



Applications open for Irish FA / UEFA Pro Diploma Course 2023/2024

Applications are now being sought for the upcoming Irish FA / UEFA Pro Diploma course due to commence in May 2023.

The highest coaching qualification in Europe, the UEFA Pro Licence is now a mandatory requirement to manage an Irish League Club playing in European competitions, other European leagues and UEFA club and international competitions.

Candidates must hold a valid UEFA A Licence have completed at least one year's coaching experience, after graduating with the UEFA A licence, as a head coach at elite youth or senior amateur level, or as an assistant coach in professional football.

Applicants must also possess sufficient spoken and written skills in the official course language, which is English.

UEFA Pro Licence – Coach Profile

A UEFA Pro Licence holder must have a clear understanding of player and team development and coaching at professional and senior amateur level.

The Irish FA's UEFA Pro Diploma course syllabus will aim to develop coaches' ability to demonstrate competence in the following four areas:

Professional coach

- ✓ Working as the head coach of a professional club's first team or, in some cases, as a member of the coaching staff at professional level
- ✓ Working closely with and leading the coaching and multidisciplinary staff
- ✓ Being involved in developing and applying a club's technical policy and philosophy
- ✓ Ensuring the right balance between the players' professional and private lives
- ✓ Working with professional players from different cultural backgrounds, of different ages and experience, e.g., young talented players, experienced players, star players
- ✓ Dealing with all factors affecting the team's performance: media, players' agents, fans, scouts, sports ethics, etc.
- ✓ Being accountable to the club's management: club owner, club board, technical director, etc.



Player and team

- ✓ Planning, executing and supporting individual player development, including players' own objectives, and complying with the club's technical policy
- ✓ Giving direction and supporting players, enabling them to take responsibility for their individual development and involving them in the process (stimulating self-regulation)
- ✓ Working on the team's development in co-operation with all support staff, i.e., technical, medical and performance staff
- ✓ Managing all aspects of the team's performance
- ✓ Creating a winning team and a high-performance culture in a positive environment at professional level

Training environment

- ✓ Preparing and conducting individual and team training sessions at professional level
- ✓ Working with individual players and the team, and understanding how the training session design can affect performance at professional level
- ✓ Designing game-oriented (team-tactical) training sessions in terms of opponents, pressure and intensity
- ✓ Planning, delivering and reviewing training sessions in accordance with the club's coaching philosophy
- ✓ Designing a seasonal team-tactical and physical plan in accordance with the competition schedule and the club's objectives
- ✓ Embracing and adopting an interdisciplinary approach to physical and mental preparation and development, wherever possible in co-operation with other members of the multi-disciplinary team, e.g., performance analysts, fitness coaches, sports scientists, medical and other performance staff

Match

- ✓ Preparing a team for, and coaching them during matches at professional level
- ✓ Using the game to develop each player and the team, but also to create a winning team and a high-performance culture
- ✓ Preparing the match plan (with the staff) in accordance with the club's playing philosophy, taking the opponent team into account
- ✓ Analysing matches (with the staff) as an evaluation and learning tool for individual players and the team as a whole



Irish FA | UEFA Pro Diploma Course 2023 / 2024

The course duration is circa. 14/16 months.

Provisional Schedule

Please note this schedule is subject to change.

Please note that full attendance is required, irrespective of club commitments.

Date	Format	Duration	
Wed 3 May 2023	Online (via Zoom)	Approx. 3 hours	
Thurs 4 May 2023	Online (via Zoom)	Approx. 3 hours	
Mon 22 – Thurs 25 May 2023	Residential Belfast, Northern Ireland	4 days	Travel: At own cost Food: Included in fee Accommodation: Included in fee
September / October 2023 (TBC)	Residential Location TBC	3 days	Travel: At own cost Food: Included in fee Accommodation: Included in fee
December 2023 (TBC)	Online (via Zoom)	Approx. 3 hours	
April 2024 (TBC)	UEFA Spring Visit Nyon, Switzerland	4 days	Travel: At own cost Food: Included in fee Accommodation: Included in fee
Summer 2024 (TBC)	Residential Belfast, Northern Ireland and Graduation	4 days	Travel: At own cost Food: Included in fee Accommodation: Included in fee



Irish FA / UEFA Pro Diploma Course Application Process

All applications received by the closing date of 5.00pm (BST) on Fri 14 October 2022 will be considered.

Applicants must submit the following:

- UEFA Pro Diploma 2023/2024 Application Form (click [here](#) for form)
- A short CV (no longer than 2 x A4 pages) to include:
 - ✓ Coaching experience
 - ✓ Playing experience
 - ✓ Any other relevant experience
 - ✓ Please email this to lorna.stewart@irishfa.com
- For those coaches who have not obtained their UEFA A Licence through the Irish FA, you must provide evidence that you have a valid UEFA A Licence
- You must also possess sufficient spoken and written skills in the official course language, which is English

Selection and Notification

An Irish FA selection panel will consider all applications that meet the UEFA Pro Diploma criteria.

All applicants will receive notification of whether they have been offered a provisional place (subject to confirmation from UEFA) via email no later than 18 November 2022.

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to participate in an online interview process.

The provisional list will be submitted to UEFA for their approval, and once this has been obtained, candidates will be informed that their place has been confirmed.

Once all processes have been concluded, successful candidates will be required to sign an acceptance contract which will specify Terms and Conditions, including specific dates for payment of course fees and confirmation of full attendance irrespective of club commitments.

(Please confirm with your club that they will support this attendance commitment).



Course Fees and payment details

Course fee: **£7500.00**

Can be paid over 2 x instalments

First instalment: **£3750.00** (to be paid on acceptance onto the course).

Second instalment: **£3750.00** (to be paid by April 2024).

Terms and Conditions

- Applicants will be asked to abide by the Irish FA Coach Education Code of Conduct
- Full attendance of the course irrespective of club commitments
- Correspondence for the UEFA Pro Diploma course will be done via email. Therefore, please ensure you complete the email field on the application form and that you have access to an active email address
- The first instalment of the fees must be paid in advance of the course commencing. Failure to adhere to this will result in the applicant's place on the course being withdrawn
- No refund of fee will be made by the Irish FA to the applicant if the applicant fails to attend the commencement of, or complete the Irish FA / UEFA course