

Summary points on HEA / EGF Circular, dated 18 May 2010

- Eligible EGF participants are workers made redundant from DELL or ancillary enterprises between 8th Jan 2009 and 30th April 2010, and who are listed on the FAS EGF Co-Ordination Unit database.
- Funding applies to supports provided since 8th January 2009, and up until 29th September 2011 (Academic years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 are all included. Funding for activity in 2011/12 will require to be allocated by 29th Sept 2011).
- Any course provided by a HEA-designated institution to an eligible participant can be funded under the EGF. The scope of courses is not restricted to full-time programmes or programmes leading to credits or an award on the NFQ (therefore includes FT, PT, undergrad, postgrad, LLL, short courses etc)
- EGF participants can apply to a provider anywhere in Ireland – not restricted to Limerick region.
- Eligible persons may avail of support under the EGF for several courses over the timeframe of the measure.
- There is no restriction on funding based on the prior educational attainment of eligible individuals, as long as delivery is within the relevant eligibility period. Eligible individuals need not be progressing to a higher level of the NFQ in order to be eligible for support under EGF.
- Co-financing of EGF measures from other EU funding sources (e.g. ESF, LMA 2010) is prohibited. Participants cannot be supported by more than one programmes concurrently.
- Fund for Students with Disabilities - Institutions with any eligible EGF participants with disabilities that require additional educational support to enable full participation should make an application through the HEA for the additional disability support funding from the EGF, and not the Fund for Students with Disabilities. Such students should be referred to the disability or access office of the institution, who can submit a specific disability-related claim to the HEA.
- EGF eligible participants may qualify for the Back to Education Allowance (BTEA) or a maintenance grant, if they meet the normal relevant criteria under these schemes. Maintenance grant schemes only apply however to individuals pursuing approved courses at a higher level on the NFQ than their current qualification(s). The BTEA is not payable where a person is pursuing a qualification at a similar, or lower, level to one already held nor is it payable, apart from certain Higher Diploma courses, to persons pursuing a Level 9 qualification.
- Eligible participants who wish to take up a part-time education option may be entitled to retain their social welfare payments provided, in the case of Jobseekers Benefit/Allowance, that they are still genuinely available for and seeking work.
- No commitment can be provided by the EGF to fund the participation of any eligible individual on any education programme continuing into or starting in the 2012 academic year or beyond.

EGF Participants must contact their local FAS Office regarding access to EGF funding