

Home Based Education Online Training for Family Carers of People with Dementia

Frequently Asked Questions

When does the course start and how long does it last?

The course starts with an Induction week on Monday, 12th September 2016. The Induction Week is designed to help participants become familiar with the Moodle online learning environment. The course itself will start on the following Monday, 19th September 2016 and runs for six weeks.

What exactly is Moodle?

Moodle is a Learning Management System popular with a wide range of education providers including universities, colleges and indeed many employers. It is basically a website that can be used to upload information and teaching and learning resources. It can also be used to promote communication between course participants and their tutor. You can take part in activities at a time that suits you, and you can do this from the comfort of your own home saving you time and expense of travelling to a 'bricks and mortar' physical course venue. Moodle is 'closed' so only those participants invited to attend the course will have access to the course.

How much does it cost to attend the course?

The course is FREE. However, voluntary donations are most welcome. We will use any donations to help us run similar courses in the future.

What equipment do I need to do the online course?

You will need access to a Personal Computer, laptop or tablet. You will need to have an internet broadband connection. You will also need a set of speakers (most laptops and tablets have these) or headphones so that you can listen to videos from the course. You should be familiar with using the internet and as you may need to type in text you should be familiar with using the keyboard and mouse on your computer.

How will the course be delivered online?

The course will be delivered via The Alzheimer Society of Ireland's Moodle Learning Management System. We will use a variety of methods to deliver the course. We will use a selection of short videos to provide information on certain topics. We will also use presentations with a voice over. We will use your email address to communicate with you directly.

The online course will be participatory in nature. That means we would like participants to interact with each other and with the online tutor. We will use 'Discussion Forums' as a means of enabling participants to share their experiences with each other. We have found that the course works best if participants are willing to learn from each other through the sharing of experiences. Other methods of sharing experiences will also be utilised – for example we will use 'Polls' and 'Choices' to invite participants to tell us about your experiences.

I'm not sure if I feel comfortable sharing my experiences in an online environment. Should I still attend the course?

Class sizes will be limited to between 12 and 15 participants. Each group will have a tutor working exclusively to support the group on the course. So, the only people who will see your posts will be your fellow course participants and the course tutor, not the whole internet!

My computer skills are not great – should I still attend?

You don't need to be a computer genius to do this course! What you do need is an open mind and a willingness to share your experience and learn from the experiences of other participants. In terms of computer skills – if you can book a flight or a holiday online, then you are likely to have the ability to take this course.

Will I get a certificate when I complete the course?

Yes, you will get an Attendance Certificate when you complete the course.

What do I do now if I am interested in the course?

You can complete a course application form which is available on The Alzheimer Society of Ireland's website at <http://alzheimer.ie/Services-Support/Training.aspx>, or simply email christine.carr@alzheimer.ie or phone 01 2073834.

How do I enrol on the course?

Once you have applied and we have confirmed your place, we will email you a link onto the course. A link is like a website address and once you click on it, you will be brought to the course page.

Is there anything else I need to know?

This course is part-funded by a grant from Erasmus+. The grant allows The Alzheimer Society of Ireland to work with partners in Belgium and Norway to develop and deliver this course. We are interested in measuring the effectiveness of the course. We are therefore going to carry out some research and would greatly appreciate your assistance. Consequently, we will send you out questionnaires both before and after the course finishes. The survey results will be anonymous and your confidentiality will be protected.

Can I attend anonymously?

No. Sharing and discussing your experience is an important part of the course. To build trust, we all participate with our real names. We also encourage you to create a profile within the learning platform, so you can present yourself to your group.

Will I need to do all the tasks?

The course will require about 2 hours of your time every week. We know you probably have a busy schedule, so we keep it as light as possible. But it is recommended to go through all the steps chronologically to get the best learning experience.

What if I have more questions during the course?

Your tutor will be online several times a week. So will the other members of your learning group. You are not alone.