# SPRINGBOARD+ 2025 CALL FOR PROPOSALS
## FAQ Document #4

## FUNDING & COURSE MODES

**Q1. Is the Springboard+ 2025 Call for 1-year or multiannual funding?**

HEA-designated institutions and non-HEA designated higher education providers whose quality assurance procedures have been approved under the 2012 Act (re-engagement/QA approval processes) will be eligible to apply for **multiannual funding of three (3) years**. Any other provider not comprehended by the above is only eligible for 1-year funding.

**Please note, multiannual funding is dependent on funding being continued for the Springboard+ programme beyond 2025 and at the same level of funding. In addition, it is dependent on a fill rate no lower than 75% in the previous academic year.**

**Q2. What course mode options are eligible under Springboard+ 2025?**

You can submit proposals for Springboard+ 2025 funding for courses under three different categories, depending on certain criteria, and you will be requested to select one of these three options on the Wizehive application to designate which category the course falls under.

| Springboard+ (part-time) | ICT Skills Conversion | Micro-credential |
|---|---|---|
| Minimum 20 ECTS | Minimum 60 ECTS | Between 5 and 20 ECTS |
| Maximum 17 contact hours per week | Full-time hours | Time commitment to reflect the number of credits |
| Maximum 12 months duration from start to end dates | Total 12 months duration from start to end dates | Duration to reflect the number of credits but it should not exceed 12 months |

**Q3. Are existing programmes (i.e. already validated and running) eligible for funding?**

o  Courses currently funded under **Springboard+ 2024** are eligible for consideration if the last cohort has commenced by **28th March 2025**, as per the Springboard+ contract.

o  Courses currently funded under **HCI Pillar 1 2024** are eligible to apply for funding under Springboard+ 2025 if the last cohort has commenced by **31st March 2025**. However, as Springboard+ is for part-time provision only (exception ICT Skills Conversion) therefore any HCI Pillar 1 courses seeking funding under this Call will need to adhere to that format.

o  Micro-credentials currently funded under the **HCI Pillar 3 Micro-credential Learner Fee Subsidy 2024**, where all intakes have started before **1st July 2025**, may also be submitted for consideration.

**Please note that there can be no double funding of cohorts. The HEA Executive will be reviewing proposals to ensure that they are not already supported via another funding stream.**

**Q4. Can all existing HCI funded courses be applied for under Springboard+ 2025?**

**Yes**, provided they meet the criteria set out in **Q2** and **Q3** above.

**Q5. Is there a maximum time limit within which courses should be completed?**

**Yes**, the maximum duration for any approved course under Springboard+ 2025 is **12 months**.

**Q6. Are there a maximum number of contact hours per week for full-time ICT Skills Conversion courses?**

There is **no maximum number of contact hours** for full-time ICT Skills Conversion courses, but the contact hours must be in line with the requirement in the Call that a **minimum of 60 ECTS credits is awarded for a course of 12 months duration**.

The time/workload commitment detailed in the **Bologna Agreement** must be used to determine the appropriate number of contact hours to meet the above requirements.

**Q7. Can an applicant currently availing of funding under HCI Pillar 3 Micro-credentials Learner Fee Subsidy 2024 receive funding for a course under Springboard+ 2025?**

**Yes**, provided it is a **different course** and subject to the eligibility restrictions detailed in **Section 4.2** of the Call document.

**Q8. Does the work placement / project-based credited module requirement for unemployed and returner applicants apply to both Micro-credentials and Springboard+ courses?**

As per **Section 3.1** of the Call document, concerning **Springboard+ part-time and ICT Skills Conversion full-time courses**: "A work placement or project-based credited module **must always be provided** for eligible learners who are Returners or Unemployed and in receipt of a qualifying social welfare payment... A work placement is **mandatory for full-time 1-year ICT Skills Conversion courses**."

There is **no requirement** for **Micro-credential courses** to provide a work placement / project-based credited module for any learners.

**Q9. Will a credit bearing module related to 'job readiness' meet the need of the workplace component / project component?**

**No**, a 'job readiness' module may assist learners in preparing for a return to the workforce, drafting a CV, the job application process, and the interview process, among other things. This is not the equivalent of **"on the job" experience gained through a work placement**.

