

UEFA | Irish FA Pro Licence Application Pack 2027/2028



IRISH FA | UEFA PRO DIPLOMA



Applicant Information

Application Window 2026

The Irish FA UEFA Pro Diploma is the highest level of UEFA coaching qualification. This guide explains the application and selection process, course fees, programme structure and the learning approach candidates can expect.

Application Window	Monday 21 September 2026 - Friday 9 October 2026
First Stage	Submit a current coaching CV

Selection is competitive. Applicants who pass the CV stage will be invited to interview. The interview process will determine the final places on the programme.

Developing people, not just qualifications

Our programme places the coach and their working context at the centre of the learning experience. Candidates will be challenged to think critically, test ideas in practice and take ownership of their continuing development.

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Essential Criteria for Application

1. Applicants must hold a valid UEFA A Licence. No equivalencies accepted.
2. Applicants must have completed a minimum of one year's coaching experience following completion of their UEFA A Licence. Applicants must therefore have obtained their UEFA A Licence at least one year prior to the application closing date of 9 October 2026
3. Applicants must be working at either:
 - Head Coach at Professional or Semi Professional Club
 - Assistant Coach at a Professional Club
 - Head Coach at Elite Youth (minimum U18 or above at Full Time Professional Club)
 - Head Coach at Senior Amateur level.
4. Applicants must possess sufficient spoken and written English language skills to participate fully in the course, as English is the official course language.

Please note that the UEFA Pro Diploma Course is an invitational course. Meeting the essential application criteria does not automatically guarantee selection.

The Irish FA reserves the right to prioritise applicants who:

- Have obtained their UEFA A Licence through the Irish FA;
- Are resident in Northern Ireland;
- Were born in Northern Ireland;
- Have Northern Irish heritage; or
- Have represented Northern Ireland at international level.

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Applicant and selection process

Coaches apply by submitting a current CV during the application window. The CV review is the first stage of a competitive selection process.

Stage	Step	What happens?
1	Apply	Submit your current coaching CV between 21 September and 9 October 2026
2	CV Review	Applications will be reviewed after the closing date
3	Interview	Coaches who pass the CV stage will be invited to interview
4	Final Selection	The interview process will determine the final places offered

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Course Fees

The standard fee for the Irish FA | UEFA Pro Diploma is £12,950.

As part of our commitment to developing and strengthening the coaching workforce within Northern Ireland, the Irish FA provides a supported course fee for coaches currently working within Northern Ireland football.

We also recognise coaches who have previously progressed through the Irish FA Coach Education pathway, with a supported graduate rate available to those who completed their UEFA A Diploma with the Irish FA.

Eligibility

The applicable course fee will be determined based on the applicant's circumstances at the point of application and confirmed as part of the formal offer process.

The Northern Irish Football Supported Rate reflects the Irish FA's commitment to investing in coaches who are currently contributing to the development of football within Northern Ireland.

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Course Fees



Fee Category	Course Fee
Standard Rate Applicants working outside Northern Ireland who did not complete their UEFA A Diploma with the Irish FA	£12,950
Irish FA Graduate Supported Rate Applicants working outside Northern Irish football who completed their UEFA A Diploma with the Irish FA	£11,950
Northern Irish Football Supported Rate Applicants currently working with Northern Irish Football	£9,950

Course Fees and payment details

Course fees can be paid over 3 instalments

First instalment: to be paid on acceptance onto the course

Second instalment: to be paid by 30 April 2027

Third instalment: to be paid by 30 April 2028

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Course Fees

Selection and Notification

- An Irish FA selection panel will consider all applications that meet the UEFA Pro Diploma Criteria as outlined
- All applicants will receive notification of whether they have been offered a provisional place (subject to confirmation from UEFA) via email no later than 6 November 2026
- Shortlisted applicants will be asked to participate in a short 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

Terms and Conditions

- Full attendance of the course irrespective of club commitments
- 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

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Programme Structure

The Diploma combines face to face learning, online engagement, workplace application and individual support. Learning continues between formal blocks through research, reflection, mentoring and collaboration with the cohort.

