



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



DIPLOMA IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE 2026 – 2027

This is a one-year (part time) course accredited by the University of Galway for the year 2026 - 2027. The Diploma in Community Development Practice has been designed to enable Community Activists (volunteers and paid staff in the community/voluntary sector) to develop the knowledge, understanding and essential practical skills and experience required to provide leadership within this field.



Entry Requirements

Candidates must be over 21 years of age and have experience of working in a community or voluntary organisation. There are no special educational requirements for entry to the programme. Selection of students will be made on the basis of informal interviews following the completion of an application form. Participants must be from / work in the FODC area

Course Content

The Diploma programme in Community Development Practice is designed to enable community activists to gain a thorough understanding of community development combined with the practical skills necessary to engage effectively in development work. This course, facilitated by Fermanagh Trust and Rural Community Network, offers an opportunity to participants to explore community development in detail and to learn from the experiences of development initiatives elsewhere. The Diploma programme combines course modules, workshops, project work and field trips in order to provide a comprehensive educational experience for participants.

This course will aim to:

- 1.give participants a thorough understanding of the nature of society and communities;
- 2.give participants an understanding of the public policy and administrative context in which development takes place;
- 3.ensure that participants are familiar with national, and EU supports and schemes directed at local development;
- 4.provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of Community Development as a process through introducing them to relevant case study materials from a range of settings;
- 5.develop the confidence and self-reliance of participants and provide them with a range of skills which will enable them to:
 - (i) work effectively as a member of a team;
 - (ii) lead development initiatives at local level;
 - (iii) communicate effectively with local groups as well as public and private agencies;
 - (iv) undertake research, analyse, and present research findings;
 - (v) plan, develop, implement, and evaluate local projects

Course	Assessment
Community Development Theory and Practice	Sustainable Community Development Video and key Questions. Class-based tasks
Communication, Group work and Leadership Skills	Presentation on Social Analysis theme (see below)
Social Analysis	Assignment on selected Social Analysis theme Class-based tasks
Project Planning, Development & Evaluation	Take Home Quiz Task Class-based tasks
Research Techniques	Written Assignment Class-based tasks
Public Policy	Written Assignment Class-based tasks

Course Duration - The course runs from October 2026 to June 2027, in person classes will be each Tuesday, during term time, from 6:00pm – 9:00pm and up to 6 Saturdays throughout the year. There will also be an overnight residential as part of the course.

Course Cost - One off cost of £150 per person. If you are unwaged then we can talk to you about how we can support you to meet this payment. Places are limited to 25 students.

Course Location

Fermanagh House, Enniskillen.

To register:

CLICK HERE 

For further information, please contact:

Sonya Johnston, Deputy Director, Fermanagh Trust, Email: sonya@fermanaghtrust.org.
Tel: 028 66 320 210

As part of the Investing in Community Volunteers Programme, offering training and development opportunities for volunteers, committee members and staff working across the community and voluntary sector in Fermanagh and Omagh. The Investing in Community Volunteers Programme is one of 13 programmes as detailed in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan, a project supported by PEACEPLUS and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body - SEUPB