**Q10. Does the same course with different modes of delivery (i.e. full-time and part-time) count as 1 or 2 proposals?**

If a course proposal is being submitted under Springboard+ Part-time and ICT Skills Conversion Full-time, this will count as **two separate proposals** as a proposal can only be considered under one funding category.

**Q11. Is funding approved as a whole or is it assigned to each of the 3 categories (i.e. Springboard+ Part-time, ICT Skills Conversion (full-time), Micro-credentials? Can we move funding across each category once we don't surpass the total contract value?**

As in every year of the programme, the Contract will contain a table setting out the approved courses and number of places, along with a maximum contract value.

In circumstances where a course does not fill all the places allocated under the Contract, it is at the **discretion of the course provider to re-allocate funds** to their other approved Springboard+ 2025 courses, provided the **total cost for places does not exceed the maximum contract value**.

**Q12. To maximise the mainstreaming of programmes and courses, do institutions have the choice not to avail of HCI Pillar 3 Micro-credentials Learner Fee Subsidy 2024 funding if those proposals are selected for funding under the Springboard+ 2025 Call?**

Micro-credentials currently funded under HCI Pillar 3 Micro-credentials Learner Fee Subsidy 2024, where all intakes have started before **1st July 2025**, may be submitted for consideration.

Should a course which has been funded under the HCI Pillar 3 Micro-credentials Learner Fee Subsidy 2024 be awarded funding under Springboard+ 2025, providers will be required to submit a full and accurate report of places achieved for the specific courses under the HCI Pillar 3 Micro-credentials Learner Fee Subsidy 2024 and **refund any unspent HCI allocations** linked to these courses to the HEA.


**Q13. Can providers not listed in Appendix VII and Appendix VIII submit proposals for Springboard+ 2025?**

**Yes**, they may apply but would only be eligible for consideration for **1-year funding**. As per **Section 5.1** of the Call document:

- HEA-designated institutions (Appendix VII) and non-HEA designated higher education providers (Appendix VIII) whose quality assurance procedures have been approved under the 2012 Act (re-engagement/QA approval processes) will be eligible to apply for multiannual funding of three (3) years from 2025...

- **Providers submitting proposals which do not fit the criteria detailed above are only eligible for 1-year funding**. These providers will be permitted to reapply for funding each year if they meet the eligibility criteria in the subsequent year's Call. In addition, courses must have a fill rate in the previous academic year of 75% to be allowed to reapply.


**Q14. Is it possible to have Springboard+ funded learners attend classes alongside Skillnet funded learners if each cohort will be funded separately but taught together?**

It is possible for Springboard+ funded learners to be taught alongside Skillnet funded learners, provided the **two cohorts are clearly identifiable** and there is **no double-funding of the same learner(s)**.

**Springboard+ funding is subject to audit so this criterion must be strictly adhered to.**

In the development of courses, providers should be mindful of how they attribute these costs to proposals in circumstances where a mixed class of learners on the same course/module may be taught together.

**Q15. Is it possible to target skills gaps in public services under the 0919 Health ISCED code or is this for private enterprise only?**

There are **no restrictions** placed for course proposals to address skills gaps in the **private enterprise sector** only, provided a course meets the criteria for a part-time Springboard+ or Micro-credential course as detailed in the Call document.

## APPLICATION PROCESS & COURSE RANKING

**Q16. Has the application process changed for Springboard+ 2025?**

**Yes**, we will be using the **Wizehive** platform for submitting proposal applications under the new Call and instructions have issued separately on how to complete a course proposal application using the Wizehive portal. **Any providers experiencing issues using the Wizehive portal should email springboard@hea.ie**

**Q17. Will the provider for course proposal applications be the same for learner applicants?**

**No**, learner applications for approved courses will continue to the use the current **Application Management System (AMS)** as in previous years. Wizehive is only being used for **Call proposal applications from providers**, replacing the old Skills Direct platform.

**Q18. Are the micro-credentials part of the maximum of 60 submissions available to TUs or is there a separate option for submission of micro-credentials?**

Courses designated as micro-credentials **will count towards the total number of proposals allowed** per provider, which is capped at 60 per Technological University. There is no separate funding available to the overall Springboard+ 2025 budget for micro-credential courses.

