




worldskills
Ireland 2026



Teacher and Guidance Counsellor Information Pack

16 - 18 Sept
RDS, Dublin



Supported By:



Rialtas na hÉireann
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SOLAS

An tArdáil Ghnóthaí
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Industry Partners:



**CONSTRUCTION
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**Bus Átha Cliath
Dublin Bus**



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the WorldSkills Ireland 2026 Teacher and Guidance Counsellor Information Pack. We're excited to welcome you and your students to WorldSkills Ireland 2026! 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 sixth year, WorldSkills Ireland 2026 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, 16th September	9am - 12 noon & 12.30pm - 3.30pm
Thursday, 17th September	9am - 12 noon & 12.30pm - 3.30pm
Friday, 18th September	9am - 1.30pm

WorldSkills Ireland 2026 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 separate 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 2026.

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 2026 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 2026, 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 160 finalists will compete in more than 30 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 2026, 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 2026 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 2026 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, your 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 160 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 2026 Pocket Guide Sponsor. From laptops and smartwatches to iPads 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. Find out more [here](#).

6) Teacher Focus:

The Institute of Guidance Counsellors (IGC) have returned as the Official WorldSkills Ireland 2026 Education Partner. The IGC will be located on Stand C23 beside the main Café, if you wish to talk to the team there.

This year, WorldSkills Ireland 2026 will feature a dedicated Teacher Zone, giving teachers a quiet and comfortable space away from the busy event floor to take a break, catch up with colleagues and recharge throughout the day.

7) Travel & Parking Info

With over 30,000 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 a variety of outdoor food trucks, an onsite café, and a dedicated upstairs lunchroom for students bringing packed lunches.

GETTING TO THE RDS



COACH TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

There is a comprehensive traffic management plan in place for WorldSkills Ireland 2026 and The Irish Times Higher Options. This plan involves input from the RDS, security suppliers and An Garda Síochána.

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 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 into 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 on Foot:

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.

NATIONAL COMPETITION FINALS:
Watch 160 of Ireland's top apprentices compete live at the RDS across 31 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.

30+ LIVE NATIONAL COMPETITION FINALS

At WorldSkills Ireland, 160 students and apprentices will compete in 31 Live National Finals for the prestigious Skills Silver Medal. Winners will go on to represent Ireland at the WorldSkills Olympics in Japan 2028.

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
- Heavy Vehicle Technology

CONSTRUCTION



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

CREATIVE ARTS



- Beauty Therapy
- Hairdressing
- Visual Merchandising

HOSPITALITY & TOURISM



- Craft Butchers
- Cookery
- Restaurant Service

ICT



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

MANUFACTURING & ENGINEERING



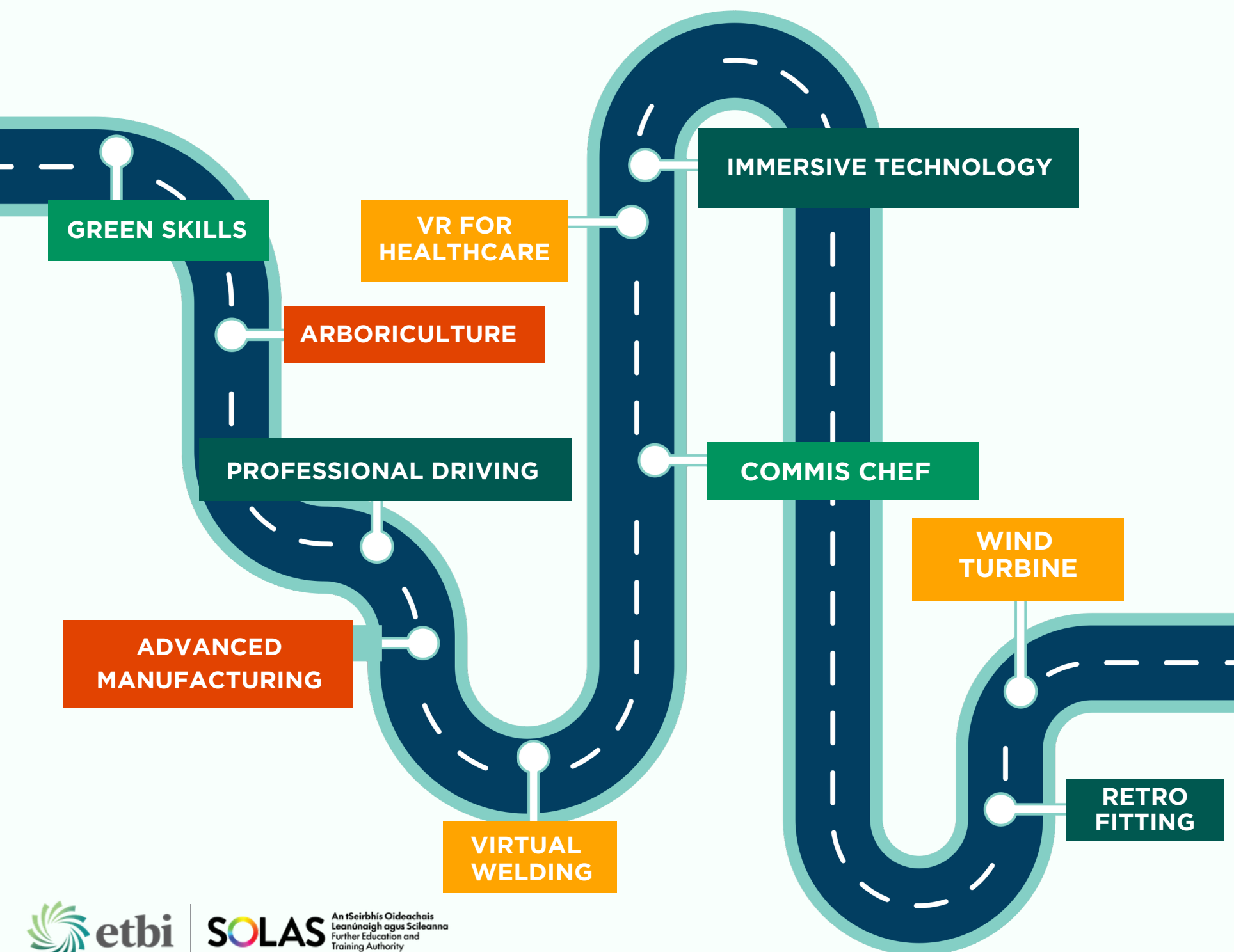
- Industrial Insulation
- Industrial Control
- Industrial Mechanics
- Metal Fabrication
- Sheetmetal Work
- Welding

