



# ECO-UNESCO seeking Expressions of Interest

## Chairperson of the Education and Training Committee

ECO-UNESCO is seeking expressions of interest for a **Chair of our Education and Training Committee**.

This is a voluntary, governance-focused role offering the opportunity to contribute to the quality of ECO-UNESCO's environmental education and training courses.

### About ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO is a leading environmental education and youth organisation in Ireland, working to channel the passion, creativity, and energy of young people into positive environmental action. We inspire, educate, empower, and support young people through a wide range of programmes and services. ECO-UNESCO is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee and will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2026.

We work directly with young people aged 10–25 in both formal and nonformal education settings, including schools, youth groups, and community contexts. Our delivery includes experiential workshops, youth programmes, accredited and non-accredited training, employability initiatives, national events, and action-based projects.

We also work with educators, youth workers, community leaders, local authorities, businesses, and NGOs operating in the youth and community sector.

ECO-UNESCO is a QQI - accredited training centre, delivering a range of programmes at NFQ Levels 3–6. We developed Ireland's first NFQ Level 5 programme in Sustainable Development and formally re-engaged with QQI in 2023. *(Please find QQI related information and courses [Here.](#))*

Our work is funded through a combination of national and European government funding, corporate funding, consultancy services, membership income, and programme fees.

ECO-UNESCO operates on an all-island basis, with headquarters in Dublin, and works extensively with schools, youth groups, and local authorities across Ireland.

We are linked with UNESCO through its Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) programme and are members of UNESCO's Global ESD Net 2030 and the Greening Education Partnership.

## About the Education and Training Committee

The Education and Training Committee was established in 2023 as part of ECO- UNESCO's re-engagement with Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

The Committee meets quarterly and has oversight responsibility for academic standards, programme quality, and learner supports. It makes recommendations to the Board of Directors to ensure:

- high standards in education and training,
- compliance with QQI quality assurance requirements, and
- that decisions relating to education and training are made independently of commercial considerations.

The Committee reports directly to the Board of Directors.

## Role of the Chair

The Chairperson of the Education and Training Committee will:

- provide independent leadership to the Committee;
- ensure the Committee functions effectively and in line with its Terms of Reference;
- ensure full participation and constructive discussion at meetings;
- ensure meetings are planned and conducted efficiently and decisions are clearly recorded and followed up;
- oversee an annual review of the Committee's performance; and
- represent ECO-UNESCO from time to time (for example, at QQI reengagement or review panels).

## Key skills and competencies of the Chair

The successful candidate will:

- have knowledge of and experience within the Further Education and Training (FET) sector;
- have an understanding of, and alignment with, ECO-UNESCO's ethos, mission, and learner profile;
- hold an academic qualification at minimum NFQ Level 8, or equivalent, in a relevant discipline;
- be independent of ECO-UNESCO, its staff, tutors, and funders;
- have experience of governance, including chairing committees or boards.

## Committee Membership

Members of the Education and Training Committee are appointed by the Board of Directors and serve a term of two years, with the possibility of a second term.

The Chairperson is appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the National Director.

Committee membership includes:

- the Chairperson (external to ECO-UNESCO);
- the Training and Education Coordinator;
- a Tutor;
- a member of the Board of Directors;
- a Learner (for the duration of registration, plus up to two years thereafter).

## Responsibilities of the Education and Training Committee

The Committee is responsible for:

- maintaining oversight of academic standards and learner supports;
- advising the Board on academic planning;
- advising on, and making recommendations regarding, academic policies and significant changes to the Quality Assurance (QA) system;
- approving the appointment of external authenticators and external evaluators;
- overseeing the quality of public information relating to programmes and QA;
- monitoring compliance with conditions of validation;
- making recommendations on staff development in relation to quality standards;
- considering and approving teaching, learning, and assessment strategies;
- reviewing programme development proposals;
- considering validation and revalidation applications prior to submission;
- approving programme reviews and self-evaluation reports and monitoring implementation of recommendations;
- considering results approval panel reports and agreeing actions;
- reporting significant quality or standards concerns to the Board of Directors; and
- updating the National Director on academic risks and mitigations.

## Time Commitment

- **Role type:** Voluntary
- **Meetings:** Quarterly, with additional engagement as required
- **Format:** Primarily online, with occasional in person meetings in Dublin 2

## How to submit an Expression of Interest:

Interested individuals are invited to express their interest by sending in a **copy of their CV** along with an **Expression of Interest letter of motivation** covering the following areas:

- *your motivation for the role of Chairperson of the Education and Training Committee at ECO UNESCO*
- *your qualification at minimum NFQ Level 8, or equivalent, in a relevant discipline*
- *your knowledge of and experience within the Irish Further Education and Training (FET) sector and of Quality and Qualifications Ireland*
- *your understanding of, and alignment with, ECO UNESCO's ethos, mission, values, learner profile*
- *your previous experience of governance, including chairing committees or boards*
- *Please confirm your independent of ECO UNESCO, its staff, tutors, and funders*
- *Please declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest*

Please send marked **Expressions of Interest – Chair Education and Training Committee (Private and Confidential)** for the attention of Elaine Nevin, National Director, ECO UNESCO to

**Email:** Gary Donegan | Office Manager / PA | [gary.donegan@ecounesco.ie](mailto:gary.donegan@ecounesco.ie)

**For enquiries about the position please contact Elaine Nevin, National Director at [elaine.nevin@ecounesco.ie](mailto:elaine.nevin@ecounesco.ie)**

**Closing date: 8th May 2026**