

## Training Providers Information about BER Assessor Training Course<sup>1</sup>

1. Institution and Course Details	
Name of Institution:	National Irish Centre for Energy Rating Ltd. (NICER) Training
Registration Address:	Reg. in Dublin 178822 Reg office The Greenhouse, 17 St Andrews Street, Dublin 2
Course Delivery Location(s) (if different from the above):	Courses are delivered at the Greenhouse in Dublin, and at hotels, conference centres, and meeting spaces that meet NICER Training's specified standard levels, throughout the country.
Web Site:	www.nicertraining.ie
eMail:	booking@nicertraining.ie; devyn@nicertraining.ie
Telephone:	01 454 6411
Fax:	01 454 6411
Course Manager:	Devyn Olson-Sawyer, Programme Manager
Contact for Course Info:	Kai Wagner, Programme Coordinator
Max no of students in class:	15
Course Cost:	<p>Module 1: BER Foundations Course (2 days) - €300</p> <p>Module 2 (standard path): BER Assessor Qualification Training Course (5 days, plus ½ day for exam) - €750</p> <p>Module Two (compressed path): BER Assessor Qualification Training Course (4 days, plus ½ day for exam) - €600 (Module 1 students continuing on to Module 2 receive a €100 discount)</p>
2. Course Duration	
Elapsed Course Duration: (Module 1)	We offer a flexible path to the BER Assessor Qualification, which is dependent on each student's educational background, work experience, and self assessed interest and aptitude. The Modules are described below:
Content	<p>Module 1: BER Foundations Course (2 days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topics include building physics, U-value calculations, and heating systems with additional sessions on DEAP familiarity.</li> <li>• Students completing Module 1, and wanting to continue on to Module 2, could enrol in the compressed path of Module 2 (described below).</li> </ul> <p>Module 1 is designed for trade-qualified students, those for whom it has been a long time since last completing assignments/sitting an exam, those who would like an introduction into the concepts behind the BER before training to become an assessor, and anyone who would like more time working with the material.</p>
Contact Time (Module 1):	2 days

<sup>1</sup> Please see notes below.

Elapsed Course Duration	Module 2 (standard path): BER Assessor Qualification Training Course (5 days, plus ½ day for exam)		
Content	<p><b>Day One:</b> Introduction to DEAP Unit 1 Building Energy Rating in Ireland</p> <p><b>Day Two:</b> FETAC/SEI requirements Unit 2 Building Construction and Lighting Assessment Unit 3 Building Energy Performance - Fabric &amp; Ventilation Systems Workshop Session(s)</p> <p><b>Day Three:</b> Unit 4 Space &amp; Domestic Hot Water Heating Systems &amp; Their Controls Unit 5 Overall Energy Performance, CO2 Emissions &amp; BER Labels Workshop Session(s)</p> <p><b>Day Four:</b> Unit 6 BER Advisory Report for Dwellings Site Visit for Existing Dwellings Survey Workshop Session(s)</p> <p><b>Day Five:</b> Workshop Session(s) Revision and Review</p> <p>Addition ½ day      Exam</p> <p>Module 2 (standard path) is designed for working professionals in the design and construction industry who would like a warm-up day to review the concepts behind the BER in addition to training to become an assessor.</p>		
Contact Time (Module 2, standard path):	5 days, plus ½ day for exam		
Elapsed Course Duration:	Module Two (compressed path): BER Assessor Qualification Training Course (4 days, plus ½ day for exam)		
Content	<p>Pre-course material to include Unit 1, Building Energy Rating in Ireland</p> <p><b>Day One:</b> Unit 2 Building Construction and Lighting Assessment Unit 3 Building Energy Performance - Fabric &amp; Ventilation Systems Workshop Session(s)</p> <p><b>Day Two:</b> Unit 4 Space &amp; Domestic Hot Water Heating Systems &amp; Their Controls Unit 5 Overall Energy Performance, CO2 Emissions and BER Labels Workshop Session(s)</p> <p><b>Day Three:</b> Unit 6 BER Advisory Report for Dwellings Site Visit for Existing Dwellings Survey Workshop Session(s)</p> <p><b>Day Four:</b> Workshop Session(s) Revision and Review</p> <p>Addition ½ day      Exam</p> <p>Module 2 (compressed path) is designed for working engineers and those who are fully up to speed in all the concepts of the BER and need only to learn the DEAP software and complete the assignments/exam.</p>		
Contact Time (Module 2, compressed path):	4 days, plus ½ day for exam		
Learning Hours:	70 - 100 hours, depending on path chosen		

### 3. Trainers Details

Each course will be taught by a trainer or trainers from NICER Training's panel of trainers, whose qualifications will be posted on the NICER Training website for review by potential students. Course training and logistics will be supported by Devyn Olson-Sawyer, Programme Manager.

