

OPERATING MANUAL FOR COURSE PROVIDERS

2021



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Introduction

This document provides information on the online course proposal facility for Springboard+ 2021. This system allows for web-based submission and management of course proposals, with application data automatically saved to a central location where it is available for assessment by the Springboard+ expert panel.

In order to use the system successfully the provider will be required to create an account, (you may use your email address as a username). A personal dashboard will then be created, where all your contact details and list of proposals submitted by you will be displayed. All data which is entered will be able available for editing up until the final deadline.

This purpose of this document is to show you how to:

- Register and log-in
 - Enter a new course proposal under general Springboard or ICT skills conversion headings
 - Edit an existing proposal
 - Submit a completed proposal
 - Withdraw the proposal
- and
- Print your draft or submitted proposal to a pdf file for review.



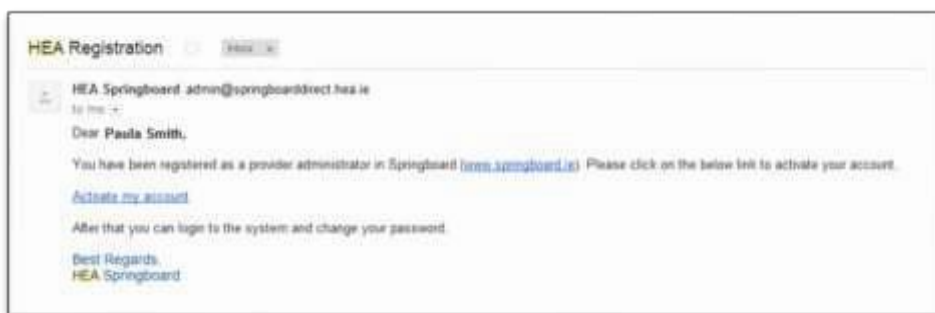
Registration and Login

Registration

The user will need to register first to use the system. To register, the user clicks on the link: <http://skillsdirect.heai.ie> to read the Call requirements and register for the site on the home page.

The system will first check if their institute has previously been registered (using the portion of your email which comes after @). If their institute has already been registered, then the user is not allowed register but is told to ask their administrator to register for them. **The first person to register from an institute is assigned the role of administrator.** All other users in that institute must be added as a user by their administrator.

To complete registration to the system the user will be sent an email with a link "[Activate my account](#)". (This is to ensure the email they have entered is valid) The clicking of that link will bring the user back to the website and log them in for the first time.



Note:

In the registration process you need to enter your work email address (email address with your Institution domain) as all the generic domains, such as Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail etc., will be blocked

An important part of the Initial Registration is Declaration of Eligibility. The user will need to tick this box to confirm they are part of an eligible institute. (Shown on following screenshot):

funding. This is to ensure adequate time for the QQI validation process to be completed as this can take up to 25 weeks though it will be expedited by QQI. For programmes that are designed exclusively for Springboard+ purposes, while initial screening of the submission may take place, QQI will only proceed with the validation process after they the QQI. This must be completed and be sent by the provider to the HEA by **1st September 2021**.

7. Written evidence that the course has received QQI validation must be submitted within 10 days of receipt of same from the QQI.

I have read and understood the requirements governing course proposals



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Login

When you are registered, click on the LOGIN button on the homepage and it will direct you to the Login page.

The login page operates as a standard login. You will be asked to submit your username and password and will be logged in if these are supplied correctly. If they are not the system will present a generic message to say the login is unsuccessful.



Lost password

Also available on this page is a link for lost password, a lost password will be emailed to a valid email address which is associated with an existing account on the system. Lastly, the login page will allow you to change your password (once logged in).

Read all the Information and Guidance documents

All information to assist the user in adding and submitting a proposal can be found by clicking on the [“Call Documents”](#) link on the top navigation menu.



Enter New Course Proposal

This is a simple three-step process:

STEP 1 – Start the form

On login, you will be directed to My Dashboard page. There are two panels on the lower part of the dashboard page, one for general Springboard and one for ICT skills conversion course proposals. Each panel summaries the latest position on proposals under the respective Calls. You can start entering a new proposal by clicking the [+Add Proposal](#) link in the right bottom corner of either panel.

Springboard Proposals		ICT Skills Proposals	
Total Number of Proposals	1	Total Number of Proposals	2
Total Draft Proposals	0	Total Draft Proposals	1
Total Submitted Proposals	1	Total Submitted Proposals	1
Approved	0	Approved	0
+ Show Proposals + Add Proposal		+ Show Proposals + Add Proposal	

Alternatively a proposal can be added from [List](#) screen clicking on the [+Add New Proposal](#) link as shown on the next screenshot.

