

## What's Next?

# Community Development

Bachelor of Arts in Community Development

Community Development is a process that seeks to build strong, sustainable communities by bringing people and groups together for the good of the wider community and society. Based on principles of equality, fairness and respect it sets out to influence power structures and remove barriers that prevent people from taking part in decisions that affect their lives.

Community workers represent the voices and needs of target groups and disadvantaged communities to policy makers at local and national level.



### Transferable Skills

#### Advocacy & Networking Skills

Excellent Communication, Interpersonal & Team-building skills

A non-judgemental & positive attitude

Commitment & Enthusiasm

Creative Thinking & Problem-solving

Capable of working on own initiative & as part of a team

Compassion & the ability to empathise with people's life experiences

Ability to facilitate discussions & to develop collaborative initiatives

Insights into social inclusion issues & the experience of marginalisation in communities and groups



### Degree-specific Skills

Identifying community skills, assets, issues & needs

Research & report-writing skills, with the ability to interpret or present data

Knowledge & understanding of community & social issues

Political, social & negotiating skills;

Developing new resources in dialogue with the community & evaluating existing programmes

Developing & implementing strategies

Planning, attending & coordinating meetings & events

Overseeing the management of a limited budget, fundraising & making funding applications

## Core Skills

## Employers

### Employers include Community work organisations and agencies:

- Community development projects
- Local urban and rural development partnerships
- Organisations concerned with groups (e.g. women, Travellers, Youth) or issues (e.g. unemployment, migrant rights, drugs, homelessness)
- Healthcare
- Groups associated with social inclusion and promotion of equality.

### Organisations within the community and voluntary sector are varied and include:

- Community associations
- Environmental groups
- Homeless projects & Shelters
- Churches & other faith groups
- Health & mental health organisations
- Minority groups, (E.g. refugee's, travellers, LGBT)
- Rural regeneration projects.
- Women's groups
- Children's charities



## Career Options



Many organisations employing community development workers often offer programmes of **in-house training**, which usually focus on issues such as child protection and equal opportunities.

Due to the broad nature of community work, workers may develop their careers by moving into other fields such as: **Education, Environment, Social care work, Youth work and Health sector.**



Watch out for talks by relevant employers on campus during the year; check our website's Jobs page and follow us on social media for regular job alerts: [www.mycit.ie/careers](http://www.mycit.ie/careers).

Also [www.activelink.ie](http://www.activelink.ie) is a great source for all non-profit sector jobs in Ireland, sign up for the weekly newsletter.



## Starting Your Job Search

Job search takes focus, effort and commitment. It's essential that you create a strong online presence. You need to have a LinkedIn profile and work at building your network. LinkedIn is about where you want to go, not just about what you are doing now. An ideal starting point is to look for **Alumni** (former graduates of your college/course). You should also look for **people in organisations** you want to target. Aim to find the name of the HR Manager and employees in roles you are aiming for yourself, what jobs have they had so far? Don't wait for jobs to be advertised, actively look for roles that interest you.

It is useful to research **Government funding programmes** such as those national and EU funds administered by Pobal ([www.pobal.ie](http://www.pobal.ie)) E.g. SICAP, RDP, RSS, Tus, CSP etc. and find out where they are rolled out in your job search area. Many Community Development posts will be funded under these programmes.



## Where are CIT graduates working?

### Company

Simon  
Youthreach  
Solis MMC Children Services  
Youth Work Ireland Cork  
Brothers of Charity Services Ireland  
Charity - Unnamed  
My Place Midleton  
Linc

### Job Role

- Educational Caring Assistant
- Administrator
- Support Worker-Social Care
- Youth Worker
- Community Development Worker
- Social Care Worker
- Facility & Services Manager Youth & Community Centre
- Community Health Worker

## Professional Groups & Associations



Membership of a professional association is a useful way to meet new people in your field and will look good on your CV. Many professional bodies have jobs boards and these roles may not be advertised elsewhere.

### Relevant professional bodies/associations include:

Community Work Ireland;  
<https://www.communityworkireland.ie/>  
International Association for Community Development;  
<https://www.iacdglobal.org/>



## Postgraduate Study

It is common for community development workers to pursue their own continuing professional development by undertaking a further qualification.

**Relevant subjects may include:** Voluntary sector studies, Youth and community, Social studies, Social policy, Housing practice, Business and community studies, Legal studies, Public health/ community health, Management, Counselling and Psychotherapy.

Most of these courses will bring graduates to a **Level 8** (honours level) degree opening up opportunities to progress to Masters level and possibly gain a professional qualification.

**Note:** significant relevant experience in a field in addition to the BA (level 7) can sometimes open up eligibility to gain a place on a relevant Master's degree programme.

**\*Guideline:** Always contact the course co-ordinator of a postgraduate course to check eligibility!

There are many wide and varied options which one can pursue, including;

**Higher Diploma in Coaching/Coaching Psychology UCC** (PT) Level 8

**Higher Diploma in Relationship Mentoring UCC** Level 8

**Higher Diploma in Sociology UCC** 1yr FT/ 2yrs (PT) Level 8

**Higher Diploma in Social Personal Education** WIT (PT) Level 8

**MA in Social and Personal Education** WIT (PT) Level 9

For further information, go to the 'Further Study Options' section on the Career Information page of <http://www.mycit.ie/careers>.

You can also use [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) or [www.gradireland.com/further-study](http://www.gradireland.com/further-study) to search for courses in areas of interest to you.

For information on Masters' programmes through English in universities across the EU: [www.mastersportal.eu](http://www.mastersportal.eu)



## Want to go abroad?

**For career opportunities in the UK see:**

[www.targetjobs.co.uk](http://www.targetjobs.co.uk);

[www.gradjobs.co.uk](http://www.gradjobs.co.uk)

[www.graduate-jobs.com](http://www.graduate-jobs.com)

**Jobs across the EU** can be seen on the EURES website and financial supports are available for relocating to another EU country, visit: <https://ec.europa.eu/eures/eures-searchengine/page/main?lang=en#/search>

If you wish to work in the **USA, Canada or Australia**, check out work visa requirements first. There are graduate work visas available to the USA, a great opportunity to gain global experience in your field.

**Opportunities also exist for overseas development work;**

<http://www.dochas.ie/>

<http://www.developmenteducation.ie/>

<http://comhlamh.org/>

<https://www.trocaire.org>

<https://www.goalglobal.org>

<https://www.concern.net>

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