

Nurturing Skills Learner Fund

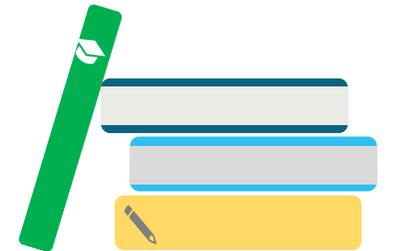
Registration, Employment Record & Application



Continuing Students

For those who were successful for NSLF Funding for the academic years 2024/2025 and/or 2025/2026 and are continuing their studies in the academic year 2026/2027:

- Pobal will contact **continuing students** directly in Summer 2026 asking individuals to verify their continuing eligibility for NSLF.
- Once eligibility is confirmed, a new **Letter of Conditional Funding** will issue to the student for the academic year 2026/2027.



Session Agenda



What is the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund



Applicant Eligibility Criteria



Registering to the NSLF Student Portal



Completing the Employment Record



Student Application



Key Point Recap with the NSLF Team



What is the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund

Nurturing Skills:

The Workforce Plan for Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare

Nurturing Skills Vision: a well-qualified, skilled, diverse and valued professional workforce that is centered on children's rights, needs and potential and that provides quality experiences for children in partnership with families, and which continues to advance its professional development within a coherent and competent system.

Nurturing Skills Learner Fund:

Co-funded by the European Union through the European Social Fund (ESF+) and Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training Programme (EIST) 2021-27.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



What is the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund



The NSLF is included under the Skills and Lifelong Learning Strand with the aim of promoting lifelong learning, in particular flexible upskilling and reskilling opportunities for all.



This fund aims to assist early years educators to pursue early learning and care (ELC) qualifications that have been approved by the Qualifications Advisory Board (QAB) while continuing to work in the sector, in line with commitments in Nurturing Skills: The Workforce Plan for Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare, 2022-2028.



Eligibility

Those wishing to make an application must meet the following eligibility criteria for the NSLF:

- ✓ Be working with children in a Tusla-registered Early Learning and Care (ELC) or School Age Childcare (SAC) service.
- ✓ The service in which the applicant is working in, must have a **current** signed Core Funding contract with DCDE.
- ✓ Applicants must have worked within an ELC or SAC service for the six months prior to their application.
- ✓ Applicants must have a current application/offer for 2026/27 entry to a Level 7/8 Degree course approved by the Qualification Advisory Board (QAB) that is eligible for NSLF.
- ✓ Be a new entrant to an Approved Course for the academic year commencing 2026/2027 (Autumn 2026)

Eligibility

- X** Not be an ELC educator or SAC practitioner currently undertaking the completion of an Approved Course or an equivalent degree; and
- X** Not be an ELC educator or SAC practitioner who has already completed an Approved Course or equivalent degree.

*For clarity purposes, at the time of application an applicant must **not** hold (or be undertaking) an Approved Course at Level 7 or Level 8 in Early Learning and Care.

Registering to the NSLF Portal

In order to access the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund for the first time, you must:



Contact the NSLF Team with an expression of interest through nslf@pobal.ie



The NSLF Team will send you a link to register your details onto the NSLF Student Portal



Register to the NSLF:

- Name
- Email Address
- You will receive a confirmation email

Finalise your information:

- Enter a Password
- Check your Profile Information
- Confirm your Date of Birth and PPSN

Registering to the NSLF Portal

Hello NSLF Student

You have been invited to the Early Years Portal.

Email: fwatson@test.ie

To redeem the invitation, please follow the link below or try copying and pasting it into your browser:

