always intended to spend some time in the civil service and an administrative officer competition was announced in September 2015. The recruitment process was quite long, including aptitude tests online and a presentation on particular aspects of policy, which was then followed by an interview with senior civil servants. I was appointed after that and a week later I was assigned to the department where I'm currently working.

There's no such thing as a typical working week in the civil service – I'm in a multi-faceted role. One week I could be focusing on analysing policies, checking on gender equality or human resources; or I could be travelling around the country organising conferences and information sessions to encourage citizen participation. Alternatively, I could be coordinating a report, collating information, writing it up and delivering it.

Irish has really been an advantage in my working life to date. I was lucky enough to work through Irish for three years after leaving college. As well as that, Irish gave me the opportunity to develop new skills – technical, administrative and teaching – in the different roles I've had. Although Irish isn't used daily in my current job, it is great to be recognised as someone with fluent Irish. This generates goodwill, as it shows that the office can provide services in Irish.



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Training and postgraduate courses

In recent years there has been an increase in supply and demand for courses in and through Irish.

Courses in and through Irish range from full time masters programmes to short-term evening or weekend courses. The focus has begun to shift from the more traditional Irish language courses based on literature and the arts, to courses offered through the medium of Irish in a wide variety of subjects, such as business, media and language planning. Most postgraduate courses in Irish require a high level of oral and written Irish, while others are aimed at those who wish to improve their language skills and abilities, to prepare them for the Irish language workplace. Third level institutions offer a wide variety of courses and there are many options for those who would like to try a day, weekend or short-term course.

Options available to graduates include MA and Postgraduate Diploma courses in media studies, language skills and language planning, as well as specialised diploma courses. Some media and business courses include work experience and training opportunities, which can be very valuable for the future.

*See **Getting a job** section on page 4–5.*

Funding for courses

Funding to undertake these courses may be available from a variety of sources, including the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht; from the university/college directly; and from employers. Postgraduate students who meet the qualifying conditions for the special rate of grant will be eligible to have their postgraduate tuition fees paid up to the maximum fee limit. See www.studentfinance.ie for further information.

The Irish Research Council has a number of postgraduate research scholarship schemes across the disciplines.

Some universities, such as Fiontar DCU and DIT, offer scholarships to students. Some also offer subsidies for Irish language campus accommodation schemes (TCD, UCD, UL, UCC and DIT).

Day/weekend training courses

There are many day, weekend and short-term Irish language courses available. Training courses available through Irish are offered by the following organisations:





- The Gréasán na Meán Skillnets Group (www.greasannamean.ie), based in the Connemara Gaeltacht, provides training for those interested in the media industry. Past courses include documentary making, transmedia storytelling, make-up for TV presenters, and radio skills training.
- Irish Language Broadcast Fund (www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk). The ILBF offers several different training opportunities for Irish speakers working or aspiring to work in the independent production sector in Northern Ireland. They also offer a New Entrant Scheme, a Trainee Producer Scheme and a Skills Development Bursary to Irish speakers.
- Learning Waves Skillnet (www.learningwaves.ie), supported by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (www.bai.ie), occasionally provide Irish language training for radio.
- Europus (www.europus.ie) provide training for secretaries/administrators with Irish as their main language, to cater for increased demand for skilled administrators with Irish. Training is provided in both Irish and English languages, in office administration and in computer. No fees apply.
- Europus and the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology provide intensive training courses in Irish language translation of legal and state documentation in Connemara during the months of July/August and September/October. No fees apply.
- Stillwater Communications (www.stillwater.ie) provides in-depth communications advice, media training, PR services and career coaching. They offer all training and services through Irish.
- Gaelchultúr (www.gaelchultur.com) provide courses for adults, teachers and public service workers. They also provide postgraduate diplomas in translation and have online courses via their elearning website Ranganna.com.

Resources

- www.studentfinance.ie. Click on Postgraduate Students for postgraduate funding information.
- The Irish Research Council www.research.ie.

Postgraduate courses and training schemes

A list of current courses in and through Irish.

The list of courses below includes Irish-medium full-time and part-time postgraduate courses, training schemes and general Irish-language courses available at the time of going to press. Other courses may have been developed since then. An up-to-date list of postgraduate courses is available at gradireland.com/further-study.

Arts and heritage

Arts

- Diploma in Teaching through Irish (Art) – National College of Art and Design, Dublin
- Diploma in Irish Music Studies – NUI Galway
- MA in Irish Traditional Music Performance – University of Limerick.

Heritage

- Postgraduate Diploma/Higher Diploma in Irish Folklore – University College Dublin
- Higher Diploma in Léann Dúchais – University College Cork.

Business and ICT

- MSc/Postgraduate Diploma in Business and IT (Thesis) – Fiontar DCU.

Education

Primary level teaching

- Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Irish Medium – Primary) – St Mary's University College
- Professional Master of Education (Irish Medium – Primary) – Coláiste Mhuire, Marino
- Professional Master of Education (Primary) – Froebel College, Maynooth University

- Professional Master of Education (Primary) – Mary Immaculate
- Professional Master of Education (Primary) – St Patrick's College
- Professional Master of Education – Hibernia College (online)
- An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Coláiste Mhuire Marino (essential course and qualification for primary teachers trained outside of the Republic of Ireland, with the exception of the PGCE, St Mary's University College).

Post-primary level teaching

- Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Irish Medium – Post-Primary) – Queen's University Belfast, University of Ulster and St Mary's University College
- Professional Master of Education – Hibernia College
- Professional Master of Education – Trinity College Dublin
- Professional Master of Education – UCC
- Professional Master of Education – UCD
- Professional Master of Education – Maynooth University
- Professional Master of Education – NUI Galway
- Professional Diploma in Education (Irish Medium – Postgraduate) – NUI Galway.