Programme Element	How it Supports Learning
Four face to face blocks	Intensive learning blocks combining leadership, football, coaching and applied problem solving.
Online blocks via Zoom	Several online sessions will maintain momentum, support discussion and connect learning between face to face blocks.
Research Projects	Candidates will investigate relevant questions and use evidence to inform decisions in their own coaching context.
Personal Good Practice Visits	Each candidate will plan learning visits that expose them to strong practice in football or another relevant environment.
Mentoring	Individual support will help candidates interpret feedback, reflect honestly and turn learning into purposeful action.
Group Work	Candidates will learn with and from one another through discussion, shared tasks, peer challenge and collaborative problem solving.

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Learning in the Workplace

The programme is designed to connect directly with each coach's role. Candidates will be expected to apply ideas in their own environment, gather feedback and evidence, and use reflection to refine their practice. The qualification therefore requires meaningful engagement between contact blocks as well as full participation during scheduled learning.

The Learning Environment

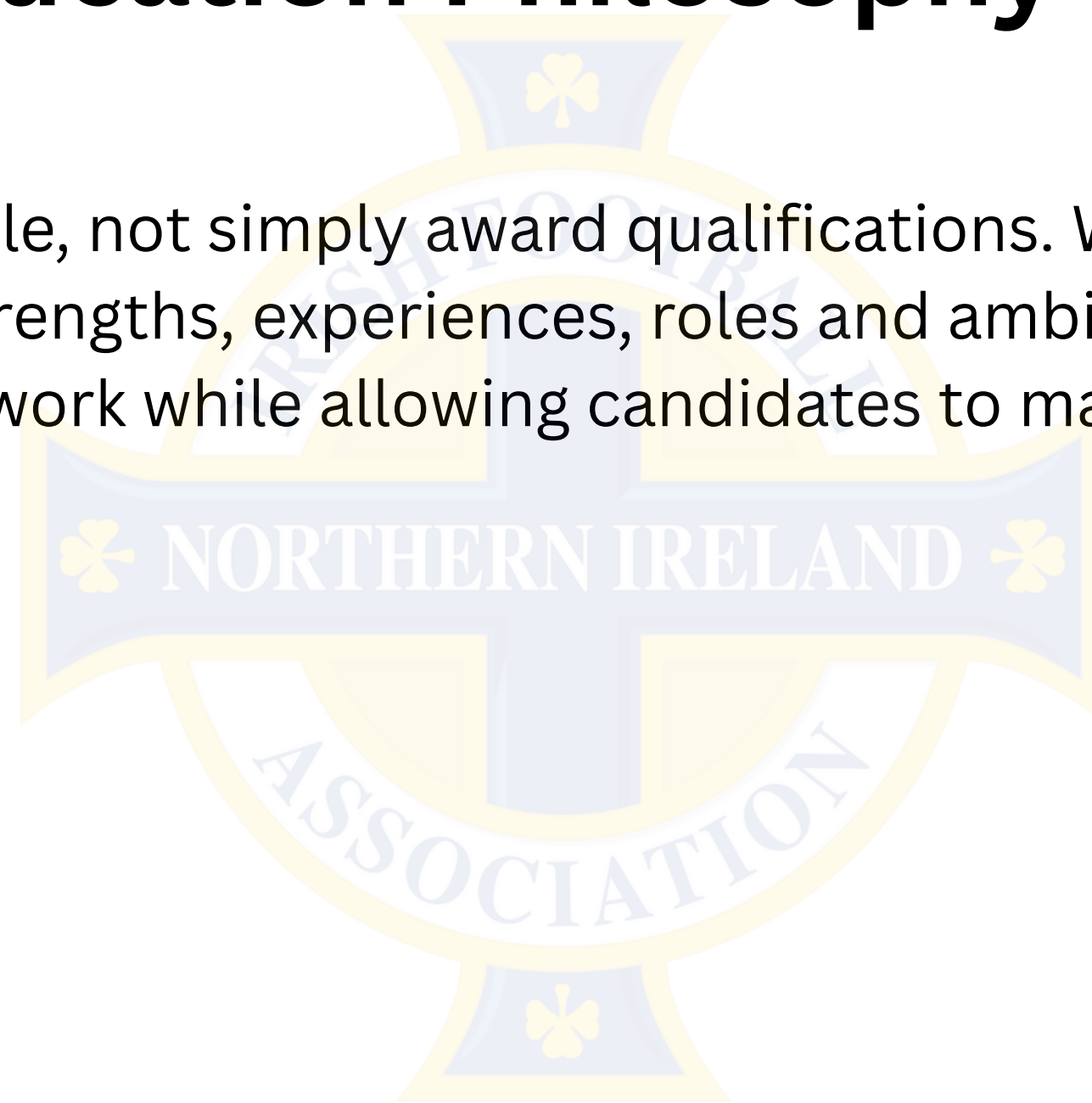
Coach educators will create appropriate challenge, support reflection and help candidates connect ideas to practice. Candidates remain responsible for their own learning. They will be expected to contribute openly, give and receive constructive feedback, and support the learning of others.