Registration link here

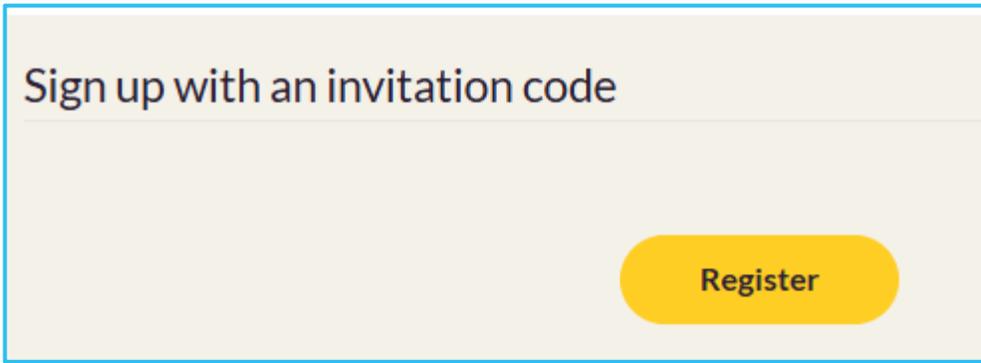
Thank you,

Early Years Portal



Registering to the NSLF Portal

Once you have received this link you will be taken to an invitation page where you will redeem the link.

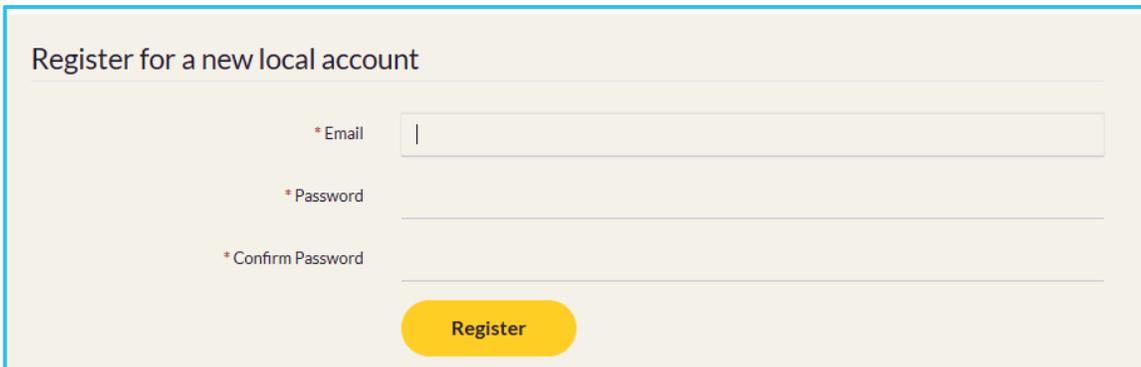


Sign up with an invitation code

Register

This screenshot shows a registration form titled "Sign up with an invitation code". It features a large, empty text input field for entering the invitation code. Below the input field is a prominent yellow "Register" button.

You will need to enter in your email and create a password to access the NSLF portal.



Register for a new local account

* Email

* Password

* Confirm Password

Register

This screenshot shows a registration form titled "Register for a new local account". It contains three input fields: an email field, a password field, and a confirm password field. Each field is preceded by an asterisk indicating it is a required field. Below the input fields is a yellow "Register" button.

Registering to the NSLF Portal

Now that you have registered, you will be taken to your profile page.

PROFILE



Gary Rogers

- Profile
- Security
 - Change Password

GENERAL

First Name * Gary	Last Name * Rogers
Email grogers@test.ie	Contact Number (Preferred Number)
	Mobile Phone

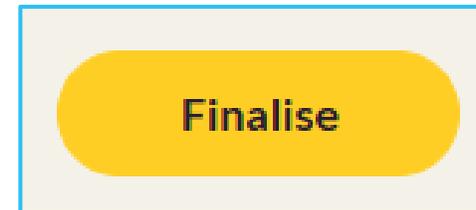
[Update](#)

Registering to the NSLF Portal

Once updated, you will need to finalise your details.

Date of Birth *

PPSN *



Submission completed successfully. Please select "Home" or the home icon to continue with your NSLF application.

Completing the Employment Record

What is an NSLF **Employment Record**?

An NSLF **Employment Record** shows **sufficient** history of the applicants employment history.

'Sufficient' in this instance means that the NSLF Programme Rules around employment are met:

- That the Applicant is currently employed in a Core Funding Partner Service.
- That the Applicant was employed 6 months prior to the NSLF application.

Completing the Employment Record

There are 2 methods to completing your Employment record:

Automated Route:

- Staff ID
- First Name
- Last Name
- The system will automatically review your employment record.