During recruitment, trainers will be evaluated on a combination of education, work experience in the energy and construction field, and teaching experience. Once employed, all trainers will be managed by Devyn Olson-Sawyer, with guidance from Patrick Duffy and Bill Quigley, Technical Advisors. Bill Quigley and Patrick Duffy, both Chartered Engineers, founded the National Irish Centre for Energy Rating Ltd., (NICER) in 1991, to use the measurement and software approach developed by Bill to offer energy audits and ratings for Irish houses.

NICER Trainings panel of trainers includes:

Max Drake is a New Zealand registered Architect with over 33 years experience in the building industry, working in the areas of Architectural Design & Project Management & Site Supervision and Building Services Design in the areas of Heating & Ventilation, Air Conditioning, Plumbing and Drainage, and Electrical, Lighting & Data documentation. Max has also lectured in Environmental Science, Proportion & Composition, Project Management, Construction, Material Science, and Computers in Architecture. In association with Building Research Association NZ (BRANZ), he prepared documentation of Weathertightness books 1-5. His qualifications include BER Registered Assessor, SEAI- 2009, Bachelor of Science (Mathematics), Bachelor of Architecture (Honours), Bachelor of Building Science, and Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning, Part 1 and Part 2, City & Guilds.

Evan Finegan is an Architectural Technician, with a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Technology from Waterford Institute of Technology. He is also a registered Architectural Technician Member with the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland and a registered Domestic BER assessor with the SEAI. His experiences in sustainability and energy conservation have included involvement in the detailed design and construction process of Corks first certified Passive House. He specialises in Building Energy Ratings, detailing to eliminate thermal bridges and detailing to maintain air tightness, thermal modelling to assist thermal bridge calculation and analysis, use of Passive House Planning Package (PHPP 2007) and passive house detailing. Experience in working with one of Europe's largest timber frame manufacturers from 2004-2006 provides a broad knowledge in timber frame construction and timber structures. He has also served on the Committee of the Irish Architectural Technology Graduates Network (IATGN) at regional level, from 2007-2009, assisting the committees progress toward establishing a professional body to represent Architectural Technicians and Architectural Technologists in Ireland.

Sean Clancy is a registered domestic BER assessor in Ireland and a registered on- construction domestic energy assessor in the UK. He holds a National Diploma in Construction Studies from Waterford IT, and has over 25 years experience in the residential and commercial building industry in Ireland and the UK. He has experience in operating the SAP (standard assessment procedure) software in the UK, on which the DEAP software is based and is currently working on a project to introduce an on-line building control system for Part L of the building regulations (conservation of fuel and energy) in the UK and in Ireland at a future date. He is passionate not only about sustainable building methods and materials but also about building regulations compliance particularly with Part L of the building regulations in Ireland and the UK and educating building designers and builders on the importance of the fabric first approach to building and how significant thermal bridging and air tightness are as well as u value in building fabric. Using DEAP and PHPP (passive house planning package), Sean provides A rated and Passive House standard specifications for clients and also carries out project management roles on a number of these projects.

Chris Beier is a Chartered Engineer with an in-depth knowledge and expertise in all aspects of building services engineering and energy use and conservation for both process and human occupancy sectors of the built environment. . His primary degree is a B.Sc. (hons) in Building Services Engineering, and Chris is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers of Ireland, of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, and of the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers. Chris has worked with a number of leading consultant engineers in Ireland, the UK, and Germany and has his own engineering consultancy practice. His projects have included major shopping centres, factories and industrial, major commercial buildings and sports arenas. He has trained as a BER assessor as well as preparing course material for the BER, has experience of using the BER, and is a lecturer in building services engineering.

Fintan Smyth is an Architectural Technician and registered building energy rating assessor, and is particularly motivated in regard to Environmental Design. He has been involved with energy audits, retrofit design analysis, and passive house evaluation. Fintan has completed training in SEAI's Building Energy Rating programme for both commercial and domestic buildings. He has ongoing submissions and conversations/correspondence with recommendations for enhancement of building regulations and thermal bridging and other protocols for building energy ratings; with Department of Environment, and technical standards, as well as entering submissions for Department of Environment Public consultations regarding Building regulations Part L 2007 and Acceptable Details 2008. He is in consistent specific pursuit for proper analysis and solutions for thermal bridging challenges e.g. Rainscreen & stone cladding, relieving angles in multi-storey buildings. He has a strong background in Conservation and Contemporary Architecture, and is currently undertaking the MSc AEES at the Centre for Alternative Technology, Wales through the University of East London.

