

**CHOOSE
▶▶ TECH**



CHOOSE TECH

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

WHO ARE FIT?

FIT (Fastrack into Information Technology) a representative organisation of the technology sector **committed to growing Ireland's tech talent pipeline.**

FIT works with national education, training & regional development agencies and community organisations, to promote an **inclusive and sustainable smart economy**, ensuring access to in-demand tech skills for quality employment and shared prosperity. In doing so, we are maximising opportunity through technology and making technology work for all.

In total over **48,500** job seekers have completed FIT skills development programmes to date, of which more than **35,000** have secured quality employment.

WHAT IS CHOOSE TECH?



Choose Tech is a **free, online educational programme**, inspiring young people (15-20yr olds) into the exciting world of tech, developing their skills in technology and essential lifelong learning, and the pathways available to a tech career including pre-tech & tech apprenticeships.

The Choose Tech programme features over **80 different fun interactive 'micro-credentials'** or badges, including Robotics, Web Development, AI, Farmtech, Cybersecurity, Coding, Game Design, Animation, and so much more! Learners earn Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards as they progress through the programme – **Choose Tech is an official**

Skills Challenge Partner with the Gaisce President's Award.

Over 200 nationwide sites have delivered Choose Tech to over 8,000 learners since 2020!





to inspire young people 15 to 20 years

**PRESS PLAY TO HEAR
FROM SOME OF THE FIT
CHOOSE TECH STUDENTS!**

BENEFITS OF CHOOSE TECH:

- Can be used on any device
- Available to schools, Youth Reach Centres and Youthwork organisations nationwide
- Transition Year, 5th & 6th Year, LCA, SCP, CPD, Career Guidance, Gaisce, Youth Reach Curriculum and as complementary curriculum supporting learning of Additional Assessment Components within new Senior Cycle redevelopment



- Free and easy to use by any educator
- Provides educators with CPD in technology
- Provides schools and education centres with a hallmark of excellence
- Back-office for educators to track student progress
- Support training and guidance for educators

TOP CHOOSE TECH BADGES

Try out some of our top trending Choose Tech Badges with your learners!



Safe Online (Citizen Category, Bronze)

Find out how to stay safe online and learn how to avoid being tricked by hackers and online trolls. This badge covers topics such as **safety, reputation, etiquette, ethics, responsibility and problem solving.**

E-Safety & Online Etiquette (Citizen Category, Bronze)

Get cyber savvy to help you and your friends stay safe and avoid being a victim of fraud and theft online. The badge covers topics such as **safety, reputation, etiquette, ethics, responsibility and problem solving.**



Cyber Spies (Citizenship Category, Bronze)

Take on a traineeship with the Cyber Spies. Learn how to protect and fortify a website to keep it safe from hackers, and then put your knowledge to the test. Learn all about **Safeguarding, Cybersecurity, Ethics, Safety, Problem Solving and Creativity.**



[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TO CHOOSE TECH TODAY!](#)

TOP TIP: while your students are trying out these badges in class, why not take this time to find out more about the FIT Tech Ambassador Programme and how you can gain some professional development through our curriculum!

DON'T FORGET - THE
TECH AMBASSADOR
AWARDS ARE COMING
SOON!

Tech Ambassador Award Programme

The FIT **Tech Ambassador Award Programme** recognises our educators and their commitment to creating **awareness, informing, motivating and preparing students** to consider the opportunities available to them within the tech sector and **providing knowledge to students** on Tech Apprenticeships as a career pathway into the Tech sector.

It is easy to apply for the award programme, and a great opportunity for educators to gain skills and awareness of technology to help with their own professional development.

This programme
is for all educators,
no matter what
background or
specialism!

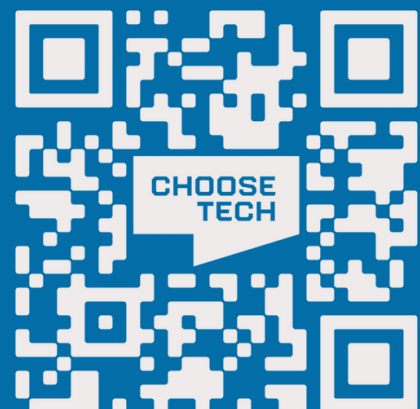
BECOME A TECH AMBASSADOR:

- STEP 1: Complete the FIT Digital Pathways Badge**
- STEP 2: Log in to your IDEA account & click achievements** (under “profile” on right-hand side)
- STEP 3: Send your Certificate of Achievements to the FIT Choose Tech team at choosetech@fit.ie**
- STEP 4: Complete a short questionnaire supplied by the FIT Choose Tech team!**

SCAN TO SIGN UP
TO CHOOSE TECH



To register, one teacher / educator must first register their centre of learning by clicking ‘Register as an Organisation’.



