

## Kilkenny Public Participation Scholarship Programme

Kilkenny Public Participation Network are pleased to announce that up to 5 Scholarships which reward active citizenship will be awarded to individuals from our members organisations across the 4 Municipal Districts in County Kilkenny. These individuals will need to prove that they are active in their community, will become PPN Champions and will outline how they will use the knowledge gained in this programme to fulfil one of the PPN Champion roles in the criteria set out below. The 5 individuals who have successfully been selected by the PPN Champion Scholarship Panel will be funded to achieve a BA Degree in Business Enterprise and Community Development. We welcome candidates with little or no qualifications, particularly people who have worked as volunteers in the community or have experience in business.



The degree programme is offered by EQUAL Ireland and accredited by Athlone Institute of Technology.

EQUAL Ireland works to sustain the European social model of an inclusive, cohesive information and knowledge rich society for all. It operates a practical *Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)* system taking into account knowledge, Skills and experience of applicants. The degree programme is run over one year through a mixture of distant learning and weekend workshops at convenient locations to accommodate learners. For more info visit [www.equalireland.ie](http://www.equalireland.ie)

**The following is an outline of the Degree Programme being offered by Kilkenny PPN**

### **BA IN BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

#### **BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT 10 CREDITS @ LEVEL 7**

This module focuses on building your knowledge in the area of management and business development. You will acquire skills and in the areas most important to business i.e. how to grow the business, how to identify and assess opportunities and manage these developments.

#### **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS 5 CREDITS @ LEVEL 7**

The ability to interpret and present financial information is an important skill in both commercial and *'not for profit'* organisations. This module will explain the role and purpose of financial management and includes the preparation of financial statements, budgeting, profit analysis and sources of finance.

#### **APPLIED INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY 5 CREDITS @ LEVEL 7**

This module will examine the importance of ICT, Internet and E-Business from a technical, business, marketing and security perspective and will discuss the importance of data and legal issues surrounding Information Management in an ICT environment

#### **APPLIED HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 10 CREDITS**

### **@ LEVEL 7**

People management is increasingly complex due to the legislative onus on the employer and employee. This module will explore the application of best practice Human Resources principles that can avoid legal issues and ensure fairness in the workplace.

### **APPLIED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**15 CREDITS**

#### **@ LEVEL 7**

This module will equip you with the knowledge and skills to successfully manage Community Development Initiatives and Social Enterprises and take on such roles as Manager or Project Leader thereby making a worthwhile and sustainable contribution to employment targets and quality of life issues within a community.

### **INTEGRATED LEARNING PROJECT**

**15 CREDITS**

#### **@ LEVEL 7**

This module will provide you with the opportunity to integrate the Learning gained in the various modules on the programme through the completion of a project which demonstrates your judgement and understanding of the inter-relationship of the knowledge areas covered on the programme with the real world of work and community.

### **Applying for a Kilkenny PPN Champion Scholarship**

To apply you must:

1. Be a member of and be nominated by a Kilkenny PPN Member Organisation
2. Read the criteria and Terms of Reference of the Kilkenny PPN Champion Scholarship.
3. An information session will take place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> of February in the Berkeley Suite of the Pembroke Hotel at 7pm for all interested applicants. Attendance advised but not a prerequisite. Applications will be available from that date.
4. Complete the Kilkenny PPN Champion Scholarship Application Form and send it to the address provided by **Monday, March 27th, 2017 5pm.**

#### **General criteria:**

- Genuinely have the time to be a PPN Champion
- Be over 18 years' old
- Be a good communicator and abide by the PPN's core values
- Have access to the internet/ computer
- Enthusiastic about Kilkenny PPN
- Voluntarily attend a whole day's induction

Successful applicants will attend a Kilkenny PPN Champions induction run by the Kilkenny PPN Coordinator, receive support as and when you need it, and be part of a growing network of people supporting the PPN, including the Secretariat, Reps Network and overall Plenary.

#### **Successful applicants will:**

1. Meet the minimum entry requirements and have enough 'Prior Learning' to be accepted onto the programme (e.g. experience volunteering or business).

2. Be able to provide evidence of sustained engagement in Active Citizenship and be willing to take on a role in their selected Municipal District that may include:
  - Facilitating the participation and representation of communities in a fair, equitable and transparent manner through the environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary sectors on decision making bodies  
  
e.g. work alongside Municipal District PPNs and interaction with the Local Authority at that level.
  - Strengthening the capacity of communities and of the environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary groups to contribute positively to the community in which they reside/participate  
  
e.g. Promote networking and mentoring between groups to share best practice. Including the development and support of Activity/ Thematic Networks
  - Providing information relevant to the environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary sector and acts as a hub around which information is distributed and received.  
  
e.g. Establish PPN as the recognised way of sharing information with the sector, and between member groups.

### **Benefits of programme**

This opportunity will benefit the successful applicants not only in academic terms but will enhance their personal, communication and organisational skills. It offers a unique opportunity to participate in a new government structure and fulfil a leadership role in their community.

### **Benefits include:**

- Funding of €2000 (4/5 of overall cost) towards their degree from the Kilkenny PPN
- Support from the PPN Development Officer
- Networking opportunities with community and statutory organisations
- A working knowledge of the PPN and Local Authority structures
- Creditable work experience
- Opportunities to take a lead role in community participation

### **Selection Process:**

Applications will be reviewed by the Kilkenny PPN and Equal Ireland selection panel. All applicants will be required to take part in a 1:1 Recognition of prior learning interview with Equal Ireland. This will determine the suitability of the candidate ( note: volunteering experience is highly valued in this process). Equal Ireland will make the final decision on the suitability of the applicant to obtain the qualification. Feedback on your application may be requested.