

RPL FOR NEWCOMERS

Exploring the role of RPL in integrating newcomers in higher education in Ireland

- The IRC (1992-2022) 30 years
- IRC Education work - 2015-2022
- examples of RPL as a barrier to progression

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13 DEC 2022



The IRC (1992 - 2022) 30 years

- 1988 'Refugees in Crisis' - Conference in Dublin - Increase public awareness
- Network of agencies to work together - To facilitate better support and services
- 1992 - IRC formally registered as a company and then obtained charitable status
- 1956 - Ireland signed the 1951 Refugee Convention but had no legal framework
- 1996 - Refugee Act
- 2015 - International Protection Act
- Promote and protect the rights of people seeking protection and those recognised as refugees in Ireland
- Law Centre - Drop-In Centre - Youthwork - Education - Housing - Resettlement - Employment - Community Sponsorship - Ukraine team - (admin/finance/fundraising/comms/CEO)



Education - 2015

- Initially - to manage a small fund donated by Community Foundation for Ireland
- Support for people who were struggling with SUSI (one day per week)
- The Fund - no government support
- The Booklet
- Advice, Information, and referral
- Training to ETB - Universities
- University of Sanctuary committees
- Online information sessions
- College Connect peer-to-peer research (barriers to education)
- Advocate for removal of barriers with government and universities
- Advocate with all colleges to get students into 'the right' classroom
- Never have enough time - RPL is just one example - English language is another
- NARIC and ESOL

Delays in the Process



Median waiting time from the day you submit your application is 26 months



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Example One

- 5 years of veterinary medicine before coming to Ireland
- Needed one year practical internship to complete the degree
- NARIC are unable to assist with partially completed degrees
- Complicated process of checking each module for similarity
- They had a certified paper to confirm they had completed 5th year
- Had to complete at least 50% of modules in UCD
- A points cut-off rule for transfer to an advanced entry
- Recommended to take the Access to Science programme
- Tried to get into a postgrad - applied for an undergrad for 2 years
- Worked in dairy farms to keep close to animals and the world of veterinary
- Now doing a level 7 in health & safety
- Has PTR and in 4 years has still not found a way to get back on track :-)



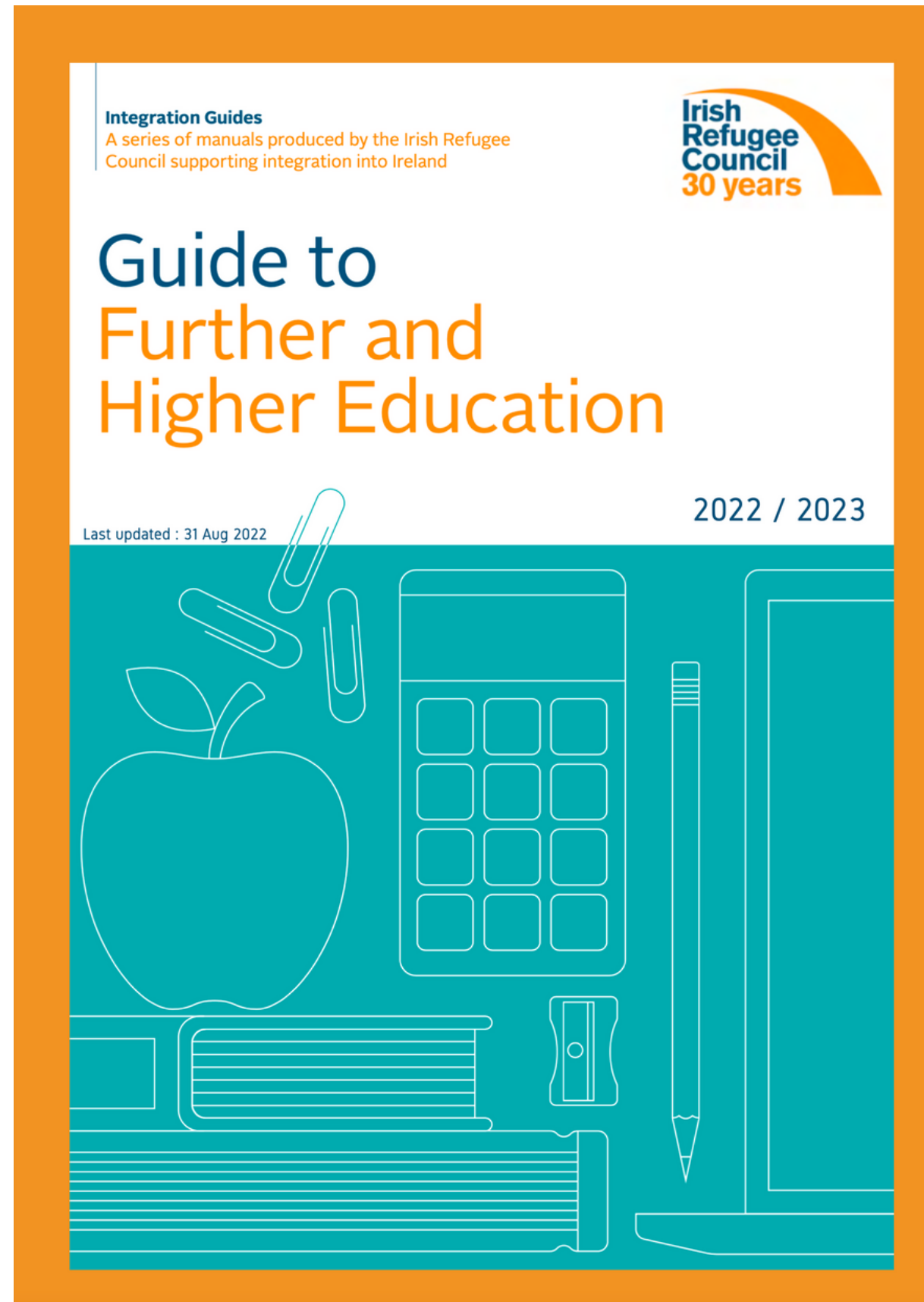
Example Two

- Holder of a degree from South African University
- Many years of experience working
- Unable to progress here due to lack of recognition
- Professional qualification so will be able to get some exemptions
- Many people work and the company pay for these modules
- But difficult to get work with any references etc.



<https://collegeconnect.ie/community-needs-analysis-with-refugees/>

- 40% of respondents who had a university qualification from their country of origin
- 21.7% of these had been able to have their qualification recognised in Ireland.



www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie/education

EDUCATION INFORMATION BOOKLET 2022-2023

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*Thank
you*

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