




worldskills
Ireland 2025



Teacher and Guidance Counsellor Information Pack

17- 19 Sept
RDS, Dublin



Supported By:



Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



NATIONAL
APPRENTICESHIP
OFFICE

Industry Partners:



CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY
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NETWORKS

Education Partner:



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the WorldSkills Ireland 2025 Teacher and Guidance Counsellor Information Pack. We're excited to welcome you and your students to WorldSkills Ireland 2025! While WorldSkills competitions have been running in Ireland since the 1960s, a new chapter began in 2017 with the decision to showcase Skills, Apprenticeships, and Further and Higher Education opportunities more prominently. This led to the creation of the WorldSkills Ireland event at the RDS.

Now entering its fifth year, WorldSkills Ireland 2025 is set to be the biggest event yet, with over 35,000 students, teachers, guidance counsellors, and parents already registered to attend.

The opening times for the event are:

Wednesday, 17th September	9am – 12 noon & 12.30pm – 3.30pm
Thursday, 18th September	9am – 12 noon & 12.30pm – 3.30pm
Friday, 19th September	9am – 1.30pm

WorldSkills Ireland 2025 will take place at the RDS Simmonscourt Complex. Irish Times Higher Options will take place in the RDS Main Hall Complex. Although we are running at the same time, a seperate booking is required to access both events. This information pack has been created to help make your visit—and your students' experience—as smooth and rewarding as possible. Inside, you'll find everything you need to plan your day at WorldSkills Ireland 2025.

Please note: we have a waiting list of schools hoping to attend fully booked time slots. We ask that you locate your recent registration confirmation email and double-check the day and time slot you selected. It is important that all allocated slots are used. If your school is unable to attend, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can offer your place to another school. To adjust your group size or cancel your booking, **please email info@worldskillsireland.ie**.

For answers to common questions, you can check our full [FAQ section](#), or simply contact us at info@worldskillsireland.ie.

We look forward to welcoming you and hope that WorldSkills Ireland 2025 will inspire and guide your students as they explore their future opportunities.

Kind regards,
The WorldSkills Ireland Team

MINISTER'S WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you to WorldSkills Ireland 2025, a vibrant showcase of talent, innovation, and exciting career opportunities available across Ireland.

This event provides a unique platform for apprentices from all over the country to showcase their skills and share their journeys. This year, over 180 finalists will compete in more than 35 skill challenges, demonstrating exceptional expertise and craftsmanship. Their stories offer real inspiration to learners considering an apprenticeship journey. With new pathways now available, including direct application through the CAO and a dedicated apprenticeship helpline, accessing these opportunities has never been easier.

WorldSkills Ireland is also an invaluable resource for students, parents, teachers, and guidance counsellors. Attendees can meet employers and education providers, explore apprenticeships and traineeships in action, and discover routes to internationally recognised qualifications and in-demand careers.

I am proud to support this initiative and the growing opportunities it offers. I look forward to seeing you at the RDS Simmonscourt, Dublin, and to celebrating the incredible talent and ambition that will shape Ireland's future.



JAMES LAWLESS TD

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science of Ireland.

Welcome to WorldSkills Ireland 2025, Ireland's largest gathering of second-level students, with over 30,000 attendees expected. This event shines a spotlight on the power of skills to unlock opportunity and drive progress. WorldSkills Ireland is more than a competition, it's a platform where young people from across the country come together to showcase their abilities, share their experiences, and inspire others to explore the exciting possibilities that lie ahead.

WorldSkills Ireland demonstrates how skills fuel economic growth and support a sustainable, competitive future, as well as highlighting the innovation within further and higher education. From traditional sectors like construction and mechanics to emerging fields such as ICT and green technologies, students will discover a wide range of rewarding career pathways and be empowered to explore their potential.

Over the coming days, I encourage every student, parent, teacher, and guidance counsellor to explore all that WorldSkills Ireland 2025 has to offer and to make the most of this inspiring experience.



MARIAN HARKIN TD

Minister of State at the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science of Ireland.