#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 SCHEDULE

Hosted by Andrea Hayes, the Heroes Stage brings together industry leaders, rising stars and special guests to share their career journeys and insights. One talk will take place during each group slot on Wednesday and Thursday, with two talks on Friday. Teachers are encouraged to include a session in their visit plan. Seating is limited, so please arrive early.

Click [here](#) to view the panels speaking on each Heroes Stage slot.

TIME	WEDNESDAY 16 TH SEPTEMBER
10:00	Bridging the Skills Gap Through Apprenticeships, Skills and Training.
11:00	SOLAS - Apprenticeship Futures
13:30	Empowering Futures Through Education, Apprenticeships and Skills

TIME	THURSDAY 17 TH SEPTEMBER
10:00	Skills Change Live
11:00	SOLAS - Apprenticeship Futures
13:30	The Importance of Skills in Career Development

TIME	FRIDAY 18 TH SEPTEMBER
10:00	Skills Change Live
12:00	The Importance of Skills in Career Development

Click here to view the full speaker list and schedule.



TEACHER FOCUS

The Institute of Guidance Counsellors returns as the official education partner of WorldSkills Ireland 2026, 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 Secretary-General of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors (IGC), I am delighted that the IGC is once again an Education Partner of WorldSkills Ireland 2026. This inspiring event gives learners the opportunity to meet competitors, explore a wide range of career pathways, and engage directly with employers, educators and industry leaders.

Skills-based careers and apprenticeships offer accessible and rewarding routes for learners to discover their strengths, shape their future, and build fulfilling careers. At a time of growing skills shortages, WorldSkills Ireland provides a powerful showcase of the value of vocational education, apprenticeships, and the transferable skills needed to succeed in a changing world. We look forward to welcoming guidance counsellors, teachers and students to WorldSkills Ireland 2026.



Gerry Reilly
Institute of Guidance
Counsellors Secretary-
General



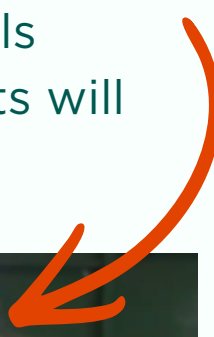
TEACHER ZONE: This year there will be a dedicated Teacher Zone, giving teachers a quiet and comfortable space away from the busy event floor to take a break, catch up with colleagues and recharge throughout the day.

WORLDSKILLS IRELAND HIGHLIGHT VIDEO



WorldSkills Ireland 2025 Highlight Video

WorldSkills Ireland 2025 was a huge success where over 30,000 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 2026, to get a better understanding of what your students will experience at the event.



Click [here](#) to watch a **longer 5-minute** 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



PLAN YOUR VISIT:
Make the most of your time at WorldSkills Ireland 2026 by getting familiar with the event layout before you arrive.

Review the floorplan with your students and identify the competitions, talks, exhibitors and Try a Skill activities they don't want to miss. It's also a good idea to choose a meeting point for your group in advance.

Scan the QR code to explore the interactive live floorplan and start planning your visit.



**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 2026 Pocket Guide Sponsor, Munster Technological University! They will be giving away fantastic prizes over the next three 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 click [here](#).

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 Smartwatch/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 2026 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 2026 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 2026

16th-18th September 2026 | RDS, Simmonscourt

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2026 PARTNERS, SPONSORS, AND PRODUCT SUPPLIERS:






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For more information contact:
info@worldskillsireland.ie

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**Bus Átha Cliath
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