**This applies to all providers submitting proposals under the Springboard+ 2025 Call, not just Technological Universities: Micro-credential courses count toward the overall total number of proposals allowed.**

**Q19. Should providers include fill rates and completion rates for existing courses, or will that be calculated by the HEA from AMS?**

The HEA will use data on fill rates (1st Registration) and completion rates ("Complete Successful" status) **from the AMS**, therefore it is critical that providers keep those records up to date on the AMS as advised in the information briefing.

**Q20. Do providers have to submit applications in both categories, or can they select micro-credentials or Springboard in the ranked list?**

Providers do not have to submit applications in both categories. There will be a mandatory question on the Wizehive application form for proposals to designate a course under one of three categories:**(1) Springboard+ Part-time; (2) ICT Skills Conversion (Full-time); and (3) Micro-credential.**

Provider applicants will be required to designate each course proposal under one of the above categories and **the same course cannot be submitted under more than one category**.

**Q21. Are consortium proposals being accepted in this Call? If so, is the proposal counted within the total list of 30 or 60 course proposals that a provider can submit?**

Consortium proposals from two or more providers will be considered for funding. Consortium proposals should be submitted by the **lead provider only** and not by each individual institution. Each of the partners must also include the proposal on their ranked list and indicate that they are a partner, not the lead, on the proposal.

**The proposal counts towards the total number of proposals allowed for the lead and partner providers.**

**Q22. If a Technological University is part of a consortium proposal that will run on multiple of its campuses, should this be one single entry on the ranked list with the total number of places, or must it be listed more than once with the breakdown of places per campus?**

The consortium proposal must be listed **only once** on each consortia institution's ranked list. It must clearly identify the **lead provider** on that institution's ranked list. It must also clearly identify a **partner provider** on that institution's ranked list. **The proposal is on a per institution basis, not a per campus basis.** Providers should note on the ranked list if the course will be offered across multiple campuses, if applicable.

*For example: Provider A, Provider B, and Provider C are all Technological Universities with multiple campuses and have a collaborative (consortium) proposal, where Provider A is the lead and Providers B and C are partners. The proposal **must be listed once** on Provider A's ranked list (with the total places sought) and identify **Provider A as the lead provider**. The **same proposal must also be listed once** on Provider B and Provider C's ranked list (with the total places sought) and identifying **Provider B** and **Provider C as partner providers** on their respective ranked lists.*

**The collaborative (consortium) proposal counts towards the total number of proposals allowed for the lead and partner providers in the consortium.**

## Q23. Are collaborative proposals only eligible from institutions with multiple campuses?

**No**, collaborative proposals may be submitted by **a group (consortium) of providers** across their individual campuses, but the proposal must designate a lead provider and partner provider(s).

The proposal must be listed on the **Ranked List of Proposals** for the lead and partner provider(s), and the proposal must include the **total number of places** **sought for the course, not per provider**.

## Q24. In the prioritised list, are you looking for a specific number of Springboard / Micro-credential courses, or is that a decision for the institution?

It is **up to each individual provider** submitting proposals what type of courses they submit proposals for however it should be noted that intelligence gathering by the Regional Skills Fora Managers has indicated that potential applicants from the employed cohort are increasingly looking for **shorter courses** that can be completed efficiently, with the skills acquired directly applicable to industry across the regions.

**Course providers should be cognisant of this in developing courses for Springboard+ 2025.**

## Q25. In terms of prioritisation: IDA don't deal with construction. Were the CIF and building design professional bodies engaged with?

The information on construction skills requirements was drawn from the *Building Future Skills: The Demand for Skills in Ireland's Built Environment Sector to 2030* and *Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland*, among other government reports which are detailed in the Call document.

## Q26. Will letters of support be required with the submissions?

Letters of support **do not have to be submitted** but evidence of industry support should be explained in the proposal.

## Q27. Do staff have sight of the list of proposals that are eventually submitted and their rankings?

This is an internal organisation matter for providers submitting proposals.

## Q28. Do courses targeting the ringfenced funding for renewable offshore wind energy skills need to be included in the Ranked List of Proposals?