PLAN YOUR VISIT:



WorldSkills Ireland 2025 is more than just an event—it's a celebration of skills, apprenticeships, and careers! From hands-on demos to career zones and meet-and-greets with employers, you students will be spoilt for choice.

1) Review your Registration:

Please check your confirmation email to see your group's allocated day and timeslot. As most slots are now fully booked, it's vital that all reserved slots are used. If your school cannot attend, let us know promptly so we can reallocate your place to a school on the waiting list. To amend group size or cancel, email info@worldskillsireland.ie.

2) Plan ahead:

- Watch the short or long version highlight video
- Decide which Talk your students will attend at the Heroes Stage. Talks are 30 minutes long, seating is limited.
- Review the list of companies and education providers to meet in the Careers' Zone, Educators' Zone, and #ThisIsFET Zone.
- Review the [floorplan](#) to get familiar with the venue layout.

3) National Competition Finals:

Please ensure your students understand that WorldSkills Ireland is a National Competition Event. Live competition finals will be taking place across the three days, with over 180 of Ireland's top apprentices battling to be crowned the best in their skill. We encourage students to watch the competitions and be inspired by the talent and dedication on display, but it is essential that they respect the competitors and avoid causing any distractions.

4) Try a Skill:

Speak to further education experts at the #ThisIsFET zone and celebrate the diversity of opportunity and value that skills-based jobs can bring. While you are there, try out a new skill - there will be a lot on show including make up artistry and prosthetics, animation and video production, cake decorating, advanced manufacturing and virtual welding, to name but a few.

5) MTU Pocket Guide Challenge - WIN BIG!

Amazing prizes with MTU our 2025 Pocket Guide Sponsor. From Laptops and Smart Watches to I pads and Bluetooth Speakers, don't forget to let your students know about the MTU Pocket Guide Challenge. Pocket Guides can be collected as you enter the event.

6) Teacher Focus:

The Institute of Guidance Counsellors (IGC) have returned as the Official WorldSkills Ireland 2025 Education Partner. The IGC will be located on Stand C23 beside the Café if you wish to talk to the team there.

This year, WorldSkills Ireland 2025 will feature a dedicated Teacher Zone. Designed as a quiet space, it allows teachers to relax, purchase tea, coffee, and refreshments, and avoid the long queues at the café.

7) Travel & Parking Info

With over 35,000 students expected, the RDS will be pedestrianised to ensure safe and easy movement between venues.

To accommodate the large number of student coaches, there will be no onsite visitor car parking. More information on page 6 & 7.

8) Coach Parking:

All coaches should make their way to the Simmonscourt Complex for student drop-off or parking. **Parking is €30 per coach**, payable at the gate. Each coach will be assigned a number—please ensure this number is shared with students for their return journey.

Upon arrival, an appointed teacher must check in at the WorldSkills Ireland registration area to collect wristbands. They should then return to the bus to distribute these to students. More information on page 6 & 7.

9) Food & Drink:

Food options include outdoor food trucks (Eddie Rockets, Camile Thai, Zambrero, Pizza, and Kiosk), an onsite café, and a dedicated upstairs lunchroom for students bringing packed lunches. Lunch vouchers for the food trucks can be pre-ordered at €18.50, covering a main and a drink. To order vouchers, please email johnh@madigan.ie.

GETTING TO THE RDS



COACH TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

There is comprehensive traffic management plan in place for WorldSkills Ireland 2025 and The Irish Times Higher Options. This plan involves input from the RDS, Security Suppliers and the Gardai.

In order to accommodate the high number of student visitors attending on coaches to both events, we have no car parking available onsite. Therefore, the recommended mode of the travel to those not attending via Coach to the RDS each day is by Public Transport.

For more information on Public Transport Options to the RDS click [here](#)

Coach Parking Route and Fee:



Coaches/Buses will be told to approach the RDS and Simmons Court Road from the Anglesea Road. Simmons Court Road will be coned off by the Garda.

All coaches should make their way to Simmons Court Complex for student drop off or parking. Parking is **30 EUR per coach** payable at the gate.

