



Institiúid na gComhairleoirí Treorach
INSTITUTE OF GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS

Taking The Next Step

***A Guide To Further
&
Higher Education***



***Leaving Certificate
2018***

***The Institute
Of Guidance
Counsellors***

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Taking The Next Step—A Parents & Student Guide to Further & Higher Education

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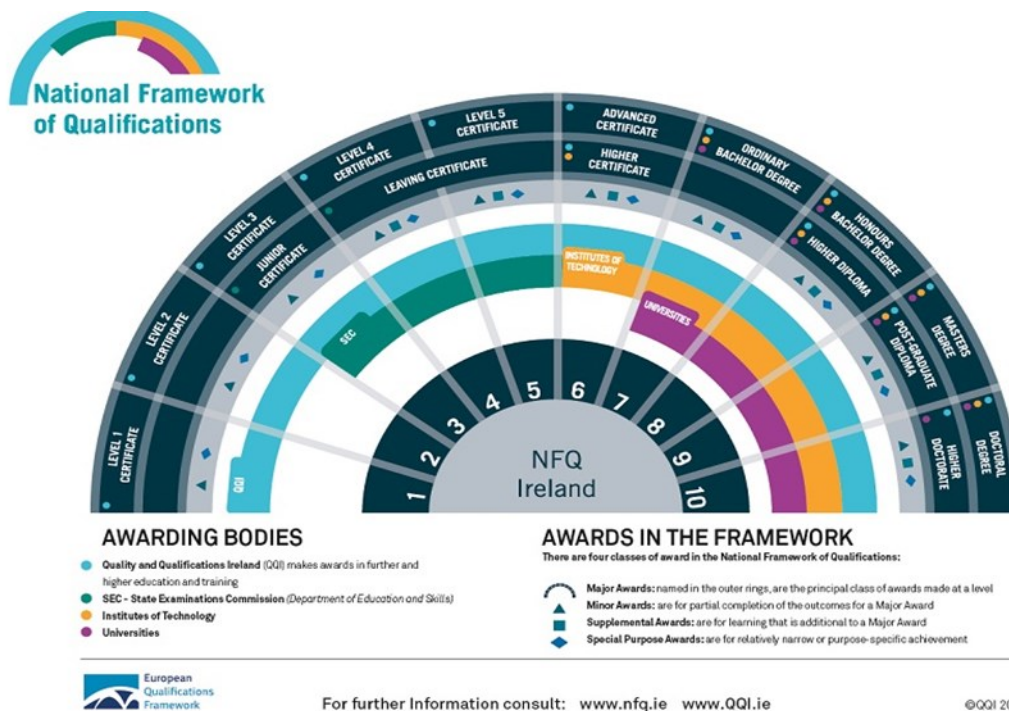
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Disclaimer

**Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided,
parents and students should always verify the information with the relevant organisation/s.**

1. National Qualification Framework (N.F.Q)

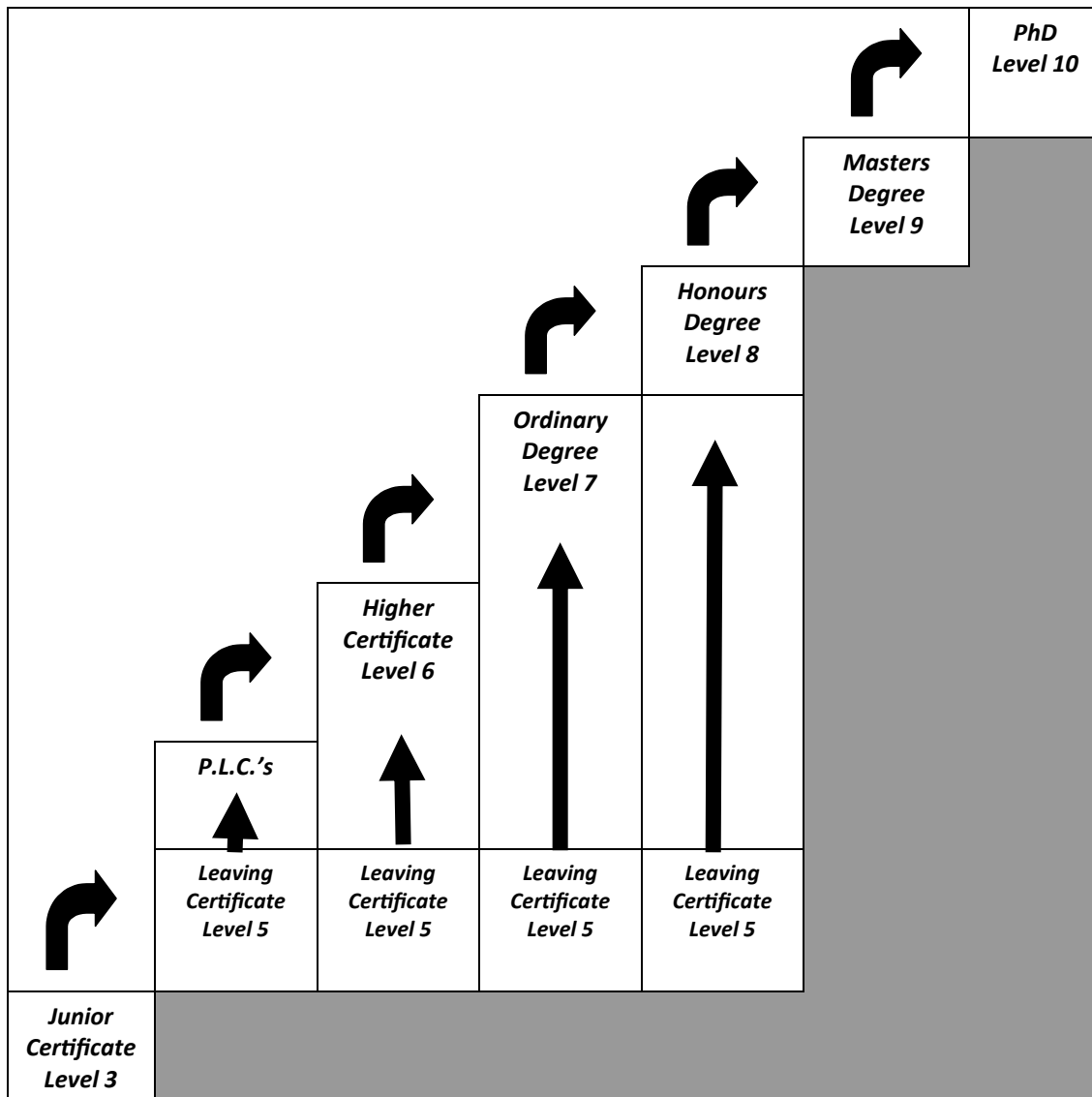
The National Framework Qualifications scale is the framework used to illustrate various education levels and works from levels 1 to 10. If a student has completed the Junior Certificate he/she is deemed to have reached level 3. If a student completes the Leaving Certificate he/she is deemed to have reached level 5. Level 6 is a Higher Certificate (normally 2 years), level 7 is an Ordinary Degree, and level 8 is an Honours Degree (normally 3 /4 years). Level 9 is a masters and level 10 is a PhD. All Higher Education Institutes within the C.A.O. application system use the Leaving Certificate for entry into Levels 6, 7, and 8.



Some students obtain enough points at Leaving Certificate to enter directly into a Level 8 honours degree course. They therefore skip levels 6 and 7. Others obtain points to gain admission to a level 7 ordinary degree course and skip level 6. They can then progress and convert this level 7 into a level 8 by studying for an extra year or so.

Some students obtain points to gain admission to a level 6 certificate course. This can then be converted into a level 7 and then into a level 8.

Some students do a P.L.C. course (which require no points) and progress to a level 6 or straight into a level 7 or 8. See diagram on page 4.



Here is a mock-up of a C.A.O. application form. Applicants can choose up to 10 level 8 Honours Degree courses and 10 level 7 Ordinary degrees and/or 10 level 6 Higher Certificate courses.

	Honours Degree Level 8		Pass Degree/Certificate Level 7/6 (mixed)
1.		1.	
2.		2.	
3.		3.	
4.		4.	
5.		5.	
6.		6.	
7.		7.	
8.		8.	
9.		9.	
10.		10.	