Did you know there's currently only **21.1% of Females in the Tech sector**? Let's increase female participation!

FEMALES IN TECH EXPO



Get ready for an inspiring day at FIT's annual Females in Tech Expo, on **November 20th!**

Don't miss out - join us in the **Green Isle Hotel, Clondalkin, Dublin 22** during college awareness week and give your female students the opportunity to speak with female leaders within top tech companies around Ireland.

SAVE
THE
DATE!

[CLICK HERE TO LOOK BACK ON THE FEMALES IN TECH EXPO 2023](#)

Why attend?

- Speak with a range of exhibitors, including **Shein & Bord na Mona!**
- Discover fantastic career opportunities in the tech industry
- Take part in exciting **tech demonstrations** and get the chance to test out our **VR headsets!**
- Win FIT merch & prizes on the day!

FREE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN:
Email lorrainekeane@fit.ie to secure your students place!

WE ARE A
HOST
INSTITUTION
FOR 2024!

COLLEGE AWARENESS WEEK

FIT are gearing up for **College Awareness Week (CAW)** next month! Taking place from the **18th - 24th of November**, FIT will be attending a host of talks, career fairs and events around Ireland!

If you're interested in speaking with the FIT Choose Tech team, then **email choosetech@fit.ie** to find a career fair near you! Or check out **www.collegeaware.ie** for a full schedule of events activities, resources, mentoring opportunities and online events!

Learn about the FIT **Tech Apprenticeships** and **Traineeships**, the FIT Mentor programme, get the opportunity talk to the **Choose Tech team**, and take part in quizzes and fun **tech demos** across the week!



Don't forget - there's more than one pathway to a successful career in tech!

Have a good news story? Send them to choosetech@fit.ie

GOOD NEWS STORIES



WORLD SKILLS 2024

FIT were an exhibitor at World Skills in the RDS in September! Across the three days, students got the opportunity to learn about the **Choose Tech Programme, Pre-Tech** and the three **Tech Apprenticeships**.



Students and teachers also got the opportunity to take part in the **Cypher Crack the Code Challenge**, and test out the **FIT VR headsets** to see how AI really works! Did you visit the FIT stand?

FIT were nominated for the STEM Recruitment Campaign of the Year for the **Women In STEM Awards!** The best of luck to all of the nominees!

GAISCE

Through Choose Tech, FIT is proud Skills Challenge Partners with **Gaisce, The Presidents Award!** Choose Tech is a brilliant option for learners, to **explore and experience technology**, as a Skills Challenge module for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award, fitting in nicely with:

- 13 hour Skills Challenge timeframe for the **Bronze Award**
- 26 hours Skills Challenge timeframe for the **Silver Award**
- 52 hours Skills Challenge timeframe for the **Gold Award**



Interested in signing your school up for Choose Tech?
Email the team on choosetech@fit.ie!

Learn more about
STEAM in your
Youthreach Centre!

GOOD NEWS STORIES



FULL STEAM AHEAD EXPO

NYCI are organising the **STEAM in Youthreach Expos** - a great opportunity for **Youthreach Centres or CTC** to get hands-on experience with **STEAM activities and workshops**.

Events take place in NUI Galway, DCU & SETU Waterford during November and December. Spaces are limited - register now to avoid disappointment; [register here!](#)



APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Huge congratulations to **FIT Apprentice, Jack Yeates**, who **won** the ICT Category at the Apprentice of the Year Awards on the 23rd of October!

Jack recently completed his **Software Development Associate Apprenticeship** with Salesforce in September 2024. Here's to a very exciting career ahead!



Congratulations to all of the **11 FIT Tech Apprentices** who were nominated in the **Apprentice of the Year Awards** this year! A fantastic achievement for them all!

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Don't forget!
There will be numerous
intakes for all FIT Courses
throughout 2025!

UPCOMING TRAINEESHIPS

Are your students ready to embark on a **rewarding career** in environmental sustainability or in Advanced Manufacturing? FIT have a range of upcoming traineeships to suit all interests!

Learn more about the **FIT traineeships or Green Tech skills initiatives** then contact info@fit.ie or visit the FIT website at www.fit.ie

The perfect opportunity for your **Leaving Cert, Leaving Cert Applied, and Youthreach** students when they finish their exams!

TECH APPRENTICESHIPS

Four Distinct Career Pathways:

Computer Networking
Associate Apprenticeship Level 6

Software Development
Associate Apprenticeship Level 6

Cybersecurity
Associate Apprenticeship Level 6

Coming soon – Data Analytics
Associate Apprenticeship Level 6



FIT have Pre-Tech Apprenticeships Level 5 for students hoping to continue into a Level 6 course!

Learn more about FIT **Tech Apprenticeships** by emailing info@fit.ie or by visiting www.fit.ie