Buses will be numbered upon arrival into Simmons Court and parked according to length of stay (full or half day). Please ensure to share this number with students for return journeys.

All traffic into Simmons Court will exit via Shrewsbury Gate (Gate Q).



Pedestrian Plan:



There will be two manned pedestrian routes through the RDS complex:

- i. BLUE Route going to HO
- ii. PINK Route going to WSI

These routes will be manned by Freeflow Traffic and Frontline security.

There will be one entry point to RDS main complex – Gate M

There will only be one exit point from RDS complex – Gate L

There will be one crossing point manned by the Garda at Wiley Gate into Simmons Court Complex.

What to do when you arrive to the RDS:



Arriving via Bus:

Teachers are instructed to leave students on the bus, Head to the registration area alone, check-in and retrieve their students wristbands, distribute wristbands on the bus, and then the group enter together via the pink route.

Arriving via walking:

Groups will follow the pink route, the teacher will leave the students in the temporary holding area, go inside to the registration area and check-in to retrieve their students wristbands, distribute wristbands, and then the group enter together.



A MESSAGE FROM WORLDSKILLS IRELAND



“In today’s world, the idea that a university degree is the only route to success is being challenged. Many careers once seen as exclusive to graduates are now accessible through tertiary courses — from nursing to advanced manufacturing. The options are vast, and the opportunities continue to grow.

At WorldSkills Ireland, we are proud to showcase the diverse range of skills, careers, and apprenticeships available across the country. From national competitions to insights into multiple pathways, our three-day event is a chance to explore, learn, and experience firsthand the dynamic, future-proof careers on offer today.”

Ray adds: “We want to inspire the next generation to view apprenticeships and skill-based careers not just as an alternative, but as an exciting, forward-looking path that leads to long-term success and satisfaction.”



RAY ENGLISH

Joint - Chair of
WorldSkills Ireland

“A skills-based career or apprenticeship is not just an alternative; it’s a rewarding path that can lead to a fulfilling and highly successful future. As education and employment continue to evolve, apprenticeships are no longer a secondary option but a dynamic choice that offers real-world experience and job readiness.

That said, there is still work to be done in shifting attitudes toward skills-based careers. These pathways are not only viable but vital to the Irish economy. Skilled trades form the backbone of our infrastructure, innovation, and growth. Choosing this route is about more than securing a job — it’s about building a career that is both valuable and future-proof.

Whether you’re unsure of your next steps, didn’t achieve the grades you hoped for, or simply prefer a more hands-on, practical way of learning, I encourage you to explore the wealth of opportunities available through apprenticeships and skills training. The future is bright — and there is a place for everyone to thrive.”



DONAL KEYS

Joint Chair of
WorldSkills Ireland
National Competition



HOW TO NAVIGATE THE EVENT



HEROES STAGE:

Hear from Ireland's most inspiring voices! Industry experts and apprentices will share their career journeys and lessons learned, with special guests Rory's Stories, Keilidh Cashell of KASH Beauty and the Rose of Tralee winner, Katelyn Cummins.

NATIONAL COMPETITION FINALS:

Watch 170 of Ireland's top apprentices compete live at the RDS across 35 different WorldSkills Ireland National Competition Finals.



#ThisIsFET ZONE:

Talk to the experts and try out skills in Healthcare, Green Skills, Advanced Manufacturing, Creative Media, Film & TV, Commis Chef and Architectural Stonemasonry.



EDUCATORS' ZONE:

Turn your passion into a career! Visit the Educators' Zone to meet top education providers, including every ETB in Ireland, and discover the opportunities available.



CAREERS' ZONE:

Meet 40 of Ireland's leading employers ready to recruit and discuss training and apprenticeships.

34 LIVE NATIONAL COMPETITION FINALS

At WorldSkills Ireland, 180 students and apprentices will compete in 34 Live National Finals for the prestigious Skills Silver Medal. Winners will go on to represent Ireland at the WorldSkills Olympics in Shanghai 2026.