2. The Points System

When sitting the Leaving Certificate, points are awarded on the basis of the results obtained in the best six subjects. These points are as followed.

Percentage	Honours Level Grade	Honours Level Points	Ordinary Level Grade	Ordinary Level Points
90% - 100%	H1	100	O1	56
80% - 89%	H2	88	O2	46
70% - 79%	H3	77	O3	37
60% - 69%	H4	66	O4	28
50% - 59%	H5	56	O5	20
40% - 49%	H6	46	O6	12
30% - 39%	H7	37	O7	0
0% - 29%	H8	0	O8	0
LCVP Grade				
Distinction	66			
Merit	46			
Pass	28			

Honours Maths

All students achieving a H6 or higher will have 25 points added to their total score for honours Maths. The Maths grade itself does not change. There are no bonus points for Ordinary level Maths. This is a standard 25 points regardless of the grade achieved. The same points are awarded for an H1 as a H6. There are no bonus points for a H7 in Honours Maths.

Example 1				Example 2			
Subject	Level	Grade	Points	Subject	Level	Grade	Points
Irish	Honours	H4	66	Irish	Honours	H3	77
English	Ordinary	O1	56	English	Honours	H2	88
Mathematics	Honours	H5	56+25= 81	Mathematics	Honours	H6	46+25=71
French	Honours	H3	77	French	Honours	H2	88
Biology	Honours	H4	66	Biology	Honours	A1	100
Geography	Ordinary	O2	46	Geography	Honours	A1	100
History	Honours	H3	77	History	Honours	H3	77
Top 6 in bold			423	Top 6 in bold			530
Maths included				Maths NOT included			

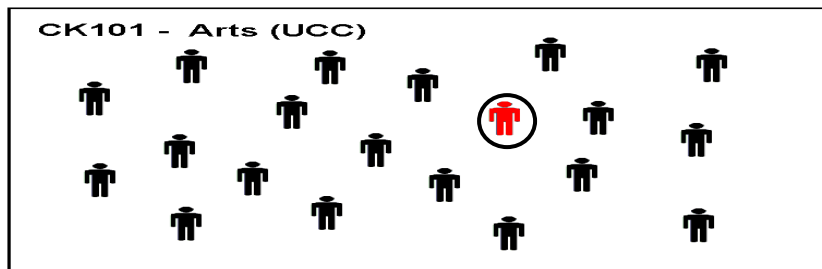
If Maths is not included in the top six subjects counted, the bonus points are not included.

Note: When counting the Leaving Certificate point for medicine, points above 550 are adjusted to a maximum of 565 points. Therefore for every 5 points above 550 add 1 point.

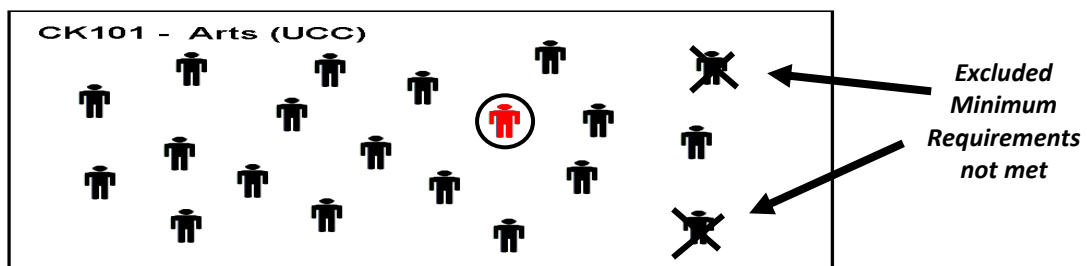
3. How The C.A.O. Works

Here is an explanation as to how the points for each course are calculated. This candidate has applied for Arts in U.C.C. as their first preference. The candidate is then grouped with all other students who have applied for this course. They are in no particular order until the Leaving Certificate results of these students are published.

Round One



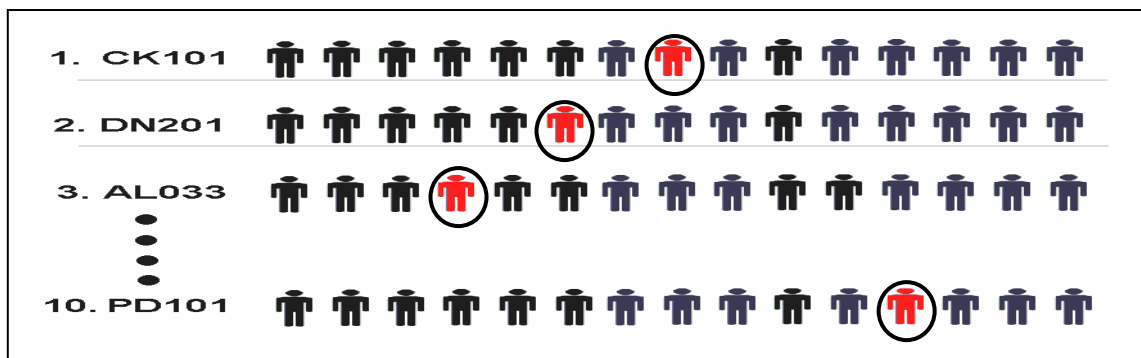
Once the results are published, the students' results are scanned to see who has all the minimum requirements. For example, one student failed English and another failed Irish. These students are now excluded from the rest of the process.



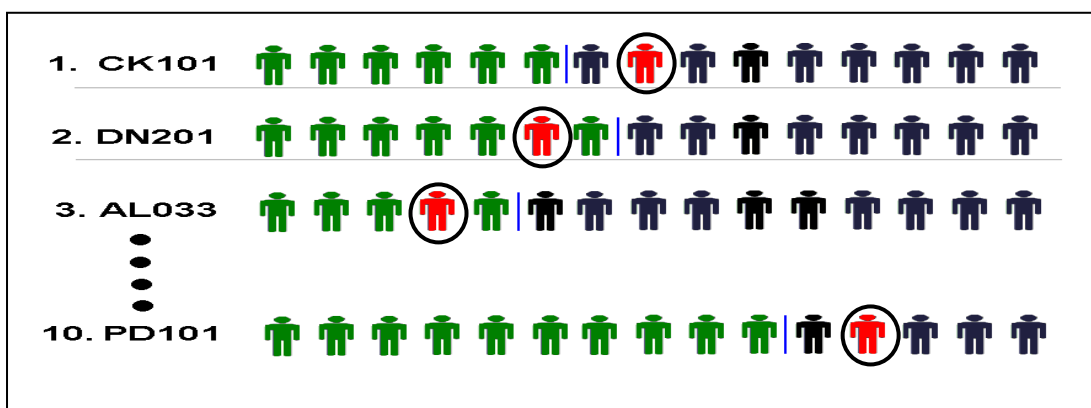
These minimum requirements are very important. Generally, as most students will do Irish, English, Mathematics, and a third language this will cover the general entry requirements for N.U.I colleges. However, there are exceptions. T.C.D. only require English, Maths, and Irish or a third language, Most of the I.T.'s require Irish or English, and Maths. Some engineering and science courses do not require a third language. However, some courses have additional requirements. For example, all engineering courses (level 8) require HC3 in honours Maths. Honours Irish is a requirement for primary teaching. Chemistry is a requirement for Veterinary in U.C.D., Human Nutrition & Dietetics in D.I.T., Pharmacy in T.C.D., Medicine and Dentistry in U.C.C. Physics is a requirement for Theoretical Physics in U.C.D. and T.C.D. One laboratory science is required for many science courses. Two science subjects are required for Physiotherapy and Human Genetics in T.C.D. Commerce in U.C.D. requires a HD3 or OB3 in Maths. Most courses require 2HC3 and 4OD3 while most T.C.D. courses require 3HC3 and 3OD3. Other courses require a portfolio and/or aptitude test and/or an interview. These examples illustrate how complicated this process is, therefore it is vital to check the complete list in the **Directory Of Leaving Certificate Entry Requirements**. Without these minimum requirements, a candidate is excluded from the selection process regardless of how many points are obtained.

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Those students who have all the minimum requirements and who applied for Arts in U.C.C. (CK 101) are then ranked in order of points obtained. The student who obtained the highest number of points is placed at the top of the queue and the students who obtained the second highest number of points is placed second in the queue, and so on. This process is carried out for all the candidates' choices. The position in the queue for this candidate for each of their courses is indicated below.



