

**CHOOSE
▶▶ TECH**



CHOOSE TECH

DECEMBER 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 **250,000 job seekers** have completed FIT skills development programmes to date, of which more than **120,000** 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!



Want to sign up to Choose Tech for 2025?

[Register your school here](#)

TECH AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

TAP HERE TO
WATCH MARK'S
FULL INTERVIEW!



Interview with FIT Tech Ambassador – **Mark Deane from Royal & Prior Secondary School, Donegal** shares his experience with the Choose Tech Programme and the positive impact it's had on his students!

2024 CHOOSE TECH ACTIVITIES

Let's take a look at some of the amazing achievements from this year!



FIT's Females in Tech Expo



College Awareness Week 2024



AI Pilot Programme



Xplor Your Future DCU



World Skills RDS



TECH AMBASSADOR AWARD PROGRAMME

The FIT **Tech Ambassador Award Programme** recognises our educators and their centres of learning, recognising their commitment to creating **awareness, informing, motivating and preparing students** to consider the opportunities available to them within 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!**

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



The FIT **Tech Ambassador Award Programme** also recognises continued support of the Choose Tech Programme, sustaining and maintaining the programme, allowing more students with equity of access to digital education.

Schools and Youthreach Centres can be recognised with a series of **three Awards - Bronze, Silver and Gold** - as they continue delivering the Choose Tech programme. Email **choosetech@fit.ie** for more information!



Scan for
questionnaire!

BECOME A TECH AMBASSADOR:

- STEP 1:** Complete the FIT Digital Pathways Badge (located in worker section / bronze award section!)
- 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, and that's it! Congratulations!



DECEMBER NOTICEBOARD

FIT CUIMSIU PROGRAMME



What is it?

The Cuimsiu Programme is an initiative set up by FIT to support neurodivergent and disabled people on a path to tech employment that works for them. We also support employers in their own efforts in creating inclusive workplaces.

The programme is funded by Pobal under the WorkAbility: Inclusive Pathways to Employment Programme, and is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union.

HOW TO TAKE PART:

- There is no diagnosis required to take part in the Cuimsiu Programme.
- Participants must be aged 16+
- All participants must fill out a registration form
- The programme is fully funded

Our next intake for Cuimsiu participants will take place in February 2025.



MORE INFORMATION
WILL BE AVAILABLE ON
WWW.FIT.IE VERY
SOON!

What we offer participants:

Along with the opportunity to build tech skills, Cuimsiu Programme participants can take part in online and in-person training to prepare for the workplace while receiving 1:1 support with our Employability Mentors.

Participants will have full access to FIT's training platforms and the opportunity to network with employers throughout the year!



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FIT CLASSROOM TO CAREERS BOOKLET

Check out our handy guide for teachers, guidance counsellors and learners alike to find out about exciting pathways into technology education - including details & course content of our **Pre-Tech Apprenticeship Programme (Level 5), Tech Apprenticeship Programmes, Advanced Manufacturing Traineeship, Green Skills Technology** and much more!



Scan to download our Classroom to Careers booklet here, and to learn how you can kick start a career in technology today!

AMBASSADOR AWARDS 2025

Watch this space! The Ambassador Recognition Awards Event is taking place in **March 2025!**

The Choose Tech team are appealing for **Educators and Learners** who like to participate in a short video montage about:

- Their experience of Choose Tech
- What they have enjoyed about the programme
- Where they see themselves in the future!



Interested in getting involved in the **Ambassador Awards**? Email the team on choosetech@fit.ie!





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IMR FIT SKILLS WORKSHOP

FIT have been busy delivering a new and innovative Skills Workshop, as part of the **Ideas Made Real (IMR) Project** – ‘empowering the makers of tomorrow’.

Students from **Millstreet Community College Cork, Rathmore Community College Kerry, Newbridge College Kildare and Griffeen Community College in Dublin** were introduced to the world of Advanced Manufacturing through theory and practice learning covering Cybersecurity (Choose Tech), Automation (PLCs & Pneumatic systems), AR, VR and Robotics.

The students and teachers all really enjoyed learning about innovative engineering technologies.



COLLEGE AWARENESS WEEK

As part of **College Awareness Week**, which took place on the 18th - 24th of November, FIT Tech Apprentice Jessica Hoey shared her fantastic experience with the Tech Apprenticeship programme to students around Ireland!



Follow FIT on Instagram (@Fastrackintoit) for more Apprentice Testimonials!

Listen to FIT Apprentice, Jessica Hoey's experience with the Tech Apprenticeship programme [here!](#)



There will be numerous intakes for all FIT Courses throughout 2025!

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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

NEW this September – 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



Follow FIT
on Instagram
(@Fastrackintoit) for
more event highlights!

FEMALES IN TECH EXPO 2024



FIT's third annual **Females in Tech Expo** took place on the 20th of November 2024 in the Green Isle Hotel, Dublin.

This unique event showcased the vast opportunities available to women in technology, by bringing together **leading companies, industry experts, inspiring female role models** and female students from around Ireland.

[CLICK HERE TO LOOK BACK ON THE FEMALES IN TECH EXPO HIGHLIGHTS 2024](#)



Event Highlights:

- Over **1,000** attendees from 30 DEIS, Youthreach Schools & Colleges around Ireland.
- **30+** Exhibitors on the day
- Interactive demos including **VR Headsets, Robotic Cars, 3-D printing** and so much more!

Congratulations to the lucky student from **Our Lady's College, Drogheda** who won the tablet competition!

FUN FACTS FOR STUDENTS



Rising Tides documentary (RTE Player) is a fantastic watch for your students!

As our world grapples with the realities and impact of a warmer climate, this three part documentary on RTE Player discusses the factors involved in **climate change**.

The documentary features **technologies and engineering** that are being considered and developed to help lessen and slow down the impact of our new climate and environmental phenomenon. [Click to watch here!](#)

Check out Google's **[LABS.GOOGLE](#)** - a free fun interactive online zone of games, discovery and creativity using Artificial Intelligence (A.I)!

THANK YOU!

Finally! We would like to thank you for all your efforts and dedication to promoting the Choose Tech Programme and the concept of technology with your learners and in your places of learning.

Wishing you a peaceful, relaxing holiday break and looking forward to breaking new ground with you in 2025!

The Choose Tech team