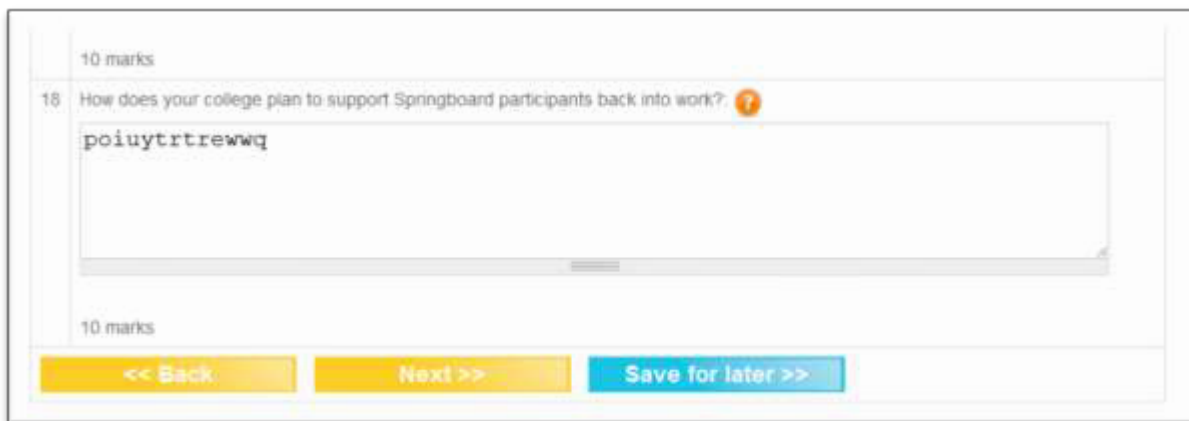
Author	Course Title	Specialisation	Last Modified	Status	Oper
testprovider	Certificate in payroll		25-01-2021 (09:22)	Submitted	View Withdraw Print

STEP 2- Enter your data

Start the form process. You enter information in text boxes or drop-down fields as appropriate.

Note: some fields accept numerical data only. There is a small navigation panel on the right hand showing which section you are in, or which section is already completed

You don't need to fill in all the information at once. The system allows you to save for later (i.e. as a draft) for later (see below) Note however that all compulsory fields must be filled prior to final submission.



The screenshot shows a form question with the following elements:

- Top left: "10 marks"
- Question text: "18 How does your college plan to support Springboard participants back into work? ⓘ" (where ⓘ is a help icon)
- Text input area: Contains the placeholder text "poiuytrtrewq".
- Bottom left: "10 marks"
- Navigation buttons: Three buttons at the bottom: "<< Back" (yellow), "Next >>" (yellow), and "Save for later >>" (blue).

Another auxiliary mechanism is the Help button. Hovering with cursor over the help button will display additional information to the relevant question

STEP 3 – Final Confirmation and Submission

A proposal **must** be submitted in order to be assessed by the HEA: Draft proposals will not automatically be submitted on the closing date. To submit your proposal, do the following:

When all form fields are completed – see proposal check list on the right-hand side of the screen (as in the screenshot below) - you will be able to submit the proposal. If you wish, you may ‘save for later’ the proposal in draft stage for review.

Even submitted proposals can be amended until the closing deadline. This process will be closer described in the next section: Preview/Print the Submitted Proposal for review



Preview / Print Submitted Proposals for Review

On your dashboard, the panels for each of Springboard and ICT Skills allow you to select 'Show Proposals' for either. The resulting list shows all your submitted and draft proposals under each of the general Springboard and ICT skills conversion headings. The Institute administrator can view all proposals within the institute. The screenshot below is for Springboard.



The screenshot shows a web interface titled "List of Proposals". At the top left, there is a blue square with the number "1". At the top right, there is a link "+ Add New Proposal". Below this is a table with the following columns: "Course code", "Course title", "Last modified", "Status", and "Operations".

Course code	Course title	Last modified	Status	Operations
CEHF	Certificate in Exercise & Health Fitness	22-02-2012 (14:30)	Draft	Edit Print

To view the online form with submitted questions click on View under Operations.

To print the form to a PDF document or to get a hard copy of it click on Print on the right under Operations.

Amending a Submitted Proposal

If you want to make changes to the submitted document you need first to Withdraw the Proposal. To do so, click on [Withdraw](#) under the Operations on the [List of Proposals](#) section. This effectively changes the status of the proposal from "Submitted" to "Draft".

Once the proposal is withdrawn, you will receive following message on the top of the screen: "[The proposal has been reset to the draft state successfully.](#)" and under the operations the [Edit](#) option will appear. See following screenshot:

Operating manual for online course proposals system Springboard+ 2021

List of Proposals

[1](#) + Add New Proposal

Course code	Course title	Last modified	Status	Operations
CEHF	Certificate in Exercise & Health Fitness	22-02-2012 (14:30)	Draft	Edit Print
DLSCM	Diploma in Logistics and Supply Chain Management	22-02-2012 (14:30)	Draft	Edit Print
DGS	General Studies	22-02-2012 (14:31)	Submitted	View Withdraw Print

You can continue to amend/edit the proposal until the closing date. However, you will need to resubmit the proposal before the deadline to make sure it goes forward for assessment by the HEA.