Please remind your students that this is a National Competition Event. They are encouraged to watch and be inspired, but must respect competitors and avoid causing distractions. **The Skills your students will get a chance to see live in action are:**

AUTOMOBILE & HEAVY VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY



- Automobile Technology
- Construction Plant Fitting
- Heavy Vehicle Maintenance

CONSTRUCTION



- Architectural Stonemasonry
- Bricklaying
- Cabinetmaking
- Carpentry
- Electrical Installations
- Joinery
- Painting & Decorating
- Plastering and Drywall Systems
- Plumbing & Heating
- Scaffolding
- Horticulture & Landscaping

CREATIVE ARTS



- Beauty Therapy
- Hairdressing
- Visual Merchandising
- Retail Sales

HOSPITALITY & TOURISM



- Craft Butchers
- Cookery
- Restaurant Service

ICT



- Digital Construction BIM
- Logistics and Freight Forwarding
- Cloud Computing
- Cyber Security
- Digital Infrastructure Design
- Mechanical Engineering CAD
- Additive Manufacturing

MANUFACTURING & ENGINEERING



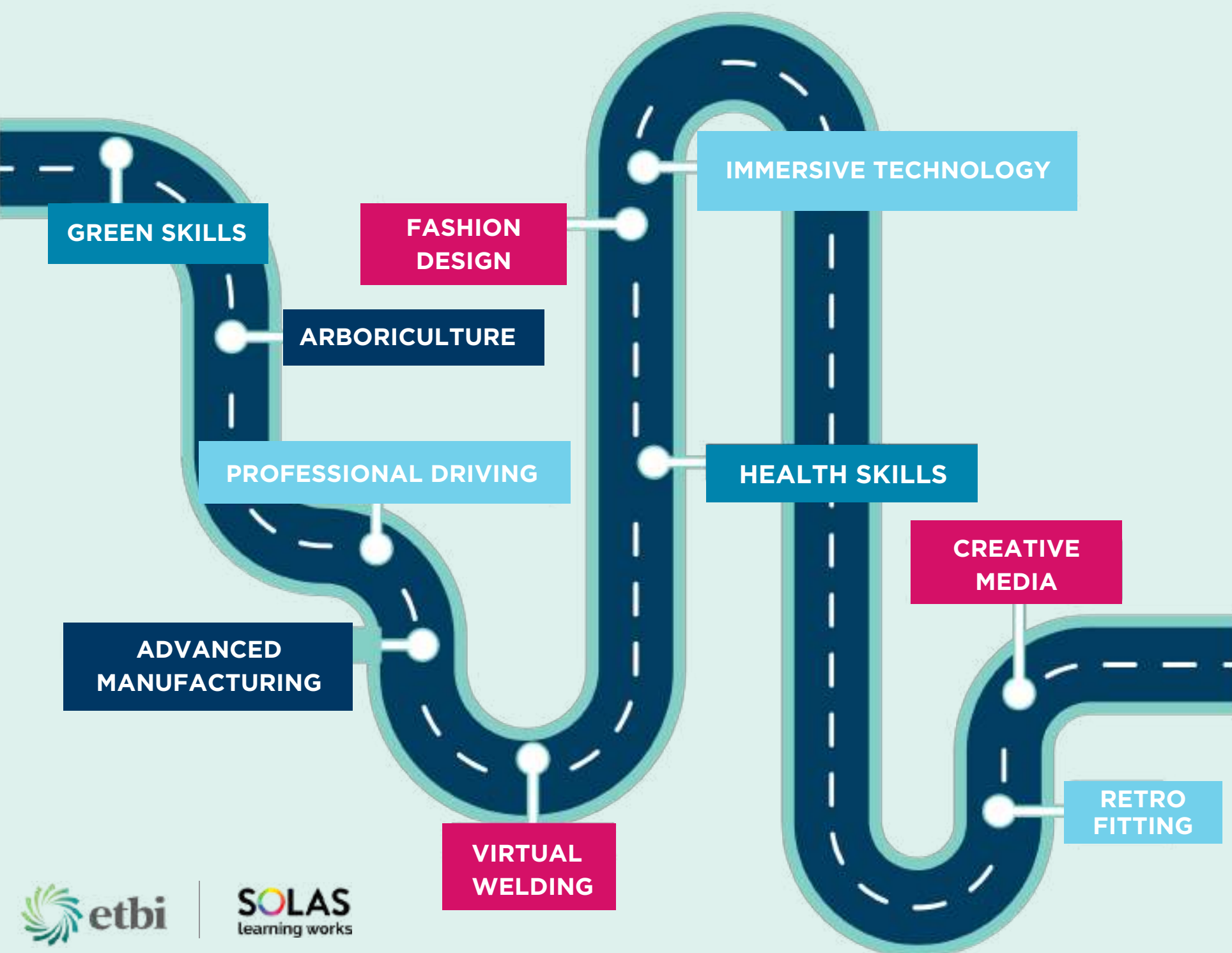
- Industrial Insulation
- Industrial Control
- Industrial Mechanics
- Metal Fabrication
- Polymechanics Automation
- Sheetmetal Work
- Welding