**Yes**, all course proposals must be **included on the Ranked List of Proposals** and are counted towards the **total number of proposals** permitted for a provider.

# COURSE START DATES

**Q29. What is the new course commencement window?**

All courses funded under Springboard+ 2025 may only run intakes that have a **start date** between **1st July and 31st October 2025**. **No course intakes can have a start date outside this course commencement window under Springboard+ 2025.**

Please note, it is only start dates that are restricted to the course commencement window and courses may have an end date at any time within 12 months (maximum course duration under Springboard+ 2025) after the course start date.

**For clarity, the latest end date of a course under Springboard+ 2025 is 30th October 2026, which is 12 months after the final date allowed for courses to start.**


**Q30. Can any intakes start between January and March 2026?**

**No intakes can start outside the Springboard+ 2025 course commencement window**, which is 1st July to 31st October 2025. The introduction of the course commencement window in this Call relates to the funding being provided to the HEA based on a calendar year. There are additional constraints on our authorisation to carry over funding into a new calendar year, which creates significant issues for budgeting for the Springboard+ programme, which operates on an academic year.

**If there is any change to the above and funds are available, we will contact approved course providers to evaluate the possibility of intakes outside the course commencement window.**


**Q31. Does the course commencement window apply to Micro-credential courses?**

**Yes**, the course commencement window applies to all courses funded under Springboard+ 2025, including Micro-credential courses.

Providers may run more than one intake with different start dates, provided those start dates are **between 1st July and 31st October 2025 only**.


**Q32. Can we still offer available places in January if we haven't filled all places in September?**

**No**, courses may only start in the course commencement window, which is **1st July to 31st October 2025**. Funding for unfilled places **cannot be carried over** for additional intakes with a **start date outside the course commencement window**.

# ECTS (Credits)

**Q33. Does the requirement for courses to have a minimum of 10 ECTS (credits) remain in place or does the introduction of micro-credentials under the Call remove that criterion?**

Depending on the course type, there are requirements on the number of ECTS (credits) that can be awarded. Any course applications that do not meet these requirements, are not eligible for funding under Springboard+ 2025.

| Springboard+ (part-time) | ICT Skills Conversion (full-time) | Micro-credential |
|---|---|---|
| Minimum 20 ECTS | Minimum 60 ECTS | Between 5 and 20 ECTS |

**Q34. Is there a maximum number of ECTS (credits) for courses, subject to the Bologna Agreement obligations?**

Courses must meet the above ECTS (credits) criteria and any restrictions on maximum ECTS (credits) for **Springboard+ part-time or full-time courses** must be in line with the **requirements of the Bologna Agreement** as it relates to the course NFQ Level, time commitment, and duration.

**Micro-credentials can award a maximum of 20 ECTS (credits) under the Springboard+ 2025 Call.**

**Q35. Can a course with 15 ECTS (credits) be submitted for consideration under the Springboard+ 2025 Call?**

**Yes**, but it must be **designated as a Micro-credential course** on the Wizehive application and meet the requirements set out for this course type as detailed in the Call document.

**Q36. Does "Part-time" relate to ECTS (credits), or operation of the programme (i.e. only on some days of the week)?**

Part-time courses must not exceed **17 class contact hours per week**. This is to facilitate eligible learners continuing to seek employment and therefore receive a jobseekers' payment, as well as to accommodate those already in employment.

**Q37. Are part-time Springboard+ courses with 60 ECTS credits eligible, provided they do not exceed 17 contact hours per week?**

**Yes**, provided the **contact hours do not exceed 17 per week** and the time commitment/workload to achieve 60 ECTS credits is in line with the requirements set out in the **Bologna Agreement**.

**Q38. What is considered an "overburden" of credits as per the Bologna Agreement? Is there a figure that the HEA will be applying as a maximum number of credits for a part-time course?**

Being mindful of the large uptake of Springboard+ funded courses by the **employed category**, providers should ensure that the **time commitment/workload** is in line with the Bologna Agreement and, with respect to part-time courses, that maximum **contact hours of 17 per week** are not exceeded.

