



skillsdevelopment

Irish Tourism - be part of the team



Fáilte Ireland

National Tourism Development Authority

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**YEARS OF WORK?
NO QUALIFICATIONS?**

THE ANSWER IS APL

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)
Craft Level



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Have you gained a wealth of knowledge and experience in the tourism and hospitality industry while working over the years in a bar, restaurant, kitchen or in accommodation services?

Would you like to gain recognition of this experience through a formal internationally-recognised qualification?

Now you can.

Fáilte Ireland wants to reward your contribution to the tourism and hospitality industry through its Accreditation of Prior Learning programme.

APL recognises skills and knowledge you have progressively built up over the years in the industry by providing an opportunity to achieve a FETAC National Certificate qualification which is the same as that awarded to graduates of full time Fáilte Ireland third level programmes.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Your National Certificate provides formal evidence of your value as an employee. It offers you professional status when you next go for a job interview and it will be recognised by employers at home and throughout the EU, providing access to interesting career options if you choose to gain international experience. A National Certificate also marks your place on your Career Path and will be valuable if you choose to seek higher level qualifications or a post as a supervisor.

And most important of all, it identifies you as an industry professional who is serious about building a career.

IS IT DIFFICULT?

In a word- 'No'.

We want you to succeed. The path to achieving the qualification you deserve is straightforward, with very few hurdles to be overcome.

For instance:

- There is no written examination.
- Paperwork and form filling have been kept to a minimum. You just need to assure Fáilte Ireland that your experience matches the National Standard.
- The cost to you and your employer is minimal.
- Fáilte Ireland will provide you with a personal Mentor who will offer support, advice and help at every step of the process.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

Very probably 'yes', if you are:

- Over 20 years of age
- Have been employed for a number of years in good quality tourism or catering businesses.
- Have worked in accommodation services, cookery, bar or restaurant service.

And if you are in doubt Fáilte Ireland can help you to decide if you should apply. Why not give us a call and let us provide an initial assessment.

SIX STEPS TO QUALIFICATION

Step One: Call or write to Fáilte Ireland APL Unit (contact details on back page) and ask for an APL Application Form.

Step Two: Complete the form and return it to Fáilte Ireland. Make sure to include details of your career such as previous employment, training records, references and certificates. If you are eligible you will be registered to join the programme and a Fáilte Ireland mentor will be appointed to help you along the way.

Step Three: You will receive a Skills Audit Check List which sets out the Fáilte Ireland standards which you require. Use this to assess your expertise.

Step Four: If there are gaps in your skills requirements you can brush up on your knowledge with the help of your mentor.

Step Five: You take a practical skills and oral knowledge test (it is NOT a written examination) which will be organised by Fáilte Ireland.

Step Six: If you meet the standard, you will be awarded your National Certificate.



WHAT NEXT?

Fáilte Ireland will examine your Application to see if you have enough prior experience to join the Programme.

Once you have been accepted to join APL, a moderate fee will be due for payment.

You will be asked to make an honest estimate of your ability in each area and your Fáilte Ireland Mentor will be on hand to help you to complete the audit. You may, of course, discover that there are gaps in your knowledge which you need to fill. No need to worry – Fáilte Ireland will provide you with a list of reference books which will help you to gain the additional knowledge which you need. Once these gaps have been filled and the audit is complete, you will be ready for your Practical Skills and Knowledge Test with a Fáilte Ireland assessor. And because this test is based on the skills and knowledge which you bring to your work every day – there is every reason to be confident of success.

And then – when Fáilte Ireland is satisfied that your experience meets the required standard, you will be awarded the FETAC National Certificate which is recognised in Ireland, throughout the EU and internationally.

CONGRATULATIONS