#ThisIsFET ZONE

LEARN WITHOUT LIMITS

Explore the #ThisIsFET Zone, showcasing all 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs) from across Ireland. Discover the wide range of skills, apprenticeships, and progressive pathways available through Further Education and Training—including routes into higher education through new tertiary courses.

Covering industries from nursing to advanced manufacturing, Ireland offers a wide range of apprenticeship programmes to help you take the next step toward your dream career. At the Try-A-Skill area, you can get advice from industry experts and test out skills that spark your interest—from film and television to sustainability, engineering, cookery, and more. With dozens of live demo areas onsite, there's plenty to explore and experience firsthand.





HEROES STAGE

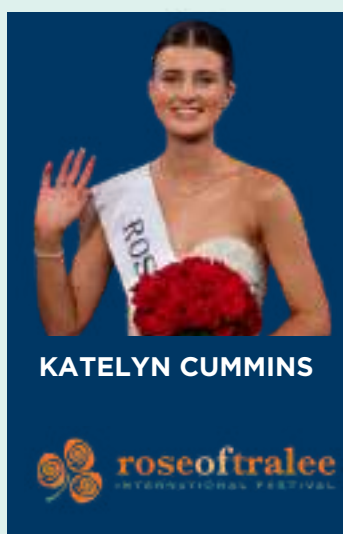
The Heroes Stage, hosted by Andrea Hayes, is one of the standout features of WorldSkills Ireland. Each day, it brings together Industry Heroes, rising stars, and exciting guest Hero speakers from a wide range of sectors to share their stories and experiences. Through engaging panel discussions, attendees will hear powerful journeys—from apprentices who worked their way up to become CEOs, to professionals who have carved unique and innovative career paths. The Heroes Stage is designed to inspire students, teachers, and parents alike, showing how passion, perseverance, and skills can shape exciting and fulfilling futures.

Teachers are encouraged to review the timetable in advance and choose the talks that will be most relevant for their students. Each day offers two talks in the morning and two talks in the afternoon, and schools can pick the session that best aligns with the day and time they are registered to attend. As seating is limited, we recommend arriving early to secure places for your group. With topics spanning construction, ICT, hospitality, automotive, and more, there is something to spark the imagination of every learner.



