



EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS AT GALWAY COMMUNITY CIRCUS

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THE PROJECT AND THE TEAM

The project lasts **11 MONTHS**. It runs from 2nd of September 2024 to 1st of August 2025.

Galway Community Circus is a multi-national team of people. This year we have people from Ireland, France, Italy, Germany, Canada, Spain, USA, UK and Brazil working here. We work hard and find time to play.

GCC delivers a full timetable of weekly afterschool classes for 4-18 years old in 2 venues. We have approximately 650 weekly members. We also deliver programmes aimed at the very young (1yr +) and adults. We run an extensive social circus program, which delivers one-off workshops or longer courses to targeted schools, groups, and communities.

Our staff and tutor team are trained in social inclusion and working with vulnerable children and adults. We run social circus program and 10-week school programmes in primary schools within the Galway region.



The ESC project is much more than an internship: it is a life experience requiring you to open your mind by meeting other cultures and by being socially involved and committed to an organisation. Your ESC will allow you to improve your skills and learn new ones by doing something important for the whole society!

We encourage you to be curious! Use your own initiative, be willing to help, commit to your tasks, be communicative and flexible, reliable. Have a positive attitude and be open to new cultures and new experiences. In return, we will give you the chance to be part of many different projects, explore your independence, award you with enough time off to travel and take part in your own training and provide you with lots of support in a lovely friendly environment.

HOST ORGANISATION / SENDING ORGANISATION

HOST ORGANISATION



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GCC is your host organisation. You will be provided with an ESC coordinator, 1 supervisor, and 1 mentor.

Read below the specifics of these roles.

SENDING ORGANISATION

The ESC requires the cooperation of three different organisations: A Host Organisation, a Sending Organisation, and the EU/National Agency (NA).

YOU MUST HAVE A SENDING ORGANISATION from which you can expect training before your departure. The sending organisation will help you prepare all the required documents and will keep regular contact with you during your 11 months in the Host Country.

If you don't have one yet, search online for one in your Country. You might discover that you have one in your city! You don't necessarily need to know them or meet them personally, but you need to be in touch with them. You don't have to apply or have any selection with them, but in some cases, they might need to redirect you to another sending organisation (usually for reasons that will have nothing to do with you but with the organisation itself). Just contact them and say that you are in the process of selection with the Host.

Once we have made a formal offer to the Volunteers and they have accepted, the ESC Coordinator will send them a Volunteer Agreement, and to the sending organisation. Then, the Volunteer, the sending organisation and GCC will sign the agreement.

COORDINATOR, SUPERVISOR, MENTOR

The Host Organisation (GCC) must provide you with three different supports in line with the National Agency and EU's framework for the project.



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ESC COORDINATOR

The ESC Coordinator and your sending organisation will look after the logistics of your project. The Coordinator communicates with the NA and centralises the communication between the NA, Mentor and Supervisors. The Coordinator has an overview of the ESC process for each ESC, looks after insurance, seminars, and trainings. If there are any problems the Coordinator will look after this in consultation with the Mentor.

MENTOR

The Mentor is a voluntary role. You will get to know them well!

The Mentor will support you to reflect on your learning experience and social life. During the 11 months, you will learn many new things: language, discovering the new culture of your host country, sharing yours, and new tasks. You will also face many new challenges. The Mentor will support you with this, and lead and supervise you in creating your **YOUTHPASS** (see below).

You will meet the Mentor regularly in group or individual meetings which are mandatory and protected by privacy. The Mentor is also the person that you can go to if something goes wrong in the communication with the Supervisor or the ESC Coordinator, and the person you can go to for discovering your Host country, the city, having fun and any other kind of support that you need!

SUPERVISOR

The Supervisor is the person responsible for assigning you your tasks. You will work together with your Supervisor to create your timetable and manage assigned tasks.

They will be the first person you will talk to if you have any problems with your tasks or if you have any wishes about what you would like to do.

The Supervisor will keep track of holidays and days off.

YOUR ROLE AND TIMETABLE IN GCC

You will volunteer for a total of **38 HOURS** per week as a Tutor Assistant or Arts Administration Assistant, based on your application.



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If your profile matches with the role of **TUTOR ASSISTANT**, you will assist the Trainers in the weekly classes and outreach programmes. You may also be involved with programme evaluations and various administrative tasks.

If your profile matches with the role of **ARTS ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT**, you will help the school Administrator with Reception, Environmental sustainability and work on the ESC dissemination program.

Your timetable will be agreed with you during your first meetings with your Supervisor. The timetable is based on a five-day week, but changes might also occur during your time with us.

Since it operates in the social context and environment, please note that GCC and its projects might change during the year. You will keep your role and any changes will always be agreed between you and the organisation. Galway Community Circus is a dynamic organisation so new tasks can arise throughout each year. We need your tasks and timetable to be adaptable to new needs. We juggle with many changes, and we are experts in mental contortionism!



The ESC programme also encourages volunteers to develop their own projects; in the past some of our ESC have worked on the technical production of events, others have made a video library of specific skills or equipment, others have worked on administrative skills (fundraising, poster making, evaluations etc.). These projects are a way for our volunteers to work on extra skills they have chosen during the ESC year.

At Galway Community Circus you will have a chance to see what working in a busy arts organisation is like! We put on many events throughout the year, from small to large-scale performances to community festivals and fundraising events. Sometimes you will be asked to work more than 38 hours in the week and other weeks will be less busy, and you will be asked to work fewer hours. Your timetable will always balance out.

HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OFF

Some ESC will work on a weekday basis; others will work on Saturdays too, since GCC's classes run on 6 out of 7 days per week. You will be guaranteed 2 free days each week. You will possibly have two days off in a row. Your timetable will depend on your interest in the GCC programmes too.



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The ESC programme allows an additional 2 days off per month on top of your regular **2 FREE DAYS PER WEEK**. This means that you will have 22 days of holiday during the 11-month project, which you will need to take before the end of the project.

GCC is working on social projects, which means that work continues during school holidays through running holiday camps.

If you need other time off, we try to accommodate. However, this is not always possible at busy times around our shows and performances. We ask you to give us a **MINIMUM OF TWO WEEKS' NOTICE** for holidays.

The Supervisor will record holidays and days off.

TRAINING OFFERED

GCC will provide you with training in *Child Protection, Health Safety and Manual Handling*. Anybody working in Ireland that carries out certain tasks (such as lifting materials or working with children) must attend these training courses. Our ESCs too!

The ESC program requires you to take part in two mandatory training courses (also called seminars) organised by Leargas, because you will be part of a long-term program. Your coordinator will inform you about the dates.

Normally, the **ON-ARRIVAL TRAINING** takes place at the end of October/start of November, while the **MID-TERM TRAINING USUALLY** takes place in March/April (but these dates may change). They will be decided and communicated by the National Agency to your Coordinator, who will then pass them onto you.

YOUTHPASS

By the end of the project, every ESC should have completed the [Youthpass](#).

This is a certificate fostering recognition of non-formal learning. As a Europe-wide recognition instrument for non-formal learning in the youth field, Youthpass strengthens the social recognition of youth work. It supports active European citizenship of young people and youth workers by describing the added value of their project.

Volunteers will possibly describe what they have done in their project and which competences they have acquired. Youthpass enables young people to record their skills development and learning in a way that can be translated both within and outside the youth sector and across Europe. It can also be used to support future job applications and CVs, illustrating the hard and soft skills gained by the participant on their European Solidarity Corps placement.



LIFE IN GALWAY

ACCOMMODATION

Ireland has become very expensive in the last few years and accommodation can be hard to find. Because of her young and fresh character, about 5 thousand students and thousands of tourists try to visit Galway every year.

GCC provides a private room in a house shared with other ESCs in a lively part of Galway and a nice neighbourhood in Salthill, close to amenities. This is our amazing ESC house with nice, shared spaces!



GETTING AROUND

The ESC house is a 10min cycle from the circus and to the city center (Eyre Square). GCC will provide bicycles for you to use while in Galway or you can also choose to walk as most places you will need in the City are within walking distance or accessible by public transport.

POCKET MONEY

At the start of each month you will receive an allowance of €7 per day and €180 allowance per month. This will be enough for you to have a basic standard of living but you will need to be careful with spending. Galway Community Circus pays for your accommodation and house bills within the allocated project budget. We will also provide a bicycle for each participant of the project. We spend all the Erasmus+ funding on living costs, as Galway is quite an expensive city.



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You are not required to set up an Irish bank account as payment can be made into your existing account via bank transfer each month.

INSURANCE

Henner will be the Insurance Provider and will cover you for anything that cannot be covered by your Country.

For European citizens, the **European Health Insurance Card** will be needed and will cover health costs in public services (Hospital and General Practitioner). In case your home country covers only a part of the expense, you will have to request a part refund to Henner via your account on their website or application. Depending on the type of health services you need, different documents will be asked, as well as receipts from the practitioner and the prescribed medicine.

In the case of a part refund needed from Henner, you will need to pay for any medical appointments and treatment first and then claim the money back afterwards. Depending of your Country/Region's social security system, they will pay you back for anything that is covered by them.

GCC will always help you if you are not able to pay the doctor in advance.

GALWAY

Galway is a fun and cultural city. There is a lot to see and do. There is live music of all kinds and fun-filled weekend nightlife. There are many clubs and societies with something for everyone. As a city, it is quite small, so you should quickly feel a part of the Galway community. There are many buskers in the main streets, and it has a busy, friendly, and relaxed atmosphere.



Things to do in Galway City: <https://www.galwaytourism.ie/things-to-do-galway-city/>

Outside of Galway, there are many scenic routes and visitor heritage sights. Ireland is a small island, so it is easy to get around quite quickly. We encourage our ESC to plan their Irish experience and visit places outside of Galway.

Other areas of Interest: <https://www.galwaytourism.ie/best-unusual-galway-attractions/>

CIRCUS IN IRELAND

We work closely with other emerging circus organisations in Ireland, so if you want to pay a visit to any of the circus schools we can usually help to organise for you to stay with a member of the Circus Network.



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IRISH CIRCUS NETWORK

Belfast: <https://circusful.org/>

Dublin: <https://dublincircusproject.com/>

Cork: <https://circusfactorycork.com/>

OTHER CIRCUS CONNECTIONS

Waterford: <https://isacs.ie/>

Irish Showmen's Guild:

<https://nationalinventoryich.tcagsm.gov.ie/irish-traditional-travelling-circus-and-funfair/>

Traditional Circus:

<https://www.circusfriends.co.uk/circus-directories/circuses/category/circuses-in-ireland>

MORE INFO

If you need any more information about ESC and Youthpass, please visit:

https://youth.europa.eu/solidarity/young-people/volunteering_en

If you have any questions, please call us on +353 85 111 7224 or email at: esc@galwaycircus.com

Galway Community Circus team