Education: other

- Diploma in Teaching Irish to Adults – Language Centre, Maynooth University
- Practical Irish for Primary School Teachers (online summer course) – Gaelchultúr
- How to teach Irish effectively in the Classroom – Gaelchultúr
- Irish language IT resources for the classroom – Gaelchultúr
- Irish language course for Professional Master of Education applicants – Gaelchultúr
- Courses for teachers studying for Scrúdú Cáilíochta na Gaeilge and other qualifications – Oideas Gael
- MA in Second Language Learning & Teaching – Waterford Institute of Technology
- MPhil in Applied Linguistics – Trinity College Dublin.

Language development

- MA in Applied Irish – Dublin Institute of Technology/Gaelchultúr
- MA (Language Planning) – Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, NUI Galway
- MA in Applied Sociolinguistics – University of Limerick.

Literature and language

The following institutions offer a range of postgraduate courses in the more traditional areas of the Irish language such as poetry, prose, Early Irish, Middle Irish, folklore and history of the language:

- Dublin City University
- Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
- NUI Galway
- Maynooth University
- Queen's University Belfast
- St Mary's University College, Belfast
- St Patrick's College, Drumcondra
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Cork
- University College Dublin
- University of Limerick
- University of Ulster.

Media and communications

- Postgraduate Diploma/MA in Communications – Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, NUI Galway
- Higher Diploma in TV Production – Waterford Institute of Technology/Nemeton
- MA Irish Language Writing and Communication – University College Dublin.

Translating and interpreting

Translation

- MA in Irish Translation Studies – Queen’s University, Belfast
- Postgraduate Diploma in Irish Translation Studies – Gaelchultúr/Coláiste na hÉireann
- Higher Diploma/MA in Translation – Maynooth University
- MSc in Applied Irish and Translation – Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology/Europus
- MA (Translation Studies) – Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, NUI Galway
- Higher Diploma in Legal Translation – King’s Inns
- Higher Diploma in Lawyer-Linguistics and Legal Translation – King’s Inns
- Higher Diploma in Legal Practice through Irish – King’s Inns
- MPhil Literary Translation, Trinity College Dublin
- MA in Translation Studies – Univeristy College Cork
- MA in Irish and Law – Univeristy College Cork.

Interpreting

- MA in Conference Interpreting – Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta, NUI Galway
- MA in Interpreting – Queen’s University Belfast.

General Irish Courses

Higher Education

- Diploma in Irish – Maynooth University
- The European Certificate in Irish – Language Centre, Maynooth University
- Diploma in Applied Irish – University College Dublin
- Diploma in Applied Irish – University College Cork
- Diploma in Irish – NUI Galway
- MA in Applied Irish – Dublin Institue of Technology
- MA/Diplóma Iarchéime sa Nua-Ghaeilge – UCD
- Higher Diploma in Arts (Irish) – UCC
- MA in Old and Middle Irish – Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh
- MA in Modern Irish – Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh
- MLitt in Modern Irish – NUI Galway
- MA in Modern Irish – UCC
- MA in Gaelic Literatureh – UCC
- MPhil in Irish – UCC
- MPhil in Early Irish – Trinity Colege Dublin
- MA in Modern Irish – Maynooth University
- MLitt in Irish – Maynooth University.

Evening and weekend courses (from beginners to advanced)

Evening and weekend courses are available through the following organisations:

- Gaelchultúr www.gaelchultur.com
- Conradh na Gaeilge www.cnag.ie
- Gael Linn www.gael-linn.ie
- Oideas Gael (Donegal) www.oideas-gael.com
- Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne (West Kerry) www.oidhreacht.ie
- Áras Mháirtín Uí Chadhain (Galway) www.acadamh.ie
- An Droichead (Belfast) www.androichead.com
- Ionad Uíbh Eachach (Belfast) www.ionad.eu
- Education and Training Boards Ireland www.etbi.ie.

Resources

- gradireland.com/further-study Postgraduate courses, advice and links to universities.
- Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge www.acadamh.ie Gaeltacht based & Irish medium university education
- Conradh na Gaeilge (Gaelic League) www.cnag.ie Voluntary language promotion organisations
- Gael Linn Directory www.eolairg.ie Resources for Irish language learners and teachers
- Fiontar DCU www.dcu.ie/fiontar_scoilnagaeilge Dublin City University’s interdisciplinary School: courses and research through the medium of Irish
- Europus www.europus.ie Language consultancy company
- SOLAS www.solas.ie Further Education and Training Authority
- The Language Centre www.nuim.ie/language Maynooth University Language Centre
- Gaelchultúr www.gaelchultur.com Irish language consultancy and training. Offers online Irish language courses
- Ranganna.com www.ranganna.com Online courses for teachers, adult learners of Irish, the public sector and other specialised courses.
- Oideas Gael www.oideas-gael.com Promoting and teaching Irish language and culture.
- Gael-Linn www.gael-linn.ie Promotes Irish language and heritage
- PEIG www.peig.ie A comprehensive list of Irish language classes.
- The Honorable Society of King’s Inns www.kingsinns.ie Law preparation course
- Northern Ireland Screen www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk National screen agency for Northern Ireland
- Irish Language Requirement www.ilrweb.ie Details on the Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge teaching exam
- Teg www.teg.ie Examinations for adult learners of Irish
- Údarás na Gaeltacha www.udas.ie Gaeltacht regional authority.