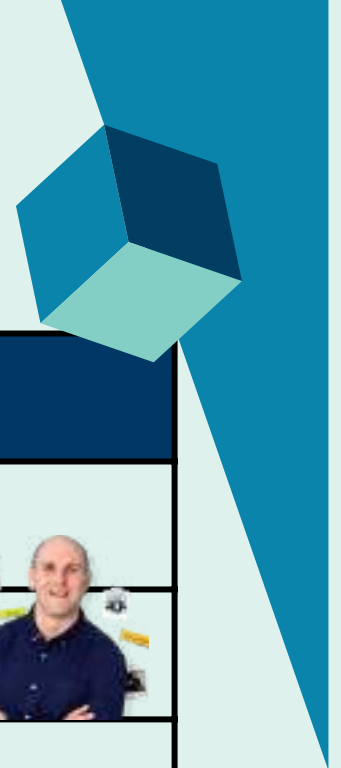
WEDNESDAY
GUEST SPEAKER
TIME: 11AM

THURSDAY
GUEST SPEAKER
TIME: 11AM



FRIDAY
GUEST SPEAKER
TIME: 11AM

HEROES STAGE SCHEDULE



TIME	WEDNESDAY 17 TH SEPTEMBER
10:00	Bridging the Skills Gap Through Apprenticeships, Skills and Training.
11:00	Guest Hero: Rory O'Connor of Rory Stories
12:00	National Apprenticeship Office - Apprentice of the Year Presentations
13:30	Empowering Futures Through Education, Apprenticeships and Skills
14:30	Skills Change Live

TIME	THURSDAY 18 TH SEPTEMBER
10:00	Skills Change Live
11:00	Guest Hero: Keilidh Cashell of KASH Beauty
12:00	National Apprenticeship Office - Apprentice of the Year Presentations
13:30	The Importance of Skills in Career Development
14:30	Empowering Futures Through Education, Apprenticeships and Skills

TIME	FRIDAY 19 TH SEPTEMBER
10:00	Skills Change Live
11:00	Guest Hero: Katelyn Cummins Rose of Tralee 2025
12:00	The Importance of Skills in Career Development

TEACHER FOCUS

The Institute of Guidance Counsellors returns as the official education partner of WorldSkills Ireland 2025, highlighting the vital role of skills in future-proofing Ireland’s workforce. Attendees will have access to expert career advice to support informed choices about their futures.

With diverse pathways now available—across Further Education and Training, Apprenticeships, Traineeships and Tertiary Courses—Guidance Counsellors help learners find the right direction.

Contact them through schools, Adult Guidance Services, Further Education and Training Centres, or visit www.igc.ie.

Don’t forget to visit the IGC on Stand C23.

As President of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors (IGC), I am delighted to share the news that IGC is an education partner of Worldskills Ireland 2025 for the second year in a row. This exciting event promises to be a dynamic and inspiring experience, where learners can meet competitors, explore a wide range of career opportunities, and engage meaningfully with a variety of exhibitors.

Skills-based careers and apprenticeship pathways provide accessible and rewarding options for all learners to discover their future direction, and build fulfilling careers. At a time when the national skills shortage is a growing concern, Worldskills Ireland offers a powerful, first-hand demonstration of the value of apprenticeships and the importance of developing skills that are transferable, transversal, and empowering.

The IGC is delighted to once again be the education partner for Worldskills and we look forward to seeing you there.



CATRIONA RODGERS
Institute of Guidance
Counsellors President



There’s never been a more exciting time to explore your future career through an apprenticeship. At WorldSkills Ireland 2025, you’ll meet people just like you, curious, ambitious, and ready to discover all the opportunities that Generation Apprenticeship has to offer.

Ireland is proud to have apprenticeship options front and centre in its education and training system, opening doors for learners of all ages and backgrounds. Today, there are almost 80 programmes available under the Generation Apprenticeship banner, with more being added every year. These offer exciting career pathways across everything from construction and engineering to cybersecurity, finance, horticulture, animation, and more.

Traditional craft apprenticeships remain hugely important and are thriving, especially in areas like electrical, motor, and mechanical trades. The apprenticeship world has grown far beyond what many people expect. You can now start your career in tech, healthcare, accountancy, farming, or even wind energy - all through an apprenticeship.

Apprenticeships offer a powerful alternative to the traditional academic route. You get the chance to earn while you learn, combining real workplace experience with classroom learning. You’ll build skills that employers need, grow in confidence, and gain a qualification that can take you wherever you want to go.

At WorldSkills Ireland 2025, you can speak directly with the National Apprenticeship Office team, and the Heroes stage will feature apprentices who have been nominated for a national Apprentice of the Year award.



DR MARY-LIZ TRANT
Director of the National
Apprenticeship Office

TEACHER ZONE: This year there will be a dedicated Teacher Zone for all teachers who attend WorldSkills Ireland 2025. In this Zone you will be a quiet space to sit down, buy some refreshments and avoid the long queues at the Cafe.



