

National **CAREERSKILLS** Competition

Leaving Certificate (Including LCVP & LCA)

Competition Overview

The competition is available to Senior Cycle students in Ireland who have undertaken a work placement. There are three distinct competitions, with students in each category only competing with others in that category, as follows:

- Transition Year
- Leaving Cert (including LCVP & LCA)
- Irish Language Entries

Students can only apply to the competition through their school. The programme coordinator/teacher for TY, LCA, LCVP, or the Guidance Counsellor needs to approve the student in order for it to be accepted, and their details must be included as part of the submission.

Note: Students cannot enter the same competition in consecutive years.

Submission Details – Leaving Cert Entries

The submission must be a word processed document containing a Career Investigation and a Career Skills Statement. The document should be clear and concise, and contain all of the sections detailed below:

1. Entry Details:

Entrant Details:

Name

Email

Phone Number

School Details:

School Name

School Address

LCVP Teacher or Guidance Counsellors Details:

Name

Email

Phone Number

School Programme:

LCVP or LC (established)

2. The Career Investigation [Total = 40%]

The competition is centred on your investigation of a particular career. Ideally this career is the same one you choose for your work placement, although this is sometimes not possible. Where it is the same as your placement, the following details are required:

Job Title (or Career Area)

A description of the job (or Career Area) [5%]

This is a description of the type of work the person would be doing, including the main tasks and responsibilities.

Knowledge Requirements [5%]

Look through the list of specialist subject areas described in the Knowledge Requirements worksheet (available online). Pick two knowledge areas you think are the most important for this career, and discuss your reasons.

Education Pathways [5%]

Identify one course that leads to this career. Use the following headings to provide the information:

Course Name [and code if available]

College or Organisation Name [e.g. Cork IT]

Course Entry Requirements [e.g. Minimum Irish: O6, English: O6, Maths: H4]

Where to Apply [e.g. through CAO, Last years points were 360]

Length of Course [e.g. 3 years full-time]

Level of Qualification on the National Framework [e.g. Degree - Honours Bachelor (Level 8 NFQ) from NUI]

Career Skills Observed* [25%]

Look through the list of Career Skills described in the Career Skills worksheet (see back page). Pick two skills that you observed during your placement and describe why you think these are particularly important for being successful in the career.

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OR - where the career investigation being submitted is of a career that is different to that of the work placement, replace the Career Skills Observed section with the following:

***Career Skills Needed** [25%]

Look through the list of Career Skills described in the Career Skills worksheet. Pick the four skills you think are the most important in order to be successful in the career.

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3. The Career Skills Statement [Total = 30%]

The Skills statement is a written summary of five Career Skills that you have developed based on your experience in work placements and other activities. Describing your skills is very important when it comes to activities such as job interviews and creating your CV. When describing skills you developed, it is important to provide evidence. The STAR method provides an excellent approach to effectively communicate your skills to someone else.

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|-----------------------------|--|
| • What was the SITUATION? | Situation – details: what, where, when, etc. |
| • What was your TASK? | Task – the job you got done: goal/objective |
| • What ACTION did you take? | Action – SKILLS you used |
| • What was the RESULT? | Result – how it worked out |

In no more than 600 words, tell us about five career skills you have developed [6% each]. At least three of these skills must be from a work placement, the others can be from any other activity you participated in (school play, sports, community involvement, music performance etc).

4. Conclusions [Total = 20%]

A work experience is an opportunity to sample first hand some of the day to day experiences typical of the occupation or career area. Review your experience by writing a paragraph on each of the two following questions:

Evaluation [10%]

How has your work experience influenced you in terms of your personal career direction?

Application to Everyday Life [10%]

What skills have you learned from your work experience that you can apply to your everyday life?

The Submission Document [Total = 10%]

The submission should be typed into a word processor and formatted to produce a clear and concise document. Use the 4 headings provided above to layout the document, and include information on all headings required (incomplete entries cannot win a prize).

How to Submit

Once the document is completed it should be checked by your LCVP/LCA Teacher or Guidance Counsellor to ensure all the relevant sections are included. Please also ensure all the appropriate information in section 1 (entry details) are included and accurate.

Your document can be submitted in a number of ways.