Manual Route:

- If the Automated Route is not an option for you, tick the checkbox and the NSLF Team will manually review the employment record.
- Download and complete the Employment Declaration Record
- Upload the completed document to the NSLF portal

Employment Record Declaration (Manual Route)

Employment

Please choose from one the three scenarios, the scenario that reflects your current employment situation and complete the required action.

Scenario 1

You are currently employed in a Core Funded Partner Service and have been employed in the same Core Funding partner Service, 6 months prior to the close of application date for NSLF academic year 2026/2027.

Please input your Staff ID (obtainable from your employer) in the box immediately below, print your name, the date and upload to the NSLF Student Portal as per instructions in the User Guide, located in the Resources section.

Scenario 2

You are currently employed in a Core Funded Partner Service and worked in several Core Funding Partner Service, 6 months prior to the close of application date for NSLF academic year 2026/2027.

Please input your Staff ID's (obtainable from your employer) relating to all the Core Funded Partner Services you were employed 6 months prior to the close date for NSLF academic year 2026/2027, in the box below Print your name, the date and upload to the NSLF Student Portal as per instructions in the User Guide, located in the Resources section.

Scenario 3

You are currently employed in a Core Funded Partner Service and previously worked in a Tusla registered non-Core Funded Partner Service. The combined length of employment must be equal to or greater than 6 months prior to the close of application date for NSLF academic year 2026/2027.

Please input your Staff ID/s (obtainable from your employer) relating to any Core Funded Partner Service you were employed, for the period 6 months prior to the close of application date, for NSLF academic year 2026/2027 in the box below .Print your name, the date and upload to the NSLF Student Portal as per instructions in the User Guide, located in the Resources section.

Completing the Employment Record

What is a Staff ID?

Full ID	Service Reference Number	Personal Identifier
24DR0119-CN53028	24DR0119	-CN53028

The service provider you are currently employed with keeps a record of all staff members/Staff ID in their **Service Profile on their Hive account, under the Staff Member Section on the left hand side of the screen.** They can give you the Staff ID that has been allocated to you.

Employment Record Verification Stages

There are several verification stages in which the Employment Record can display. They are:

- **Draft:** The Employment Record has been started but not completed.
- **Submitted:** The Employment Record has been completed and is awaiting review.
- **Review:** The Employment Record has gone to the NSLF Team for review.
- **Referred Back:** The Employment Record has been referred back for further information.
- **Completed:** The Employment record has been reviewed and has been marked as verified.

Important Note: Before completing the Student Application, your Employment Record must be at the stage '**Completed**' and be listed under '**My Verified Employment Records**'

My Verified Employment Records		
NSLF Participant ▲	Academic Year	Employment Record Stage
Florence Watson	NSLF 2026	Completed

Completing the NSLF Application

ID: NSF25-QPKK42

NSLF APPLICATION

1. ESF Indicators

- NSLF ID
- Application Stage
- Highest level of qualification in ELC
- Contact details
- Monitoring questions outlined by the ESF+

2. Course Selection

- Information on Fees in a 3rd Level Education
- Course Selection

3. Rules and Conditions

- Document: Rules for Nurturing skills Learner Fund (2026/2027)
- Document: Conditions for receipt of Nurturing Skills Learner Funds (2026/2027)
- Agreement checkbox of the rules and conditions.

Change of Circumstance

All students, notify Pobal for **all** Change of Circumstances including:

Deferral from your course

Withdrawal from your course

Change of course or college

Change of employment

Any other change to your circumstances

All change requests are subject to review by the NSLF Team / DCDE and are processed on a case by case basis.

Recap

Requesting Access to the NSLF Portal

- Contact the NSLF team to express your interest
- The NSLF team will issue an invitation to your email
- Register your details

NSLF Employment Record

- Create your Employment Record on the NSLF Portal
- Upload your details, including your Staff ID

NSLF Student Application

- Complete the application in full
- Review the Rules and Conditions
- Please submit your application in advance of the closing date

Contact Details

nsf@pobal.ie

01 511 7222



Key Points

- Eligibility
- Complete the application in full (employment record + application)
- Submit the application in advance of the closing date
- Change of circumstances
- Support



Thank you!