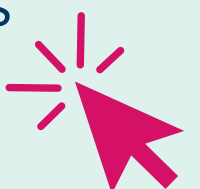
WORLDSKILLS IRELAND HIGHLIGHT VIDEO

WorldSkills Ireland 2024 Highlight Video

WorldSkills Ireland 2024 was a huge success where over 29,000 students, teachers and parents attended. This year, we have over 35,000 visitors registered to attend the RDS over three action packed days. Play this video in class to your students before your visit to WorldSkills Ireland 2025, to get a better understanding of what your students will experience at the event.



Click [here](#) to watch our 5 minute long WorldSkills Ireland highlight video from September 2023.



WORLDSKILLS CAREER PERSONALITY QUIZ

The WorldSkills Digital Quiz measures and analyzes personalities, while also providing information about jobs that may be most interesting for young people as they plan their careers.

The quiz takes less than 10 minutes. Students can tell us about their skills and interests, and then discover jobs that might interest them and align with their personality and skill sets (current or future). It's a fun activity that helps students get to know themselves better — and they can share it with friends if they wish.

All results will remain anonymous unless students choose to share them. The input collected through the quiz is also kept anonymous.

👉 Share this quiz link with your students:

<https://survey.worldskills.org/> —or— print the QR code so they can scan it themselves.

**Take the career
personality quiz
now. Scan here**



EVENT LAYOUT

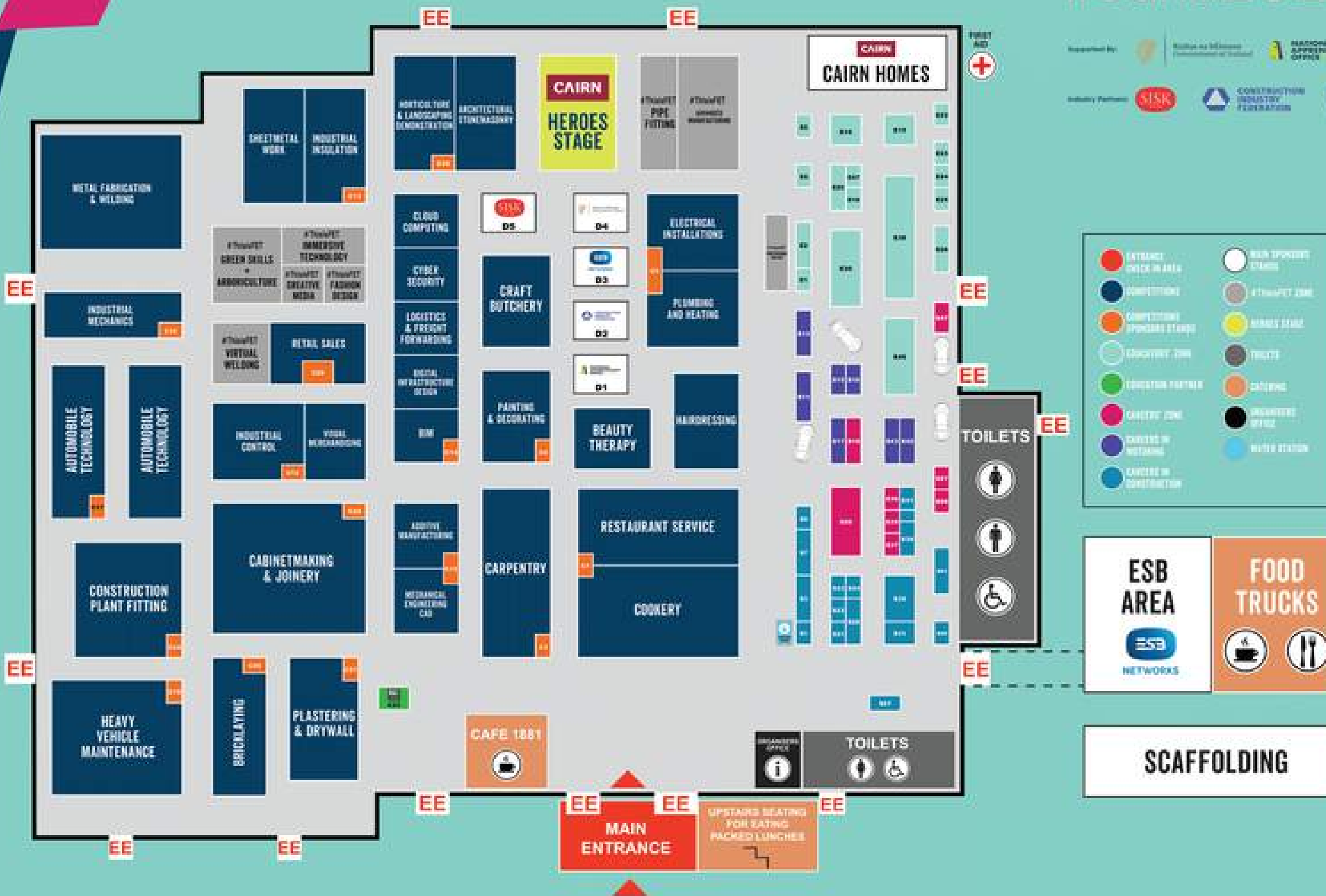
To help you and your students get the most from your visit to WorldSkills Ireland 2025, we've included a map of the RDS layout. This shows the main event features, competition areas, and zones you'll be exploring on the day.

