



## **Learner Information Blended/Online Learning SIPTU**

Some of our programmes in SIPTU College are blended learning programmes, which may include an online element, learners will be required to participate in both live online and in-person classroom sessions.

Prior to making an application, you will know if your programme includes an online learning element or not. The details below are designed for you to determine if this programme is suitable for you or not or if you require additional support from SIPTU. All of our courses regardless of delivery mode will commence with an induction session, this induction session is always in-person and will address the online element of the course and also any supports available to learners.

- There are benefits to attending a programme that has an online element in that it offers flexibility in terms of travel time along with working full-time. It also allows you to attend a course which may have been more difficult if you are geographically remote from the learning centre. Online learning offers some exciting opportunities and new ways of learning also. There can also be some downsides to learning online- that learners don't feel as engaged, or that people find it harder to connect with the content or their classmates. As much as possible we try to avoid these issues within the College by making the classes as interactive and collaborative as possible, if you have concerns, please let us know.
- In SIPTU we will provide you with a timetable outlining how many of your classes require an online commitment or how many require an in-person commitment



- For the online synchronous element (live classes) we use Microsoft Teams platform as our virtual classroom, you will be provided with instructions for its use in induction.
- Typically, you will need access to a PC or a laptop with internet connectivity (decent broadband connection with a minimum 5Mbps for both upload and download speeds- you can do a free speedtest on [Ookla](#) to find out what your broadband's download and upload speeds are), speakers and a webcam in order to allow you to engage in the classes appropriately. You will also need access to a quiet area for the duration of the class. A headset is not essential for classes but may be useful if you prefer.
- Ensure that you have a suitable background whilst taking part in a SIPTU online session- virtual backgrounds may be most suited and you will be shown how to use these in induction sessions.
- One week prior to an online class commencing we will hold a short trial connection test, and you will be notified of this
- If you have any technical difficulties in getting set-up or accessing classes, you can contact us at the details below during the hours of 9:30-5:30pm Monday-Friday
- Learners should familiarise themselves with the SIPTU web etiquette document
- At SIPTU we use a web-based resource for learning called siptuLEARN, at induction you will be provided with an individual log-in for this system and given instructions on how to use the system.
- siptuLEARN is an additional online learning resource where tutors will summarise what was covered in class, provide you with any slides, handouts or additional reading.



- All learners are expected to submit their assignments via siptuLEARN – a step-by-step guide will be provided for this at the induction lesson.
- Tutors may also use additional digital learning tools such as Mentimeter, Slido, Kahoot, Padlet etc. during your online or in-person classrooms, you will be given guidance on how to use these by your tutor at all times.
- Regardless of delivery mode, each tutor will outline their availability and contact hours to you, answers to queries should only be expected during these times.
- Where you feel that you need further support, please contact us at the details below and we can include you in one of our short digital literacy classes.

**Contact Details for further information:**

**SIPTU:**

Tel: 01 8586470

Email: [college@siptu.ie](mailto:college@siptu.ie)