

Garda Reserve Recruitment 2024 Frequently Asked Questions

Please refer to [PublicJobs.ie](https://www.publicjobs.ie) for details of any live Garda Reserve recruitment competitions.

What are the benefits of volunteering as a Garda Reserve?

As a Garda Reserve you will learn new skills, gain front-line policing experience and give back to local communities, all while being part of a great team.

How do I apply to be a Garda Reserve?

To apply for the Garda Reserve please go to www.publicjobs.ie

What is the recruitment process for the Garda Reserve?

The recruitment process can be found in the 'Candidate Information Booklet' when applying for the Garda Reserve at www.publicjobs.ie.

Will I have to sit an exam to join the Garda Reserve?

No, however there is a Self-Assessment questionnaire on the application form.

Is there a fitness test?

No, there is no prescribed fitness test for entry to the Garda Reserve, however the training requirements and duty of a Garda Reserve are demanding, and being in good physical health is recommended.

I have a disability may I join?

If you have a disability or need reasonable accommodations made during the selection process, we strongly encourage you to share this with us so that we can ensure you get the support you need. If you have indicated on your application/profile that you require reasonable accommodations, please submit a psychologist/medical report to asu@publicjobs.ie.

I am a retired Garda can I join?

Yes, if you received an exemplary, very good, or good discharge from An Garda Síochána.

Can a citizen from another country join?

Applicants to join must;

- Be a national of a European Member State or
- Be a national of a EEA State or the Swiss Confederation or the United Kingdom of Great Britain or Northern Ireland or
- Be a refugee under the International Protection Act 2015
- Be a person granted subsidiary protection or a family member of such a person in relation to whom a subsidiary protection declaration is in force and continues to be in force for the entire duration of the Garda Reserve Recruit selection and admissions process or
- by the closing date of the advertisement of this competition, have had a period of one year's continuous residence in the State, and during the eight years immediately preceding that period, have had a total residence in the State amounting to four years

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What are the educational requirements?

Candidates must have obtained;

- an Irish Leaving Certificate with a grade D3 or O6 minimum in five subjects at Ordinary Level*, or
- hold a minimum of a Level 5 Major award (120 Credits) on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), or
- hold a recognised qualification (at Level 5 or greater), deemed comparable to the above in terms of both level and volume of learning as determined by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)

**Subjects taken at Foundation Level Leaving Certificate are not considered equivalent for entry to this competition. In certain cases, a Pass in the Applied Leaving Certificate may be deemed equivalent to an Ordinary Leaving Certificate. A H7 grade is also deemed equivalent to an O6 grade.*

I have passed my Leaving Certificate Applied am I eligible to join?

In certain cases a Pass or higher in the Applied Leaving Certificate may be deemed equivalent to an Ordinary Leaving Certificate.

Do I need to speak Irish to join the Garda Reserve?

It is necessary to be fluent in either English or Irish, but not both to become a Garda Reserve member.

I have a foreign qualifications and not an Irish Leaving Certificate can I apply?

Yes, if you hold a minimum of a Level 5 Major award (120 credits) on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), or hold a recognised qualification (at Level 5 or greater) deemed comparable to the above in terms of both level and volume of learning as determined by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

Please refer to the [National Academic Recognition Information Centre](#) for advice on the academic recording of foreign qualifications in Ireland.

What are the age requirements for joining the Garda Reserve?

Persons wishing to join the Garda Reserve must be no younger than 18 and not yet 60 years of age when commencing the prescribed training.

What is the retirement age from the Garda Reserve?

The compulsory retirement age is 65 years.

Can a person who is a member of a voluntary police force in another jurisdiction transfer directly into the Garda Reserve?

No, there is no internal process for this. Members of reserve or auxiliary police forces from other jurisdictions must go through the normal recruitment process.

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Will my current occupation prevent me from becoming a Garda Reserve?

The Garda Commissioner may not admit as a Garda Reserve trainee or appoint as a Garda Reserve member any person who:

holds a designated certificate, license or permit, the granting of which may be opposed by An Garda Síochána;

- Is a member of the Defence Forces;
- Is an officer of the court;
- Is an officer of the probation service;
- Is a bailiff;
- Is a prison officer;
- Is a practicing barrister or a practicing solicitor;
- For reward or personal gain, manages or conducts, or assists in the management or conducting of, a concern or premises which is required by law to be operated under a licence, permit or certificate, the grant of which may be opposed by An Garda Síochána;
- Provides a security service within the meaning of the Private Security Services Act 2004;
- serves summonses as a spare time activity;
- Is employed in any occupation or holds any appointment or position, which, in the opinion of the Garda Commissioner, may cause a conflict of interest with the proper discharge of the duties of a Garda Reserve member.

Are there any benefits from being a member of the Garda Reserve if I am making an application to become a full-time member of An Garda Síochána?

Yes, however, the criteria outlined in S.I. No. 470 of 2013, Garda Síochána (Admissions and Appointments) Regulations still apply to applicants who are members of the Garda Reserve. A Garda Reserve stream was established in 2015. Members of the Garda Reserve who meet the requirements can apply through this stream. To avail of this option, members must have completed their probationary period, performed satisfactory service and served a minimum of 120 hours per year for two of the previous four years.