The colleges where each course takes place is then asked how many students will be taken into each course. This is then deemed to be the cut-off point as indicated below. For example, in U.C.C. Arts there are 6 places for 15 students in the queue. The points obtained by the 6th student in the queue are then the points published. **These are the points that are deemed to be the cut-off point and this is where the points that are published originate.** Our candidate is 8th in the queue and will not gain admission. For the second choice, the college (DN 201), have indicated they will take the 7th student and above. Our candidate is 6th in the queue. For the third choice, the college has indicated they will take the 5th student and above. Our candidate is 4th in the queue. This process is carried out for all of the courses applied for.

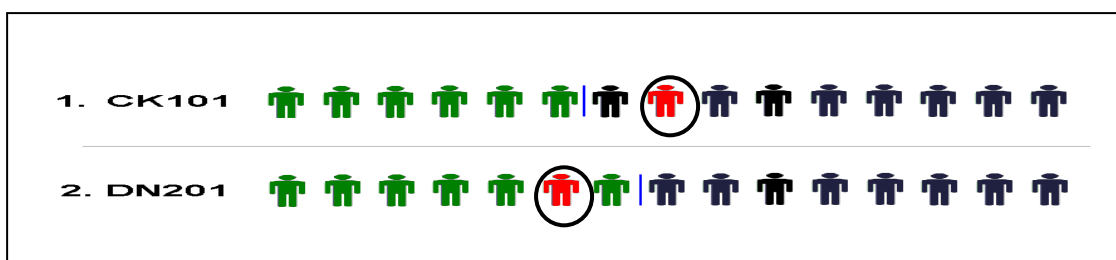


The computer will then scan and select the highest preference course the candidate is eligible for. In this case, it is the second choice, DN 201. Even though the candidate is eligible for the third choice, they will *not* be offered a place as the candidate has indicated that they would prefer DN 201 above AL 033 by placing DN201 above AL 033 on the application. Indeed, all preferences from 3rd down are now wiped from the system. **These courses from 3rd choice down will never be considered again, i.e. courses C, D, E, F, G, and courses P, Q, R, S are deleted from the system.** The student will now receive an offer of a place on DN 201 in round one. The same system operated independently for level 7/6.

Level 8		Level 7/6	
1	A	1	X
2	<i>B—Offered</i>	2	Y
3	<i>C—Deleted</i>	3	<i>Z—Offered</i>
4	<i>D—Deleted</i>	4	<i>P—Deleted</i>
5	<i>E—Deleted</i>	5	<i>Q—Deleted</i>
6	<i>F—Deleted</i>	6	<i>R—Deleted</i>

If eligible, you will receive two separate offers, one Level 8 (Honours Degree) and one level 7/6 (ordinary degree/certificate). Both offers are independent of each other but you can only accept one. If you receive, for example, your 2nd preference on level 8 in round one, all preferences below this will be deleted from the system and you will never be offered any course from 3rd preference down. If you accept this offer you can still be offered your 1st preference in round two – if the points drop and you become eligible. If you do not accept this 2nd preference offer, you can still be offered your 1st preference in round two – if the points drop and you become eligible. **However, if the points do not drop you cannot change your mind and ask for the original round one offer. You will be left with no offer.** The same system operates independently for levels 7/6.

Round Two



The student's first preference was course CK101 and they did not achieve enough points. This candidate is two positions from being offered a place. Six students were offered a place on CK 101 in round one. If two of the students in the queue for CK 101 do not accept their first round offer, two places will become available. These two places will then be offered on Round 2 and our candidate will be offered a place. Therefore, in round one our student was offered DN 201 and in round two, roughly a week later, was offered CK 101. Our candidate can now decide to hold onto his first round offer and decline the second round offered or can accept the second round offer and discard the first round offer. It is worth repeating, that accepting an offer on round one from level 8, does not prevent a higher round 2 offer from either level 8 or indeed level 7/6. Similarly, accepting a round one offer on level 7/6 does not prevent a higher round two offer from level 7/6 or indeed level 8. No candidate will ever be offered a course below the course offered in round one. In our example, the student can accept course B and still be offered course A, and X, or Y in round 2. If the student accepts course Z, they can still be offered course A, and X, or Y in round 2.

Restricted Courses

When checking the details of courses it should be noted that some courses are referred to as *restricted*. This means that to enter these courses the student is required to submit a portfolio and/or sit an aptitude test and/or attend an interview. The C.A.O. handbook indicates clearly beside each course whether or not the course is restricted. These additional requirements also explain why some courses require more than 600 points. For example, Animation in the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design, and Technology requires 699 points. This consists of points from the Leaving Certificate, a portfolio, and possibly an interview. In D.I.T. Architecture requires 590 points; 100 can be obtained from an aptitude test, 100 from an interview and the remainder from the Leaving Certificate. Interviews, portfolio assessment, and aptitude testing are normally carried out during March/April. As a result, restricted courses cannot be added to an application after the 1st February. Even during the change of mind period (1st May to 1st July) it is not possible to add any restricted courses to an application.

Change Of Mind System

From the first week in May to 1st July the C.A.O system opens up to allow changes to the original application free of charge. Please note that during this time,

- (i) A restricted course cannot be added.
- (ii) Other courses can be added.
- (iii) Courses can be deleted.
- (iv) The order of courses can be changed.
- (v) The above applies to the level 8 section and the level 7/6 section independently.
- (vi) Candidates should delete restricted courses if they have not passed or submitted a portfolio, or not passed or attended an interview or aptitude test.
- (vii) Candidates should consult the CAO website for *courses changes*. Since originally filling out an application in February, some courses will have been cancelled, some new courses may have become available, others may have changed their title. These changes can be found on www.cao.ie.
- (viii) When sitting the Leaving Certificate, some candidates may have taken an ordinary level paper instead of the intended higher level. In this case, if a course requires, for example, honours Maths, is on an application, this course should be deleted.
- (ix) Do not leave the level 7/6 list blank. If there are no level 7/6 available in a student's area of interest, a safety net should be built into the level 8 selections.
- (x) Candidates should never change the order of preference based on second-guessing what results they might achieve.

DARE

- The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) is a supplementary admissions scheme for school leavers with disabilities which operates on a reduced points basis. DARE has been established by a number of higher education institutions as clear evidence shows that disability can have a negative impact on educational attainment at school and progression to higher education.
- The C.A.O. application system is open from the first week in November.
- It is recommended that students register on line in early November.
- This will generate a C.A.O. application number.
- When the candidate ticks the disability/learning difficult box a series of application forms must be completed.
- Section A needs to be complete by the student.
- Section B second needs to be complete by the school.
- Section C needs to be complete by a medical professional/educational psychologist.
- Supporting documentation will need to be provided.
- All parts need the C.A.O. number. Therefore it is recommended that this process should be started in early November.
- It is also important to start this process in early November to give time for all documentation to be completed to source the relevant supporting documentation.
- Copies of all forms should be made and kept safely.
- Blank copies of the forms can be obtained on www.cao.ie. Click on “Downloads” and go to the “Supplemental Information Form” section.
- It is possible to start an application and generate an application number without inserting or selecting any courses. These can be selected and inserted later (before 1st February).
- All supporting documentation must be submitted by the 1st April.
- More information can be found on www.accesscollege.ie and check DARE scheme.

HEAR

The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a third level admissions scheme for school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. HEAR has been established by a number of higher education institutions as clear evidence shows that socio-economic disadvantage has a negative impact on educational attainment at school and on progression to higher education. Full details on www.accesscollege.ie

NUI Exemptions

The National University of Ireland is an umbrella organisation for the following third level colleges.

University College, Dublin

University College, Cork

National University of Ireland, Galway

Maynooth University

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

National College of Art & Design

Shannon College of Hotel Management

Milltown Institute, Dublin

Institute of Public Administration

These colleges have some courses that require Irish and a third language as part of their matriculation/minimum requirements. If a student has an exemption from studying Irish at secondary school, an application needs to be sent to the NUI for the exemption to be extended to a candidate who is applying to an NUI college course. Details can be found on www.nui.ie.

Other College Exemptions

If a candidate has an Irish/third language exemption, and is applying for a course or courses in a non-NUI college where Irish/third language is an essential requirement, an application for that exemption needs to be made to each college. Contact each college for their individual application process.

