



Throughout Ireland, various grants and funding options are available to support individuals pursuing CPD (Continuing Professional Development) courses. These grants can help cover the cost of training, especially for professionals looking to enhance their skills. Here is an overview of some of the key funding options available for CPD courses in Ireland:

## 1. [Skillnet Ireland](#)

**Overview:** Skillnet Ireland is a state agency that supports businesses and individuals in training and development. It offers funding to companies and individuals for CPD courses, often through a network of industry-specific training programmes.

**Eligibility:** Skillnet Ireland funds employers (for workforce training) and individuals (through specific industry networks).

**How it Works:** Employers can apply for funding to upskill their workforce, while individuals working in specific sectors may be able to access funding to participate in CPD courses aligned with their industry's needs.

**Key Areas:** Skillnet Ireland works with various sectors, including finance, technology, healthcare, and manufacturing, to deliver CPD training.

## 2. [Solás – The Further Education and Training Authority](#)

**Overview:** SOLAS is Ireland's national agency responsible for Further Education and Training (FET). While SOLAS primarily provides training and qualifications for those in the labour market, there are opportunities for CPD funding in specific sectors.

**Eligibility:** Government-funded training initiatives can benefit individuals, particularly those who are unemployed or in lower-skilled occupations.

**How it Works:** SOLAS operates through local Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and may fund specific CPD courses that align with national skills needs, especially in sectors like construction, technology, and healthcare.

### 3. [The National Training Fund \(NTF\)](#)

**Overview:** The National Training Fund provides financial support for Ireland's skills development and training programmes. It is designed to help meet the skills needs of the Irish economy.

**Eligibility:** Companies and individuals in specific industries may be eligible for NTF funding to support CPD courses, particularly for sectors facing skills shortages.

**How it Works:** Employers and training providers can apply for funding to deliver training programmes that address identified skills gaps.

### 4. [Enterprise Support Grants \(Local Enterprise Offices\)](#)

**Overview:** Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) provide grants and financial assistance to small businesses in Ireland. These grants can be used for employee training, including CPD courses.

**Eligibility:** Small businesses with fewer than 250 employees, including sole traders, may apply for funding to upskill their workforce.

**How it Works:** While LEO grants are primarily geared towards business development, they can also cover CPD courses and training that enhance employees' skills within those businesses.

### 5. [Tax Relief for Education and Training](#)

**Overview:** In Ireland, you can claim tax relief on the cost of CPD courses related to your work. This means that the cost of courses may be deducted from your income tax.

**Eligibility:** This applies to individuals who pay for CPD courses that are relevant to their current job or profession.

**How it Works:** Tax relief is available for training courses that improve or update your professional skills. For example, if you pay for a course out-of-pocket, you can claim up to 40% in tax relief on the amount spent, depending on your income tax bracket.

**Note:** This tax relief is generally available for courses directly related to your employment and not part of a formal qualification.

### 6. Professional Body and Industry-Specific Grants

**Overview:** Many professional organisations in Ireland offer grants or discounts on CPD courses for their members. These bodies include institutes such as [Chartered Accountants Ireland](#), [The Law Society of Ireland](#), and [Engineers Ireland](#).

**Eligibility:** Membership in these professional bodies is often required to access grants or funding for CPD courses.

**How it Works:** These organisations may offer financial support for courses relevant to your profession or negotiate discounted rates for members on various CPD courses.

## 7. Educational Institutions and Universities

**Overview:** Some universities and educational institutions in Ireland offer CPD programmes and may provide funding or discounts, especially for specific sectors or in collaboration with employers.

**Eligibility:** Universities may offer grants or funding to individuals who are pursuing CPD in specific fields, such as healthcare, technology, business, or engineering.

**How it Works:** These funds may come in scholarships, fee reductions, or specialised financial assistance for those enrolling in short-term CPD courses or qualifications.

**Example:** [University College Dublin \(UCD\) CPD Programmes](#)

Grants and funding options for CPD courses in Ireland are available through government agencies like Skillnet Ireland, SOLAS, and the National Training Fund, as well as through professional bodies, local enterprise offices, and tax relief schemes. These funding opportunities can significantly reduce the cost of training and support your career development, whether you're an individual professional or an employer investing in your workforce's growth.

Before applying, check the eligibility criteria for each funding programme, as they may vary depending on your profession, location, and the nature of the CPD course you wish to take.