

THE IRISH TIMES

Higher Options

In partnership with the
Institute of Guidance Counsellors

Virtual Higher and Further Education Expo
Student Information

Wednesday, 4th and Thursday 5th November
1pm to 6pm

Overview



The Irish Times Higher Options will take place as a virtual exhibition this year on the 4th of 5th Of November



Students and guidance counsellors attending will be able to access the full two days of activity from 1pm to 6pm each day on phone, tablet, desktop or laptop.



Content will be accessible for a further 30 days on site to enable students to follow up and gather any more information, to look at it in dedicated class time and share with parents.



150 exhibitors are expected to attend and a full schedule of career and information talks will take place. The finalised schedule for talks will be released shortly to allow students to plan.

Exhibition Hall



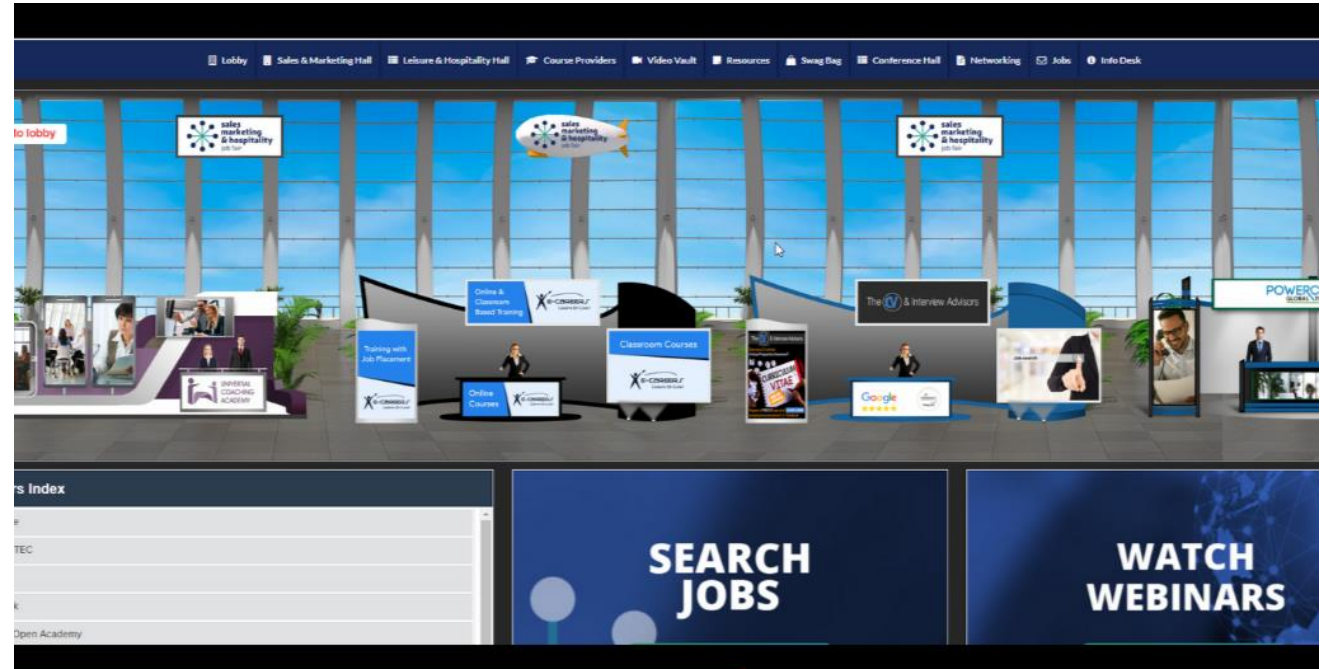
This is where students will discover all the exhibitors attending. They can browse the stands and add any stands to the list they plan to visit.



Gaming and creative elements will be used to make the experience engaging for students and to incentivize them to research as widely as possible.



There will be announcements in the exhibition hall before talks begin over in the auditorium



Exhibition Stands



The best way for students to connect with exhibitors is via live chat. The chat function will appear in every stand visited by students



Exhibitors can answer student questions in group discussions or opt for and one-to-one chats. They can also advise students on what material to gather from their stand for further information



Every student has a virtual rucksack that can be filled with their individual collection of information. The information gathered in this way is unique to each student.



At each stand students will find video content, useful links, brochures and material. All this can be placed in their virtual rucksacks for later perusal.



Auditorium



Talks and lecture sessions take place in the auditoriums throughout the two days of Higher Options



They cover a range of career talks by industry professionals, as well as helpful advice on the CAO, UCAS, EU or international application processes, HEAR, DARE and HPAT



There will be live Q&A sessions with the speaker after each session where students can post questions to be answered in real time

Tickets and Code of conduct



Students that purchase a Higher Options ticket will receive an email or text with unique log-in information to the virtual platform 24 hours before the event goes live. This will be the same for Guidance Counsellors.



You do not need to download or install any software to participate. You only need to have access to the internet.



Virtual Higher Options may be different to the live event, but rules of respect remain the same:

- All discussions and chats you engage in must be respectful
- No spamming of any kind will be tolerated

Please note that all interactions by text are captured for the safety of students and exhibitors.

Summary



We believe this solution will offer a very engaging and worthwhile experience for all students attending. Each student will be able to arrange their programme and gather their information in a unique login for themselves. Students can more easily engage parents in the process this year if they wish.



Our aim and purpose is for students to be able to fully explore all of their options during the live event and in follow up engagement during 30 days afterwards to enable them to make well-informed, good choices about their further education and higher study



We hope your questions are answered in this information sheet. If not you can email us at higheroptions@irishtimes.com and we will do our best to respond as soon as we can. Please be aware that with a large volume of queries answers may not be immediate.

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Thank you