As per the **Bologna Agreement**: *"**Workload** is an estimation of the time the individual typically needs to complete all learning activities... In most cases, workload ranges from 1,500 to 1,800 hours for an academic year, which means that one credit corresponds to 25 to 30 hours of work."*

## MICRO-CREDENTIAL SPECIFIC QUERIES

**Q39. Are micro-credentials limited to 20 ECTS (credits) or more?**

**No**, micro-credentials must have **between 5 and 20 ECTS (credits)** to be eligible for consideration for funding under Springboard+ 2025.

**Q40. Can a course proposal be submitted under the Springboard+ Part-time or ICT Skills Conversion categories and then separately as a Micro-credential that sits within that course?**

**Yes**, it can be submitted however as the funding covers the total cost of running a course (course development costs, marketing etc) economies of scale should be reflected in the cost of the micro-credential.

If submitting a proposal for a module from a part-time Springboard+ **or** full-time ICT Skills Conversion course as a Micro-credential, providers **must submit a separate Wizehive application** under the "Micro-credential" funding category and each **counts a separate proposal** on the **Ranked List of Proposals**.

**The two cohorts must be separately identifiable for registration and funding purposes.**

**Q41. Will the course commencement window only facilitate one delivery of a Micro-credential per academic year?**

**No**, multiple intakes may run provided all have a start date within the course commencement window, **1st July to 31st October 2025**.

**Q42. Are the Micro-credential important skills areas ranked (i.e. is AI greater priority than Twin Transitions)?**

**No**, there is no ranking in the important skills areas for Micro-credentials, all are equally important under the Springboard+ 2025 Call.

**Q43. Could you clarify what is meant by "stackability"?**

This will give learners the opportunity to build towards a qualification over time by taking courses with fewer credits. It provides a flexible and accessible way of building a qualification for learners who are time poor but who have a desire to upskill or reskill.

This policy may not yet be in place in an institution however should it become available in the future it is important that micro-credential graduates will be in a position to use their qualification to stack.

**Q44. If a learner successfully completes a Springboard+ funded Micro-credential that is a module of another separately funded part-time Springboard+ course and then wished to pursue the longer course, how are fees calculated? Is the funding claimed for the full credit load on the part-time Springboard+ course, or is this claimed on a pro rata basis considering the Micro-credential credits already awarded?**

Funding for places is paid based on **registration on a course** and **not on a pro rata basis** of the number of credits awarded. In this instance the learner would benefit from the fee subsidy for the Micro-credential course. If the learner subsequently enrols on a part-time Springboard+ course, which includes a module that was funded under the Micro-credential category that they have already successfully completed, this would be **treated as a separate application** and funding would be awarded in line with the eligibility criteria at the time.

Each enrolment will count towards the learner's **total number of enrolments permitted** as per the general eligibility guidelines contained in **Section 4.2** of the Call document.

**Q45. Do Micro-credential courses need to be "higher education awards" recognised on the NFQ, or can they be standalone modules of a validated course, carrying ECTS credits, but which are not validated separately?**

Micro-credential courses must award ECTS credits that lead to a **higher education qualification** that is included on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) at Levels 6 to 9. Micro-credential courses can be modules of validated courses or stand-alone validated courses.

# LEARNER APPLICATIONS & ELIGIBILITY

**Q46. Will the application process for learners stay the same?**

**Yes**, applicants will apply using the Springboard+ website / AMS online application form for any approved course under Springboard+ 2025.

**Q47. Will we have to verify documentation under the Micro-credential courses, or will they self-certify for smaller credit load courses?**

The **eligibility verification will be the same for all course categories funded under Springboard+ 2025**, as this is related to the requirements for the European Social Fund (ESF) claim and is not related to the duration or ECTS (credits) of the course.

Successful applicants will be **required to provide the same documentation** regardless of whether they are completing a part-time Springboard+ course, a full-time ICT Skills Conversion course, or a Micro-credential course funded under this Call.

**Q48. Must classes take place during school hours to facilitate "Returners" on a course?**

**No**, unless a provider is **specifically targeting "Returners"**, class times do not have to be restricted to school hours where a mix of participant categories are enrolled (i.e. Employed, Unemployed, Returner).