We recommend that group leaders review the map in advance to get familiar with the venue and plan your route. You may also wish to share it with your students so they have a clear picture of what to expect when they arrive—whether that's the Live National Competitions, the Heroes Stage, the Careers' Zone, the Educators' Zone, or the #ThisIsFET Zone.

Encouraging your students to explore the map beforehand can help them plan which panels, exhibitors, and skills they'd like to prioritise, ensuring they make the most of their WorldSkills Ireland experience.



SCAN FOR INTERACTIVE
LIVE FLOORPLAN





WIN AMAZING PRIZES FROM MTU

MTU Pocket Guide Challenge:

Get ready for an exciting competition hosted by our WorldSkills Ireland 2025 Pocket Guide Sponsor, Munster Technological University! They will be giving away fantastic prizes over the next 3 days to kickstart an incredible school year for your students. MTU is a dynamic hub for education, research, innovation and collaboration. It offers over 140 courses from apprenticeships to PhDs. For more information visit www.mtu.ie

Prizes include:

- BL GO Essential Portable Speaker, Red
- Samsung Galaxy Tablet Silver
- Huawei – Pink Smart Watch/Fitness Tracker Huawei Band 10
- Sony Portable Bluetooth Speaker, Blue
- Lenovo IdeaPad Slim Chromebook Laptop Grey
- Huawei – black Smart Watch/Fitness Tracker Huawei Band 10
- Sony Portable Bluetooth Speaker, Blue
- Samsung Galaxy Tablet Navy A9+
- JBL GO Essential Portable Speaker, Red
- Sony Portable Bluetooth Speaker, Blue.
- Lenovo IdeaPad Slim Chromebook Laptop Grey 14"
- Sony In-Ear Headphones – White - True Wireless Noise Cancelling
- JBL GO Essential Portable Speaker,
- Lenovo IdeaPad Slim Chromebook Laptop Grey 14"
- Sony In-Ear Headphones – White - True Wireless Noise Cancelling



To enter the MTU WorldSkills Ireland 2025 Challenge, participants must answer a list of questions. Answers to these questions can be found throughout the event. Make sure you pick up a Pocket Guide on your way into the event to take the MTU WorldSkills Ireland 2025 challenge! Once complete, submit your entry at the MTU WorldSkills stand E15. **Correct entries will be entered into hourly raffles, with winners announced on the MTU website.**



worldskills Ireland 2025

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**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
PARTNERS, SPONSORS, AND
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YOU MADE THIS EVENT A REALITY.**



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Bus Átha Cliath
Dublin Bus



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Ireland 2025



For more information contact:
info@worldskillsireland.ie

17- 19 Sept
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