1. Email the completed document as an attachment to careerskills@careersportal.ie

or

2. Print your document and post it to the following address:

National CareerSkills Competition,
7 Richview Park,
Clonskeagh,
Dublin 14.

or

3. Create the document online - available to students who register with CareersPortal from within their Career File.

The closing date for the submission is in April, check online for exact date. The winners will be announced and the award ceremony will take place in May.

Adjudication

All entries for the CareerSkills Competition will be assessed by a team of Human Resource (HR) professionals, the National programme co-ordinators of TY, LCA, LCVP and Guidance Counsellors.

Career Skills - Definitions

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PEOPLE SKILLS

Sensitivity to others	<i>Shows ability to maintain a deep interest in the concerns and feeling of others. Inclined to find ways to help people.</i>
Insight into others	<i>Shows an understanding of what makes people do what they do, and tolerance of the actions of others. Good at reading the moods of others.</i>
Openness to others	<i>Is open to, and communicates with people at all levels. Inclined to share personal experiences and trust people.</i>
Respect	<i>Shows consideration for the feelings, needs, thoughts, wishes and preferences of others (including other cultures and races).</i>
Speaking / Presenting	<i>Presents information clearly and confidently to other individuals or groups. Maintains good eye contact and keeps the attention of an audience or individual.</i>
Active listening	<i>Pays full attention to what other people are saying, takes time to understand the points being made, asks questions as needed, and does not interrupt inappropriately.</i>
Conversation	<i>Speaks clearly and listens attentively. Attends to other people, not to themselves. Seeks clarification where necessary and attends to body language appropriately.</i>
Persuasion	<i>Shows ability to influence peoples beliefs and actions. Shows ability to win people's co-operation and support for ideas or activities.</i>
Team membership	<i>Works easily with groups of people and shows loyalty and commitment to the teams' objectives. Attends to each member's views equally.</i>
Team participation	<i>Openly expresses views and opinions within a group. Shows willingness to take on tasks and responsibilities as appropriate to one's experience.</i>
Leadership	<i>Shows the ability to communicate a vision or goal to others and lead them towards achieving it. Pushes for action and results, and wins the support and help of others.</i>

TASK SKILLS

Planning / Organising	<i>Creates clear goals, identifies and finds the resources (e.g. time, people, materials) needed to achieve them, and schedules tasks so that work is completed on time.</i>
Time management	<i>Takes the time to organise events and tasks carefully so as to use time efficiently. Uses a diary/planner to ensure tasks are undertaken.</i>
Practical skills	<i>Uses equipment, tools or technology effectively. Easily follows instructions and shows willingness to use whatever tools or technology is required.</i>
Computer skills	<i>Confidently uses a computer to write documents, browse the internet or use email programs. Can save files, locate them efficiently and print them.</i>
Problem solving	<i>Shows interest in finding the cause of problems, looks for and chooses effective solutions and takes the necessary action to resolve them.</i>
Business awareness	<i>Shows understanding of the main business activities of the company/organisation. Has a good sense of the business opportunities available, and the primary competitors.</i>
Customer focus	<i>Shows understanding and concern for customers' needs, is helpful and friendly to them, and deals effectively with any questions or complaints they may have.</i>

PERSONAL SKILLS

Learning skills	<i>Seeks and willingly takes opportunities to learn. Shows interest in personal learning and development. Looks for feedback to improve understanding.</i>
Adaptability	<i>Adapts easily to new challenges and shows openness to new ways of doing things. Effective at changing plans or actions to deal with changing situations.</i>
Goal setting	<i>Shows the ability to make a decision about what is wanted, and determine when it is to be achieved. Stays committed to the goal, and deals with setbacks realistically.</i>
Initiative	<i>Demonstrates ability to take the initiative in a situation. Shows inclination to find opportunities to make decisions or influence events.</i>
Independence	<i>Able to perform tasks effectively with minimum help or approval, or without direct supervision.</i>
Motivation	<i>Shows the drive to succeed and excel at tasks. Shows confidence in abilities and expects to succeed at all tasks agreed on.</i>
Dependability	<i>Is reliable, responsible and dependable in fulfilling duties. Carefully checks work to ensure all details have been considered.</i>
Professionalism	<i>Remains calm and self-controlled under stressful situations. Works to deliver the best interests of the organisation at all times, and maintains appropriate dress code.</i>