**Q49. Is there a consequence for not achieving the 20% threshold for unemployed / formerly self-employed applicants?**

**No**, the 20% threshold only applies in circumstances where the **number of eligible applications from these categories** is sufficiently high. In instances where there are fewer eligible applicants from these categories, providers should consult with the HEA.

# WIZEHIVE QUERIES

**Q50. What award type should be selected on the application form for Micro-credentials (i.e. Minor, Major, Special Purpose)?**

The "**Award Type**" on the Wizehive application for a **Micro-credential** should be either a **Minor** or **Special Purpose** award, depending on the content of the course. It is up to the provider to decide which is most appropriate.

The **QQI definition of a Minor Award** is: "Minor awards are also commonly referred to as component certificates. These awards are single modules which can be completed and

certificated individually. All minor awards are linked to a major award which allows learners the opportunity to build on their minor awards and work towards gaining a major award."

The **QQI definition of a Special Purpose Award** is: "A special purpose award is an award type developed for specific areas of learning that have a narrow scope. All special purpose awards comprise one or more components."

For more information on the QQI definition of the above awards, please see:

**https://www.qqi.ie/what-we-do/qqi-awards/qqi-awards-standards/types-of-qqi-awards**

**Q51. What is the difference between "Online" and "E-Learning" on the Wizehive application?**

**Online** refers to live lectures/classes which can be accessed remotely by learners, whereas **E-Learning** relates to self-directed learning with pre-recorded lectures/classes or other lesson tools.

**Q52. If a Micro-credential is credit-only, what "Award" should be selected on the Wizehive application?**

Providers should select **Special Purpose** from the dropdown menu on the Wizehive application and **include a note** in the course description or intake description that this is a **credit-only Micro-credential award**.

**Providers must be mindful that all marketing of the course makes it clear that the award a successful learner will receive is credit-only.**

**Q53. How can multiple module details be added into the Wizehive application?**

Under the heading "**Module Title**", providers simply list all module title(s). Under the **"Description"**, providers describe the module(s). There is a word limit of 500 words for this field.

If there are multiple modules, the Module Title and corresponding Module Description should be numbered. Please see example format below:

**"Module Title" (list all modules, separate using numbering)**

**EXAMPLE:**

Module Title 1: [insert title of module 1], Module Title 2: [insert title of module 2], etc

**"Description" (describe all modules as numbered above. A total cap of 500 words is applied under this entire field)**

**EXAMPLE:**

Module Title 1: [briefly describe module 1], Module Title 2: [briefly describe module 2], etc

**Q54. What course validation form should be uploaded with the Wizehive application?**

As the upload of a document with a Wizehive application is **mandatory for all course proposals**, providers must upload the relevant document from the list below.

| | Category | Upload Required |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Providers awaiting validation of a course by QQI | **APPENDIX II Form** |
| 2 | Providers with a QQI course validation covering 2025/26 | **APPENDIX III Form** |
| 3 | Providers with a non-QQI course validation covering 2025/26 | **APPENDIX IV Form** |
| 4 | Universities, Technological Universities, Institutes of Technology self-validating courses | **Evidence of the course validation for 2025/26** *(i.e. official letter from Registrar)* |

**Q55. How does the % calculation breakdown of Course Delivery Modes work?**

Depending on the **Mode(s) of Delivery** selected earlier in the application, providers must include additional information on the percentage breakdown.

**EXAMPLE:**

- If you have designated the course as being "**Blended**" delivery mode only then you can enter the amount as 100%.

**Mode(s) of Delivery**
☑ Blended
☐ Classroom
☐ E-Learning
☐ Online

**Course Delivery Modes**
Blended Percentage *
100.0

Percentage Total (must calculate to exactly 100%)
100.0

- Alternatively, if you prefer to select two options in the Mode(s) of Delivery such as "**Classroom**" and "**Online**", then you can select the approximate percentage breakdown of each.

**Mode(s) of Delivery**
☐ Blended
☑ Classroom
☐ E-Learning
☑ Online

**Course Delivery Modes**
Classroom Percentage *
20.0

Online Percentage *
80.0

Percentage Total (must calculate to exactly 100%)
100.0

Please note, the **Percentage Total must equal 100.0** (i.e. 100%).

