



Job Specification

Job Title	Development Officer (full-time)
Reporting To	National Development Manager (subject to change)
Contract	1-year fixed term contract (<i>specified purpose contract</i>) <i>Subject to funding</i>
Place of Work	Gaisce HQ at Ratra House in the Phoenix Park. Gaisce is currently piloting a hybrid working policy (candidate must have suitable work from home space with high quality broadband). The Candidate must be based in or within a commutable distance of Dublin.
Hours of Work and Working Hours	Hours of work are 35 hours per week, excluding lunch. Normal working hours are between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday with occasional weekend and evening work.
Salary	€38,000
Probationary Period	6 Months
Benefits	• 25 days annual leave • Single Public Sector Pension scheme (mandatory) • Bike to Work Scheme • Training and Development • Staff team building days • Wellbeing Hour once a week
Application Deadline	The application deadline is strictly <u>12pm (midday) on Friday, 9th October 2026</u>. Late applications will not be accepted. If selected for interview, 1st round interviews will take place on week of the 12^h of October and 2nd round interviews will take place on or before 21st October.
Queries and submission of your application	The completed application form must be submitted by email (considered your digital signature) to recruitment@gaisce.ie (Subject Line: 'Development Officer 2026 Application'). <i>CVs, incorrect forms, or additional documents <u>will not</u> be considered.</i>

About Gaisce

Gaisce – The President’s Award is Ireland’s National Youth Award. It is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland, Catherine Connolly, to encourage young people to realise their potential through a proven Positive Youth Development Programme that provides structure, support, and certification for non-formal learning experiences for young people aged 14 to 25. The Award inspires young people to flourish through challenge, engage with their communities, build self-belief and skills, embrace adventure and wellbeing, and be recognised for their achievements.

The Gaisce programme has three progressive Award Levels -Bronze, Silver, and Gold. For each Award, participants must undertake Challenge Area activities including Personal Skill, Community Involvement, Physical Recreation, and an Adventure Journey, with each Award level requiring a greater level of time and commitment. The Award is non-competitive and is led by each participant’s own choices and initiative. The Gaisce programme is delivered nationally by President’s Award Leaders (PALs) in Gaisce Award Partner (GAP) organisations including secondary schools, third level institutions, second-chance and further education services, youth services, disability organisations, sporting organisations, uniformed organisations, youth justice, prison and probation services, organisations working with young refugees and asylum seekers, and more.

Gaisce – The President’s Award was established in 1985 to mark the UN’s International Year of Youth and was launched in Áras an Uachtaráin by President, Dr. Patrick J. Hillery, Gaisce’s founding patron. Since then, the patronage has passed from President to President, reflecting a shared and enduring commitment to recognising and supporting young people

Programme Team

The post holder will report to the National Development Manager (subject to change) and will work primarily with staff on the Programme team. This team supports the delivery of the Gaisce programme, liaising and engaging with President’s Award Leaders (PALs), Gaisce Award Partners (GAPs), Gaisce participants and programme delivery partners. Gaisce staff do not deliver the Gaisce Award directly to young people and main engagement of Development Officers is with adults supporting young people in youth organisations. The team supports the delivery of Gaisce in schools, colleges, second chance education, adult education, disability groups, youth services, business, young people in youth justice programmes and many more. The team leads on several access and diversity projects supporting Global Citizenship, the Award in custody, LGBTIQ youth and young migrants. This team also delivers PAL training and other bespoke training, events and information sessions for PALs and participants.

Whilst each member of the Gaisce team has well-defined core responsibilities, the team is very close knit, and we work collaboratively to ensure the overall successful achievement of Gaisce’s Strategic Plan and shared goals. In practice, this will mean the post holder connecting and collaborating with other members of the wider Gaisce team in carrying out some of their functions.

Wellbeing is also especially important to us in Gaisce, so we plan fun staff away days to see how we are doing, coffee mornings for non-work chats, and other relevant sessions to support each other. Professional Development for staff is also a priority within the means of the organisation.

Everything we do is driven by our core values: Inclusion, Integrity, Empathy, and Quality. We are committed to ensuring these core values are embedded across all areas of our work, and in our practice and processes. We treat all job applications equally, regardless of age, disability, gender identity or gender expression, race, ethnicity, religion/belief system, socio-economic background, or sexual orientation.

Overview of the role of the Development Officer (Job Description)

The Candidate

Gaisce is seeking an enthusiastic, initiative-taking, and committed Development Officer to join our team and increase accessibility to the Gaisce Award programme. The ideal candidate will have a role in developing the reach of the Gaisce programme and enjoy the opportunity to engage with and encourage organisations to sign up new Gaisce participants. With proven experience in development positions and highly effective interpersonal and networking skills, the candidate will have the ability to successfully promote and recruit new President’s Award Leaders (PALs) to support young people participating in the Gaisce Awards in schools, further education, youth groups and services, community groups and other organisations supporting young people aged 14 to 25 years old. The ideal candidate is an enthusiastic self-starter who can collaborate with colleagues and will be able to identify areas for development for the Gaisce Awards. We are seeking a candidate with a minimum of 3 years’ relevant expertise who can demonstrate strong accountability, leadership, and the ability to deliver upon development goals and targets.