4. Post Leaving Certificate Courses (P.L.C.s)

Colleges of Further Education throughout the country provide post Leaving Certificate courses. These courses prepare candidates for employment and/or entry to Higher Education.

These courses do not operate a points system for admission purposes and most courses require passes in five Leaving Certificate subjects. In addition, an interview may also take place along with a portfolio submission in the case of some Art & Design courses. The official closing date is normally late February or March. There are some very popular courses that fill all their places in February/March.

Students undertake these courses

- (i) For the educational value in themselves,
- (ii) To enhance employment opportunities,
- (iii) Gain entry to their original first choice in college for which they did not obtain the necessary points,
- (iv) To gain entry to colleges in the U.K. which will accept the P.L.C. course in addition to, or instead of, their Leaving Certificate results.

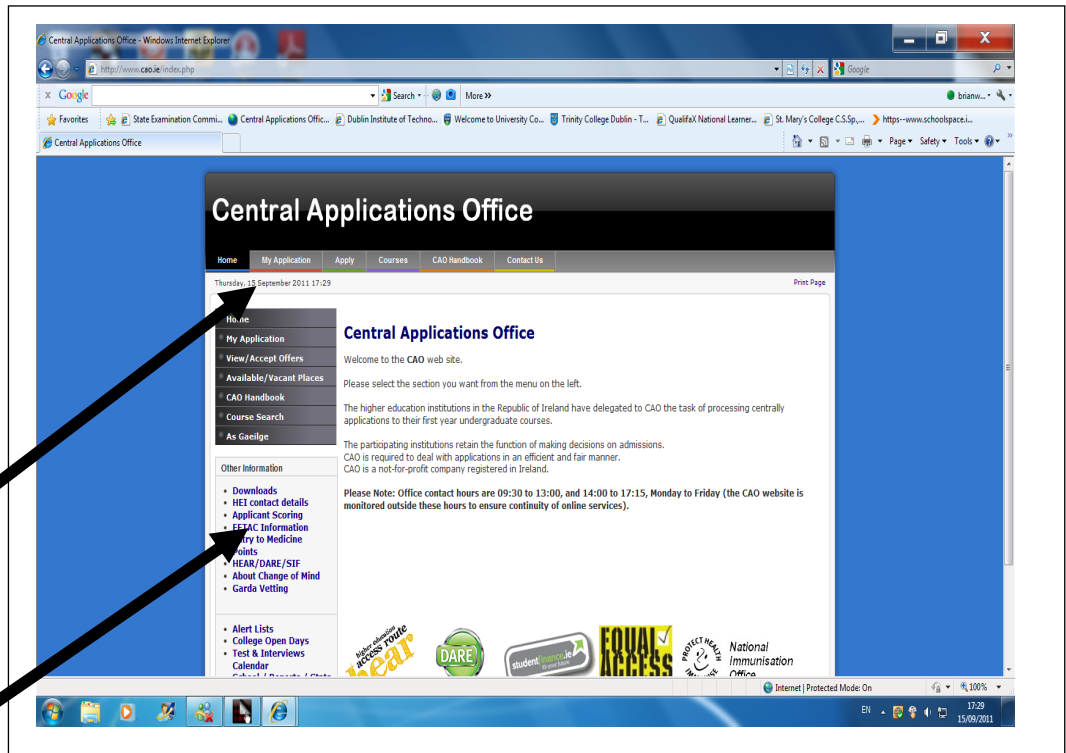
When searching for a suitable course, it might be useful to *work backwards*, i.e. check if the degree/higher certificate course you really want accepts applications from P.L.C. courses. Then check what P.L.C. courses they will accept, and then find where that P.L.C. course is available.

For example, D.I.T. reserves 3 places on their Forensics & Environmental Science course for those who have completed an Applied Science/Lab Technicians P.L.C. course. They also reserve 7 places on their Business & Marketing course for candidates who have completed various types of P.L.C. courses. There are too many examples to list here. U.C.D. reserve 20 places on their General Science degree, 25 on their Arts degree, 7 on their Nursing degrees, and 3 on their Commerce degree for those candidates who have completed and reached a certain standard in certain P.L.C. course. Tallaght I.T. reserve 10% of places on most of their courses for P.L.C. graduates.

Below, is an example of how to search for the correct P.L.C. course.

This example shows how to search for the correct P.L.C. that can gain you entry into Media Studies in N.I.U.M. (MH109).

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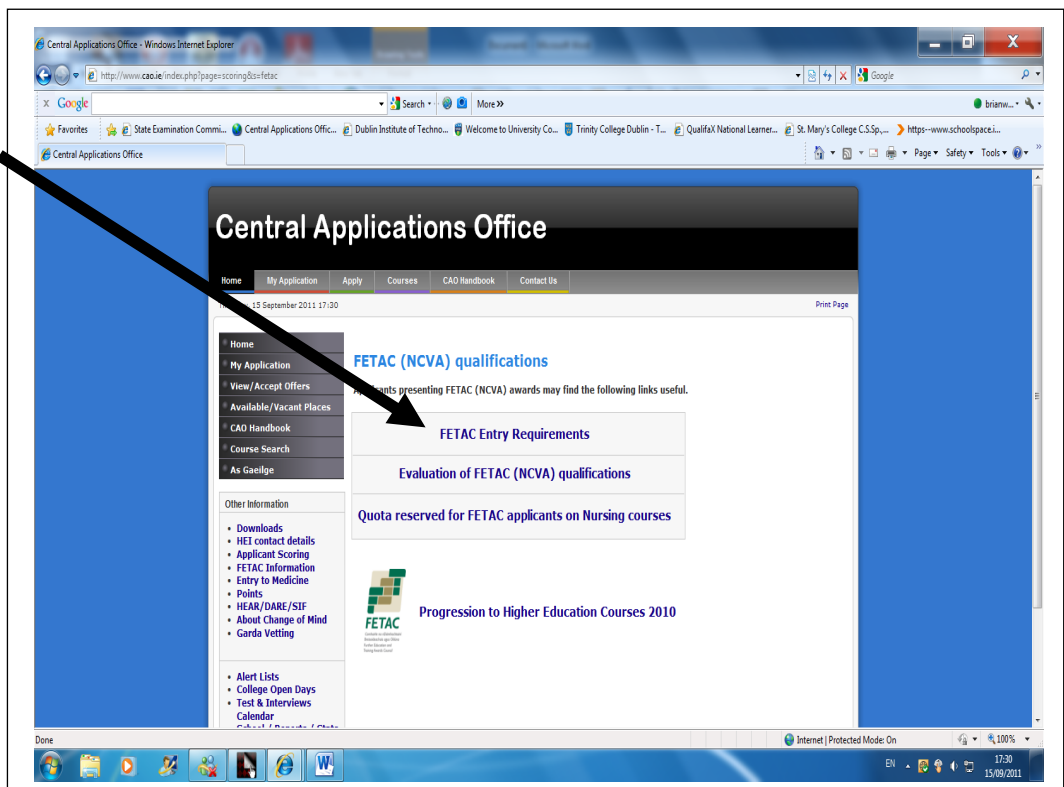