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Irish FA Coach Education Philosophy

Our purpose is to develop people, not simply award qualifications. We recognise that experienced coaches arrive with different strengths, experiences, roles and ambitions. The Pro Diploma provides a clear learning framework while allowing candidates to make the journey relevant to their own needs and context.



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Irish FA Coach Education Philosophy

Personalised Learning	Individual development priorities, mentoring and workplace challenges shape each candidate's learning journey.
Psychological Safety	Candidates should be able to ask questions, test ideas, acknowledge uncertainty and learn from mistakes in a respectful environment.
Reflective Practice	Structured reflection helps candidates understand the effect of their decisions and identify what they need to develop next.
Learning with Others	The cohort operates as a community of practice in which experience is shared and different perspectives are valued.
Learning through Application	Tasks focus on outcomes in the candidate's real role, with evidence of learning drawn from practice rather than attendance alone.
Curiosity and Innovation	Candidates are encouraged to explore problems, question assumptions and design responses that fit their players, staff and environment.

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What the Programme Expects from Candidates

The UEFA Pro Diploma requires sustained commitment. Applicants should consider whether they can engage fully with every part of the programme before applying.

- Attend and participate fully in all four face to face blocks and the scheduled online blocks
- Take ownership of an individual learning journey and respond constructively to feedback.
- Complete research and applied learning projects to the required standard.
- Plan and complete personal good practice visits that address identified development needs.
- Engage honestly with mentoring and reflective practice.
- Contribute to group work and help create a respectful, supportive learning environment.
- Apply learning within the workplace and share evidence of development over time.

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Before you apply

Prepare a current coaching CV that clearly sets out your coaching qualifications, relevant roles, responsibilities and experience. Applications must be submitted within the published window

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Applications Open	Monday 21 September 2026
Applications Close	Friday 9 October 2026
Submission required	Current Coacing CV

Further information

Details on how to submit the application, interview arrangements, confirmed programme dates and payment terms will be communicated through the Irish FA Coach Education application process.

The Irish FA reserves the right to confirm eligibility, fee category and programme arrangements before a place is offered.

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How to apply

Click on the link below and follow the instructions

[Click here to apply.](#)

Next Steps

- Pay application fee £50
- On the Coach Education platform, complete the mandatory questions
- On the Coach Education platform, under course evidence, upload a copy of your UEFA A Licence if completed with another National Association and evidence that it is valid
- On the Coach Education platform, under course evidence, upload your coaching CV