Principal Responsibilities of the Development Officer

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Working primarily within an assigned geographic and/or sectoral area, which can be subject to amendment from time to time based on the needs of the organisation, the core duties and responsibilities of the Development Officer role are:

- To study and understand all aspects of the Gaisce Award programme.
- Develop and grow the reach of the Gaisce programme by supporting current PALs in Gaisce Award Partners (schools, youth organisations, community organisations etc.,) delivering Gaisce.
- Explore the potential of Gaisce in the assigned geographic and/or sectoral area and develop and activate new Gaisce Award Partners.
- Support newly trained and current PALs and reengage non-active PALs.
- Be the point of contact for Gaisce Award Partners and PALs within an assigned area.
- Complete general duties in relation to PAL/ GAP management, recruitment activities, projects, and other supports.

- Identify trends and priorities supporting the needs of Gaisce Award Partners and PALs.
- Develop and deliver progression opportunities from Bronze Award to Silver Award to Gold Award.
- Work closely with the Programme Team to ensure broader support for all Gaisce Award Partners and PALs.
- Maintain, support and update CRM/On-line Systems for all aspects of development work.
- Deliver on annual development work targets.
- Provide regular reports and updates including stats and analysis on annual targets to your Line Manager.
- Prepare and report on your annual work plan as directed by your Line Manager and in accordance with the overall strategy and organisations work plan.
- Support special projects as assigned.
- Promote and present on the Gaisce programme to third parties including the delivery of PAL training, if assigned.
- Manage and support volunteers.
- Support Gaisce events, training, and ceremonies.
- Undertake other duties as may be reasonably required from time to time.
- Act in the best interest of Gaisce and in line with the values, vision, and mission of the organisation.

Qualifications, Skills, and Experience

Essential:

- Professional qualification or relevant degree (note: candidates with exceptional relevant work experience may also be considered in lieu of degree qualifications).
- A minimum of 3 years’ relevant work experience in similar position.
- Previous experience and a good working knowledge and understanding of organisations engaging young people aged 14 to 25 years old in the education (schools and third level), youth, voluntary and community sectors.
- Full Irish driver’s licence and ownership/access to a car as the position requires regular travel.
- Demonstrate network of contacts and knowledge of key stakeholders within relevant organisations required for this role, particularly in the Dublin region.
- Strong people skills, including ability to liaise with a wide range of contacts and build and maintain sustainable effective working relationships both inside and outside the organisation.
- Excellent organisational, planning and report writing skills (in English)
- Highly competent IT skills in Salesforce (or similar CRM), Microsoft word, Microsoft excel, Microsoft Teams, PowerPoint, Zoom.
- Ability to manage several workflows simultaneously, work autonomously, take initiative, and work proactively.
- Strong presentation skills
- Effective and collaborative Team member

Desirable:

- Familiarity with the Gaisce programme.
- Fluency in the Irish Language
- Experience of facilitation, training, or event management both online and in person
- Train the trainer qualification
- Non-formal learning knowledge and understanding

Personal Attributes (Essential)

- Commitment to empowering young people to fulfil their potential.
- Self-starter and proactive
- Works well within a team
- Motivated and creative
- Positive outlook and solution focused.
- Flexible and able to adapt to new directives.
- Effective time management skills

Gaisce’s Core Competency Framework

Gaisce has identified six key abilities required across the organisation to ensure the organisation can deliver and excel. These are:

- Communication
- Personal & Professional Development
- Planning, Scheduling and Delivery
- Problem Solving
- Relationship Building
- Teamwork

How to Apply

Applications can only be accepted via email. Therefore, please send your completed and signed application form, by email (digital signature) to recruitment@gaisce.ie (Subject Reference ‘Development Officer 2026 Application’). Only the official application form with the requested information will be accepted. **CVs or additional documents will not be considered.**

The closing date and time for applications is by email, strictly by 12pm (midday) on 9th October 2026. It is the sole responsibility of applicants to ensure Gaisce has received their application form. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

Interview Process

If selected, the first-round interviews will be held on the week of the 12th October 2026, via Zoom (video call), and if selected to move forward, the second-round interviews will take place in-person at Ratra House Phoenix Park on or before 21st October. Successful interview applicants are responsible for ensuring they are available for any interview dates offered and, where relevant, to have the equipment to participate fully in an online video call in advance of their interview. We regret that feedback will not be provided to applicants not selected for interview. All applications received within the deadline will be screened against the role requirements and the person specification. As the work involves some engagement with young people, candidates under consideration for the role will be subject to the Garda vetting process. The successful candidate will also be required to provide two work references, including their current employer. Any offer of employment is conditional upon satisfactory Garda Vetting and reference checks. Ideally the successful candidate can commence in the role as soon as possible.

Gaisce, Gradam an Uachtaráin – the President’s Award is committed to best practice and operates on the basis of equal opportunities. Applications are therefore invited from all suitably qualified and eligible candidates. Appointment will be based solely on merit and canvassing will disqualify.

Definitions

GAP	Gaisce Award Partner
PAL	President’s Award Leader
Awardee	A Gaisce participant who has received their Award, across any level of Gaisce – The President’s Award
Participant	A young person undertaking their award at any level, Bronze, Silver, or Gold

The above job description is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all duties involved and consequently, the post holder may be required to perform other duties as appropriate to the post which may be assigned to them from time to time.