www.cao.ie

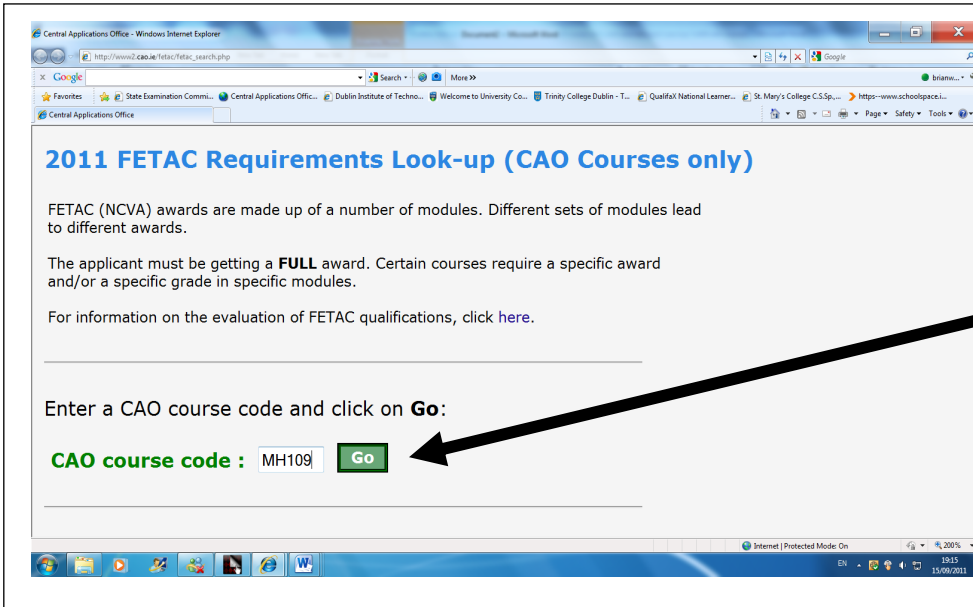
Click on

**FETAC
INFORMATION**

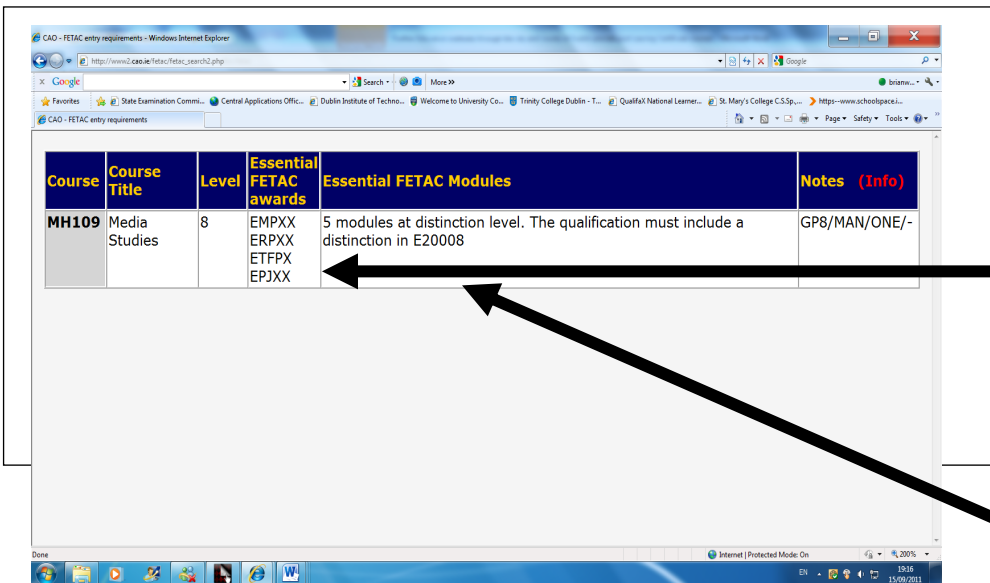
**FETAC ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS**



It is now necessary to find which P.L.C. colleges offer these courses. The example below searches for EMPXX. The same search can be carried out for the other codes/courses.



**Key in
'MH109'**



Each of these codes represents a different P.L.C. course

**EMPXX
ERPXX
ETFPX
EPJXX**

Specific Module Requirement

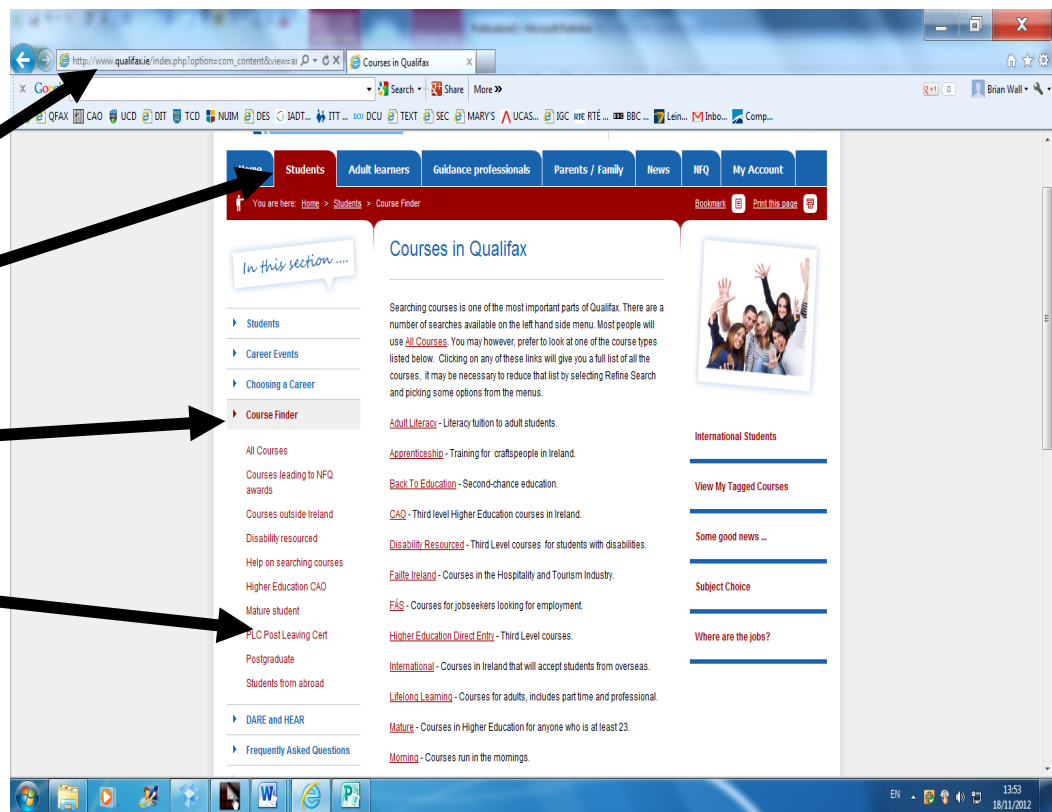
The Institute of Guidance Counsellors

www.qualifax.ie

Student

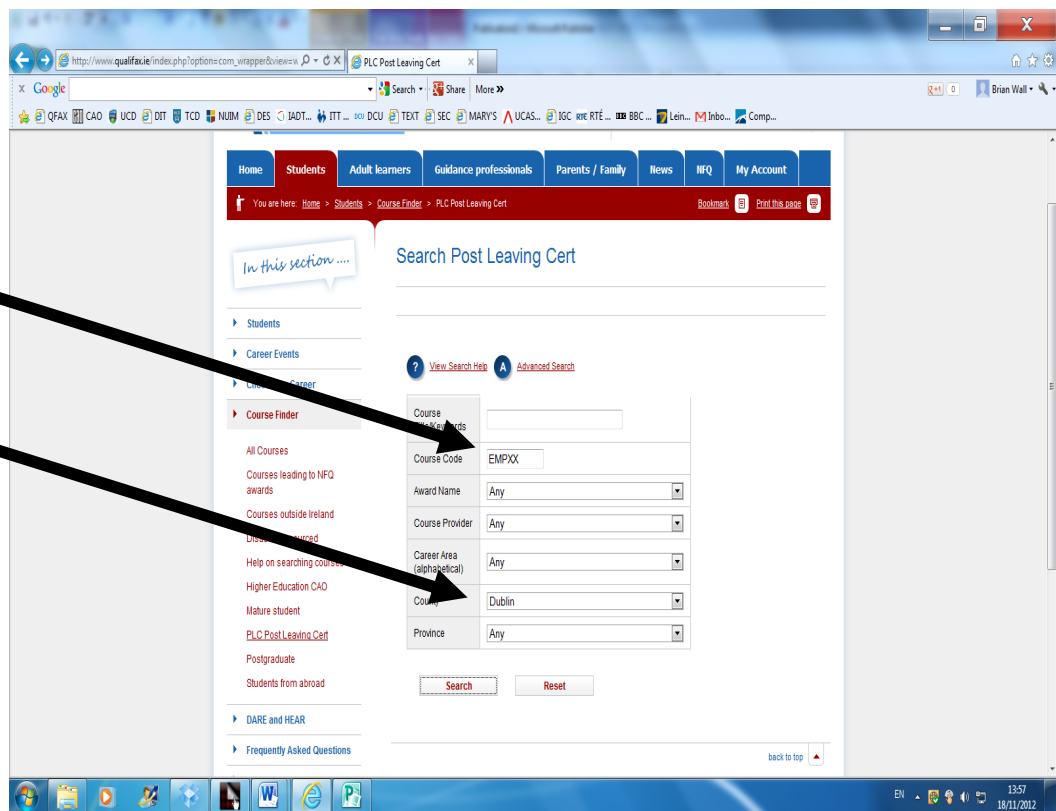
Course Finder

PLCs



**Code
EMPXX**

**Can be narrowed
to county
e.g. Dublin**



The screenshot shows the Qualifax website interface. The search results are for 'Course Code: EMPXX, County: Dublin, Course Type: PLC Post Leaving Cert'. The table below lists the results:

Course	Tag	Code	Course	Course Provider	NFQ Level	NFQ Classification
<input type="checkbox"/>	★ Tag	EMPXX AVS	Audio Visual Media Production	Dun Laoghaire College of Further Education	Level 5 NQF	Major
<input type="checkbox"/>	★ Tag	EMPXX IFC	Cinematography	Balfe Institute of Further Education	Level 5 NQF	Major
<input type="checkbox"/>	★ Tag	EMPXX	Communication - Media Production	Coláiste Dhuladhúil College of Further Education	Level 5 NQF	Major
<input type="checkbox"/>	★ Tag	EMPXX	Creative Writing & Cultural Studies	Inchicore CEF	Level 5 NQF	Major
<input type="checkbox"/>	★ Tag	EMPXX	English EFL & Media Studies	Ballsbridge College of Further Education	Level 5 NQF	Major
<input type="checkbox"/>	★ Tag	EMPXX EMPRO	Film & Documentary Production	St Kevin's College Cummin	Level 5 NQF, Level 6 NQF	Major/Aligned

List of all the EMPXX courses and the college offering these

Caution

The type of courses that have the EMPXX code can vary in what subject material they cover. For example, EMPXX can range from 'Photography' to 'Print Journalism & Radio'. Be sure to pick the subject material you find the most interesting. Also, there may be other interesting courses found in the other codes, ERPXX, ETFPX, or EPJXX. Check that the P.L.C. course has the necessary module/s using the web site of the particular P.L.C. college.

Check List

- ✓ Find the C.A.O. code for the 3rd level college course you wish to enter.
- ✓ Search cao.ie to find the necessary P.L.C. code/s and any necessary modules.
- ✓ Search qualifax.ie using the P.L.C. code/s.
- ✓ Find what P.L.C. colleges offer the necessary P.L.C. course/code.
- ✓ Don't just pick a P.L.C. course because it has the correct code, select a course with the correct code that also covers the subject material you find most interesting. Note also, some P.L.C. colleges offer course that allow entry into 2nd year of a third level degree course.
- ✓ Check the web site of the particular P.L.C. college to ensure the course also has the necessary module/s.
- ✓ Apply in February using the P.L.C. college web site.
- ✓ Check the P.L.C. college web site for any additional entry requirements, e.g. portfolio.
- ✓ It might be necessary to apply for more than one P.L.C. course.
- ✓ Note: Completing a P.L.C. course does not guarantee entry into your desired 3rd level college course. You will need to obtain a certain standard in your assessments and exams and compete for places with others who have similar grades.

More details can be found on www.etbie

5. Private Colleges

Some private colleges offer courses within the C.A.O. system. In addition, they also accept direct applications even if a candidate did not include their college/course on the original C.A.O application. Also, there are many other private colleges that operate outside the C.A.O. system.

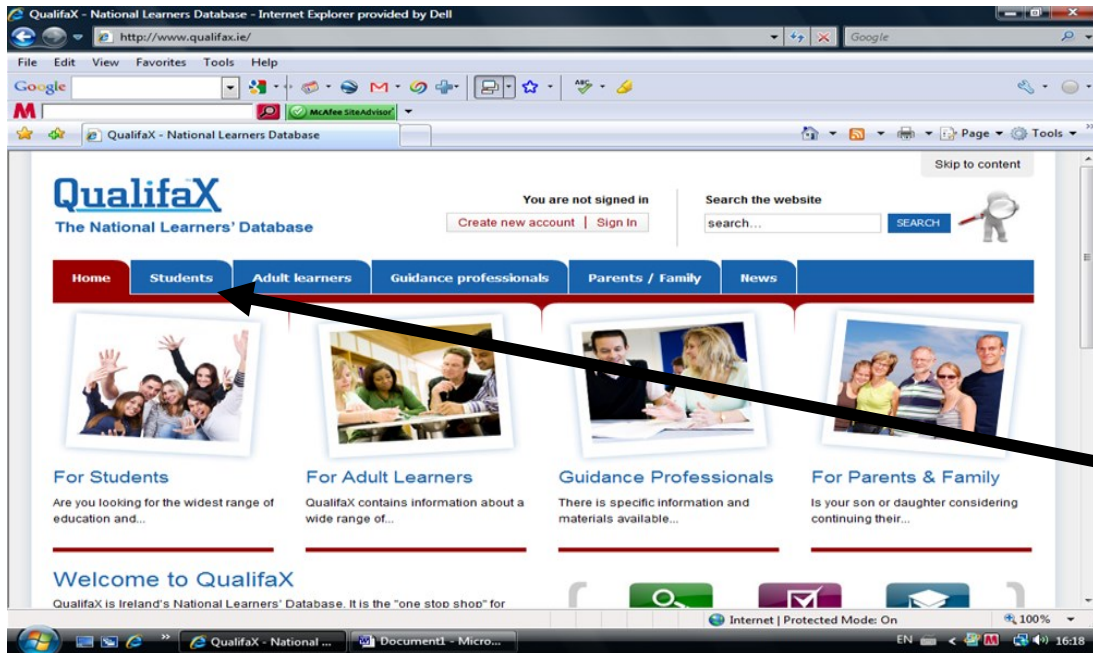
Here is a list of some of the private colleges listed in the CAO handbook.

- Griffith College, Cork www.gcc.ie
- American College, Dublin www.amcd.ie
- College of Computer Training, Dublin www.cct.ie
- Dublin Business School www.dbs.ie
- Dorset College, Dublin www.dorset-college.ie
- Grafton College, Dublin www.graftoncollege.ie
- Griffith College, Dublin www.gcd.ie
- IBAT College, Dublin www.ibat.ie
- ICD Business College, Dublin www.icd.ie
- Portobello Institute, Dublin www.portobelloinstitute.ie
- Respond College, Dublin www.respnd.ie
- Irish College of Humanities & Applied Sciences, Limerick www.ichas.ie
- Griffith College, Limerick www.gcl.ie

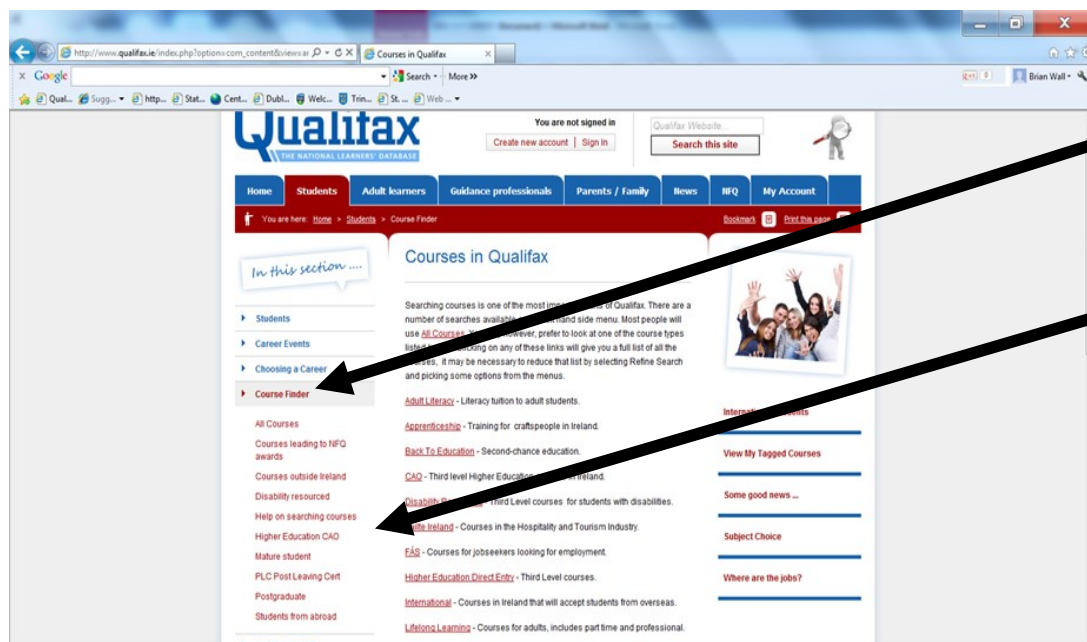
All these colleges charge fees and are not subsidised by the state. Tax relief and maintenance grants may also be available. Please check their website for further details.