#### 4. Admissions Policy

Applicants should be construction / engineering / property professionals with third level qualification at level 6 (certificate level) or appropriate qualifying experience, plus 2 or more years relevant experience. Education and work experience will be validated via application, pre-test, phone interview, evidence of certs/diplomas, and/or CV review.

In order to qualify for the Module 2 BER Assessor training course (the course required for SEAI registration), applicants must either have successfully completed the Module 1 BER Assessor training course or verify prior knowledge of the theory underpinning the calculation principles of the DEAP programme and prior knowledge of the legislative (only) requirements of EPBD and TGDL. These will not be taught in the Module 2 course but will be provided in course material and assessed in the examination process. The Module 2 course will focus only on the application of the DEAP software in the production of BER and TGDL compliance.

Potential learners will be encouraged to self-test against tests provided by NICER. Submission of self-tests to NICER Training is optional. Feedback will be given if requested, but the learner will ultimately decide whether s/he wishes to proceed with paid course.

## 5. Examination Policy

As per FETAC's D30189 Module Descriptor, NICER Training's Module 1 and Module 2 examinations cover theory and practical elements. Both exams are 'open book' – those taking the exams are encouraged to use course materials, tables, charts, books and Internet sources to assist themselves.

The Module 1 exam consists of 5 parts: Reading drawings (3 questions); taking measurements off drawings and making calculations (3 questions); describing heating and hot water systems and controls (3 questions); calculating U-values (3 questions); short answer questions on EPBD and TGDL (3 questions)

The exam, held on the afternoon of the second day, has a duration of up to 2 hours. Learners who score less than 70% on the exam will be discouraged, but not precluded on those grounds alone, from proceeding to Module 2

Currently, the Module 1 and Module 2 courses are intended to be taught on alternating weeks. If the courses run concurrently, learners will be encouraged to leave a gap of at least a week between the two courses for review and study. Should the learner opt to continue to the Module 2 course directly, their exam results will be assessed immediately to enable them to do so.

Module 2 will be evaluated based on class participation, four assignments, and a final exam. Each assignment will have a brief which will be distributed in class and discussed. Learners are to complete the assignments as home study before sitting the final exam.

Module 2 exam will be based on Units 1 to 6 and will be 3 hours in duration.

The format of the examination will be as follows:

Section A: short answer questions (10%) 10 short answer

Section B: a practical examination (40%) that assesses learner ability to use the DEAP software in a supervised setting for a previously unseen dwelling to produce a BER Label and Advisory Report. The dwelling included in the examination must be of such depth and breadth that requires the candidate to apply all aspects of the DEAP software.

Before the exam can be taken, students must have submitted the four course assignments, either during the course, by post, or via email to the Programme Manager. Students may resit the exam once free of charge, by arranging with the Programme Manager to join an existing course's scheduled exam.

## 6. Training Materials

Once enrolled, learners will be given NICER Training policy and procedure information which outlines NICER Training processes before, during, and following courses.

Pre-course material includes a self test, course syllabus, and recommended reading from the FETAC Module Descriptor, Building Regulations 2005 and 2007 Technical Guidance Document L, and from the SEI website, as well as the DEAP software and handbook.

During the course, learners will be given a course folder with hardcopies of the manuals, information and exercises, copies of presentations, forms and templates, and other reference material, as well as electronic material.

## 7. After Care

NICER Training is developing an after care programme on the NICER Training website - an Alumni Centre, with articles and reference materials, individual advice and support, to allow those who have successfully completed the course to develop their professional skills and understanding as BER Assessors. We also run a free Green Building Users Group in partnership with the Environmental and Sustainable Construction Associations (EASCA) of which NICER is a member.

## Notes

Course Cost:	The standard charge to course participants
Elapsed Time	The no of days from first to last lecture (not including examination).
Contact time	The number of days/ hours that the student will attend the course.
Learning Hours	The number of hours that the provider expects learners to devote to the course including home study and direct contact learning but excluding examination time.
Trainer Details	Summary statement of the course functions, qualifications, teaching experience and energy/ building/ construction experience of the trainers
Admissions Policy	Minimum qualification level required of course participants and the validation method.
Examination Policy	Statement of how the examinations are structured, when they take place, and the institution's policy in respect of repeats
Training Materials	Description of the materials provided to the learners.
After Care	The facilities, if any, provided to learners after they have completed the course.