What Skills will I learn as a Garda Reserve?

As a Reserve Garda you need to be able to deal with people of all ages and from a variety of backgrounds. Many skills are attributed to that of the Garda Reserve including resilience, dedication, physical and mental fitness, problem solving and decision making as it is important you can handle difficult situations with sensitivity, tact and patience at all times.

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How is training delivered?

The training programme for Reserve Gardaí is broken up into 5 phases and features a blended approach of in person training at the Garda College Templemore, Co Tipperary, in designated stations, and online modules.

What training will I receive?

At the end of the Garda Reserve Training Programme Reserve Gardaí will be able to fully comprehend their role and responsibilities within An Garda Síochána, display a commitment to maintain the same professional standards as expected of all members of An Garda Síochána and demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of the legislative powers available to members of the Garda Reserve. An overview of the Garda Reserve training can be found in Regulation 5 of the [S.I. No. 64 of 2024](#).

The training and duties of a Garda Reserve can be physical demanding therefore a good standard of physical fitness is recommended in anticipation of Garda Reserve training.

What happens if I do not complete the required training?

The Garda Commissioner may not appoint a person as a Reserve Garda if they have not completed the prescribed training.

What kind of law enforcement powers do I have as a Garda Reserve?

Powers include the enforcement of the Road Traffic Act and sections of the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Acts and Criminal Law Act. Reserve members may also make a summons application to the Courts for any offence detected in the above Acts.

Do Garda Reserves receive payment for their services?

Service in the Garda Reserve is voluntary and unpaid. An allowance is payable by the Garda Commissioner in respect of expenses incurred in performing functions as a Reserve Garda annually, it is not a wage.

What is the annual allowance for a Garda Reserve?

The Garda Reserve Annual Allowance claim is applicable on a graduated scale up to €3000 based on the number of hours completed in a calendar year.

Hours Performed	Claim
50 hours	€500
100 hours	€1000
150 hours	€2000
200 hours and above	€3000

Are Garda Reserves reimbursed for any expenses they incur while on duty?

In addition to the annual allowance, Garda Reserve members will be reimbursed by the Commissioner for any expenses incurred by them in attending courts, tribunals or other legal proceedings outside of their hours of duty.

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Is there a minimum commitment to An Garda Síochána as a Reserve Garda?

Yes. Reserve Gardaí must perform no less than 60 hours per calendar year. Reserve Gardaí can perform a full tour (12 hours) or half tour (6 hours) of duty when rostered. A Reserve is not required to serve more than 208 hours in any 12-month period.

Will I have a fixed timetable or do I volunteer my time as and when it allows?

Garda Reserves are volunteers and should arrange with their nominated Sergeant to agree a three month roster schedule that suits both parties. This roster should be agreed every three months, in conjunction with policing and operational requirements, as well as the individual's availability.

Will I be based/working at my local Garda Station?

There is a general policy in place where Garda Reserve members are not assigned duties in his or her immediate neighbourhood, however your place of residence will be considered when allocated for duty.

Do I have to work nights?

Reserve Gardaí are attached to a unit and may choose to assist their unit for a full (12 hours) or half tour (6 hours) which may involve performing duty at night.

Will I get Personal Protective Equipment?

Reserve Gardaí are equipped with and trained in Use of Force, this includes handcuff techniques and use of equipment such as baton and incapacitate spray.

Do I perform duty on my own?

Currently, all Garda Reserves are required to be accompanied by a full member of An Garda Síochána while on duty.

What Duties will I perform?

Garda Reserves perform a variety of community and regular policing duties, to assist and support Gardaí, as determined by the Commissioner. This includes;

- High visibility patrolling
- Engagement with communities
- Policing of events
- Providing in station support

Can I choose to work at certain events, such as football matches, concerts, and festivals?

This may vary from station to station depending on policing requirements.

Can I apply for a transfer from my current station?

Garda Reserve members can apply for a transfer to another station however, an application must be made through local management.

Is there a probationary period after training?

Yes. Once training is complete a Garda Reserve will be under probation for one year from the date they are appointed to the rank of Reserve Garda.

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Can I volunteer if I have a criminal record?

Stage 3 of the application process includes Vetting. Candidates must be found suitable in order to be offered a place in the next stage of the recruitment process. Please note that success through any stage of the selection process is not a guarantee of acceptance as a Garda Reserve Trainee.

Are tattoos or other body modifications such as piercings allowed in the Garda Reserve?

You will not be admitted into the Garda Reserve if you have tattoos visible on your hands or face, as they are not permitted under the Garda Uniform and Dress Code. In addition, no item of jewellery is permitted through the nose, eyebrows, lips, tongue or any other visible part of the body by any member while on duty. If you have any questions about a particular tattoo or piercing, please reach out to the Garda Reserve National Office.

If I have further queries who should I contact?

The Garda Reserve National Office - GardaReserve.Support@garda.ie