6. Doing Research

Before putting any course on a C.A.O. application, its contents should be fully researched. There are several ways to carry out research. To find out which colleges offer a particular course www.qualifax.ie is a very useful web site. This is the national database for all courses in the county. Here are some examples of how this website works.



Student Section



Course Finder

C.A.O.

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Higher Education CAO - Internet Explorer provided by Dell
http://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=16

recognised undergraduate higher education courses in the Republic of Ireland.

Application may be made on-line at www.cao.ie. Alternatively, application packs may be obtained at second-level schools in the Republic of Ireland or by contacting CAO at: Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway, Ireland.

View Search Help Advanced Search

Keywords/Course Title: Architecture

Course Category: Any

Qualification Type: Any

Course Provider: Any

Course Code:

Province: Leinster

County: Any

Restricted Entry: Any

Search Reset

Architecture

Leinster

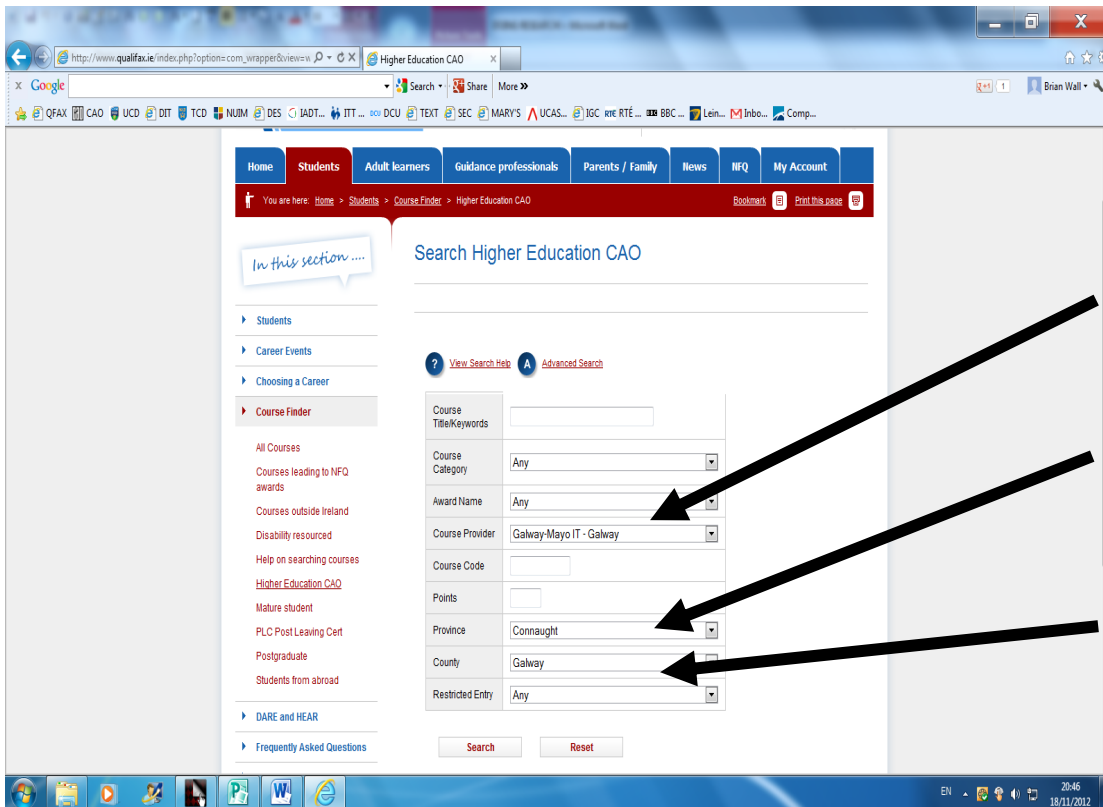
Higher Education CAO - Internet Explorer provided by Dell
http://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=16

Showing 1 to 21 of 21 results

New Search Refine Search

Compare	Tag All	Code	Course	Course Provider	NFQ Level	Points
<input type="checkbox"/>	★ Tag	CW026	Architectural Graphics - Wexford Campus	Institute of Technology Carlow and Institute of Technology Carlow - Wexford Campus	Level 6 NFQ	210
<input type="checkbox"/>	★ Tag	DT105	Architectural Technology	Dublin Institute of Technology	Level 7 NFQ	380
<input type="checkbox"/>	★ Tag	CW407	Architectural Technology	Institute of Technology Carlow	Level 7 NFQ	295
<input type="checkbox"/>	★ Tag	CW007	Architectural Technology - Wexford Campus	Institute of Technology Carlow and Institute of Technology Carlow - Wexford Campus	Level 7 NFQ	245
<input type="checkbox"/>	★ Tag	DT101	Architecture	Dublin Institute of Technology	Level 8 NFQ	532
<input type="checkbox"/>	★ Tag	DN001	Architecture	University College Dublin	Level 8 NFQ	525
<input type="checkbox"/>	★ Tag	GC489	Architecture - Interior	Griffith College	Level 8	240

Click on each for more



Search By
Institute

Or by
Province

Or by
County

Another useful website is www.careersportal.ie



Other Websites

Other than the specific college websites mentioned above, there are other useful sites that can be sourced. For example, www.gradireland.ie can be used to research what graduates are doing having finish their degree. Another site that is useful is www.careersportal.ie which has a useful section about “a day in the life of...a physicist.” In addition, professional bodies have useful website that can give a lot of information about careers in their area. e.g. www.failteireland.ie, www.garda.ie, www.military.ie, www.steps.ie (for engineering), www.nire.ie (the nursing professional body), www.nswqb.ie, (the social workers professional body), www.teagasc.ie (careers in horticulture and agriculture), and www.lawsociety.ie, www.kingsinn.ie, and www.barcouncil.ie. Details on careers in medicine can be found on www.medicalcouncil.ie. In addition www.careerdirections.ie and www.online.onetcenter.org, can be used to find out what each occupation entails in terms of tasks and duties.

Open Days/Evenings.

Throughout the year colleges hold Open Days/Evenings at various time. A list of dates is available on www.qualifax.ie. To optimise the open day visits students should prepare their questions beforehand. If students go without pre-prepared questions they will come home without answers. It is pointless to ask questions, the answers to which are available on websites, e.g. “How many students do you take in?” or “What points are needed for the course?”. Asking questions such as these is a wasted opportunity. Here are some useful questions that could be asked at both Open Days and the Higher Options.

When students are researching courses they often ask vague questions about the courses they might be interested in. If you don't get the answers you want, it may be that the right questions were not asked. Here are some relevant questions that you might use when researching courses.

1. *If it is a technical based course, how much Maths is there? Is the Maths difficult?*
2. *If it is a text based course, how many books do I have to read per week/month?*
3. *How many hours of lectures/tutorials/practicals are there each week?*
4. *Is there continuous assessment?*
5. *How many assignments are there?*
6. *Is there project work?*
7. *How much does the end of year exam count in the overall assessment?*
8. *Is there an opportunity to study abroad?*
9. *Is there a work experience component to the course?*
10. *What are the opportunities available when you graduate?*
11. *How does this course differ from the equivalent one in college Y?*
12. *Has the course had a portfolio/aptitude test/ interview as part of the entry procedure?*
13. *What professional organisations recognise the degree?*
14. *Does the degree obtain exemptions for certain professions e.g. accounting. Law?*
15. *How many extra courses/exams will I have to do to become qualified as, e.g. a solicitor, an accountant, and engineer?*
17. *If I don't get the points, are there alternative entry routes?*
18. *If there a level 6/7 equivalent for this course? Can you progress to the level 8 equivalent?*
19. *What scholarships are available?*
20. *If talking to a student who is doing/has done the course, what topics did they enjoy?*
21. *If talking to a student who is doing/has done the course, what topics did they find difficult?*

22. If talking to a student who is doing/has done the course, were there any topics that you did not realise would be involved in the course?