**Q56. Under Course Delivery Mode(s) and Intakes, what should be added in the "Campus" and "Description" fields?**

Providers are asked to detail the **name of the campus** where there are **multiple campuses**, however, this may not be applicable for all course providers if they have only a single campus. If it is not applicable, please enter **N/A**.

In terms of the "**Description**" field, if the description does not differ from the "**Course Description**" entered earlier in the form, providers can detail **N/A** under this field. There is no requirement to repeat the same information if this information is already detailed under the previous "**Course Description**" field.

**Q57. Is engagement with the Regional Skills Forum Manager to take place on a course-by-course basis, or just on the final Ranked List of Courses?**

**HEA-designated providers** submitting proposals **must** liaise with their Regional Skills Forum Manager to agree the final Ranked List of Proposals prior to submission of the signed-off list to **springboard@hea.ie**

**Q58. What if the award type is not listed after the NFQ Level in the dropdown menu, is the course proposal still eligible?**

**Yes**, the NFQ Level is the critical information for this field and there is only an example of a single award following each level.

**The full NFQ framework of awards at Levels 6 to 9 applies**.

**Q59. Is there an option to print draft course proposals from Wizehive?**

**Yes**, to print a draft proposal, providers can select the **blue ▼ arrow** next to the page title, this will then display the option to "**Print Form**".

Your device may also provide the option of printing to PDF (i.e. download/save a soft copy).

## 1. Springboard+ Funding Proposal ▾

> Preview Form
> Print Form

- You can save th... ...nto this section at any time b...
- You can click the "**Close**" button on the top or bottom of the page a... the other application form sections.

**Q60. For multi-campus Technological Universities where the awarding body and the region are the same, is it sufficient to just add an intake where the location is across different campuses if the same course is being offered across multiple campuses?**

Providers should submit a **single proposal application** setting out the **total number of places** sought by a Technological University and this is counted as a single proposal on the Ranked List of Proposals. Providers may identify any breakdown of the course across multiple campuses by adding these as "**Intakes**" in the single Wizehive proposal application.

**Q61. Can website links be used in the "Course Description" and "Module Description" fields on the Wizehive application?**

We would **not recommend** using **website links**, as if these do not work, it will not be possible for assessors to review the critical information relating to the proposal.

**Q62. Can "references" be included on the Wizehive proposal application and where should these be included?**

Providers may include references to relevant reports, industry research, etc in the **Course Description** field. This is the same practice as previous Call proposal applications made through Skills Direct.

## GENERAL QUERIES

**Q63. Is there a target percentage for the unemployed/returner cohorts?**

Unemployed / Formerly Self-Employed applicants should form a **minimum of 20% of the student cohort**. In instances where there are fewer eligible applicants from these categories, a 20% threshold may not be possible. In such circumstances, providers should consult with the HEA.

In all instances, **priority must be afforded to Unemployed / Formerly Self-Employed and Returner applicants over those already in employment.**

**Q64. Is there a data retention period specified or is it indefinite?**

The current ESF programme, Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) runs from 2021-2027, and is co-funding Springboard+ 2025. The retention period is likely to extend beyond the end of the programme, but the HEA is waiting on confirmation of the data retention period. Once this is confirmed we will advise funded providers.

**Q65. Will there be additional HCI Pillar 1 or Pillar 3 (Micro-credential) Calls?**

**No**, the only Call for funding is the Springboard+ 2025 Call.

**Q66. Is there a specific link to submit proposals applications?**

The Call document is available on the **HEA website**

The **Wizehive** portal is now **open** for submitting Springboard+ 2025 Call proposals. Instructions on how to complete a proposal submission have been issued separately.

Any providers experiencing issues using the Wizehive portal should email **springboard@hea.ie**

**Q67. How are courses funded with the discrepancy between calendar and academic year funding?**

Courses funded under Springboard+ 2025 will be funded on an academic year basis and must commence between **1ˢᵗ July and 31ˢᵗ October 2025**, as outlined in the Call document.

**Q68. The course skills area is not listed in Appendix V, can a proposal be submitted?**

**No**, if the course proposal does not fall into one of the **Eligible Skills Disciplines (ISCED Codes)** listed in **Appendix V** of the Call document, it is **not eligible** for consideration under the Springboard+ 2025 Call.