23. If talking to a student who is doing/has done the course, what are the lectures like?

24. If talking to a student who is doing/has done the course, what are the best and worst aspects of the course?

Are there more questions you could ask...

25.

26.

The list of questions to ask regarding any course could be endless.

However, experience show, year in year out, that the main determining factor in a student engaging with and enjoying their degree is that they are stimulated by, and interested in, the material they are studying, and that they are comfortable with the skills used to study the content. This is back up by a lot of research.

- *'The most frequent reason third-level students give for leaving a course is that they either did not know enough about the course or had a poor understanding of what was involved in the course.'*

Aiming Higher – A Guide for Parents by Higher Education Authority & University of Limerick

- *'The most frequent reason stated by students for leaving a course was a mismatch between themselves and their course'*

An Inquiry into Withdrawal from College -A Study Conducted by T.C.D.

- *'Poor choice of a course is a major reason for withdrawal' and 'students often fail to understand the content, scope or depth of the course selected' and 'relying on friends' opinion rather than information available directly from university sources'*

A quantitative investigation into the reasons why students exit from first year of their programme – A Study Conducted by U.C.D.

Therefore, the most productive research can be to determine the answer to the following three questions.

What will I study and what skills will I have to use in 1st year?

What will I study and what skills will I have to use in 2nd year?

What will I study and what skills will I have to use in 3rd year?

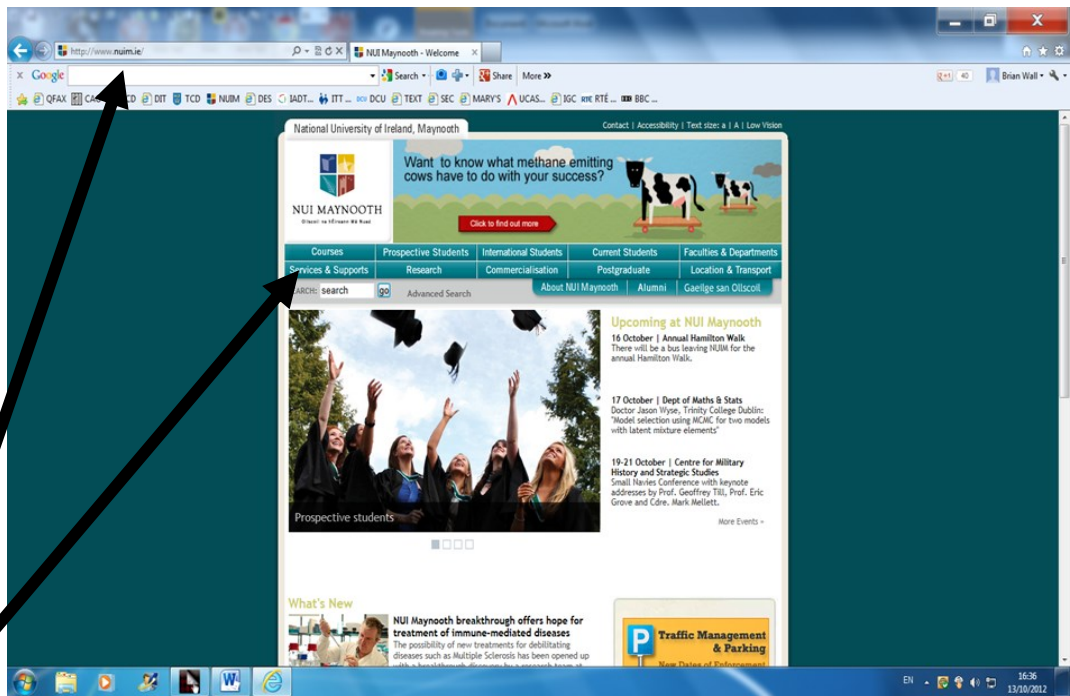
Therefore, the best method to find the answers to this question is to use the college websites and search the modules of learning that are taught. To finish any year of any degree in any college a student has to clock up 60 credits of learning. This total of 60 is usually composed of individual units of 5 or 10 credits of material. This research is vitally important for all courses but is also essential when students are choosing new subjects that they may not have studied in school, e.g. Sociology, Law, Philosophy, Linguistics, Politics etc. See example on the next page.

***Be motivated by the content of the course
and
the skills used to study that content***

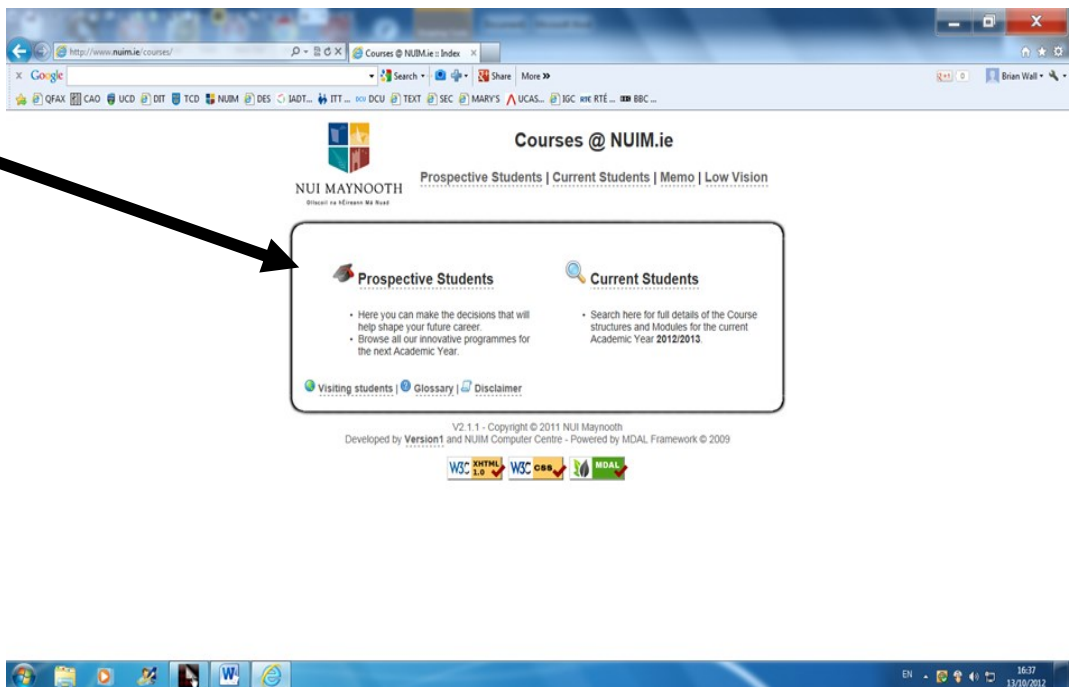
Searching for 60 credits of learning

www.nuim.ie

Courses



Prospective Students



Courses @ NUIM.ie
Prospective Students | Current Students | Memo | Low Vision

Undergraduate - HONOURS DEGREES (CAO)

ARTS

- MH101 - BA ARTS JOINT HONOURS
- MH102 - BA MUSIC TECHNOLOGY
- MH103 - BA MUSIC
- MH104 - BA MATHEMATICS
- MH106 - BA PSYCHOLOGY
- MH107 - BSOSC SOCIAL SCIENCES
- MH108 - BA EUROPEAN STUDIES
- MH109 - BA MEDIA STUDIES
- MH110 - BA DIGITAL MEDIA
- MH111 - BA ANTHROPOLOGY
- MH112 - BA POLITICS
- MH113 - BA HISTORY
- MH114 - BA ENGLISH

Example Psychology

Courses @ NUIM.ie
Prospective Students | Current Students | Memo | Low Vision

Course: BA PSYCHOLOGY

Qualification: BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE
Award Type and NFQ Level: UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE (8)
Course code: PSY
CAO/PAC code: MH106
Points: 520
FETAC: X

Details

Psychology is the science of human behaviour and experience. Psychologists attempt to explain emotions, thoughts and behaviour. Some derive theories to practical issues, such as: How should parents deal with their child's temper tantrums? Why do some students do better in exams than others? How can you help someone to overcome a fear of public speaking? Other psychologists focus on more theoretical concerns, such as: Can you learn to use human language? Are there limits to the brain? Does an experience affect the brain? As a student, you will benefit from a degree course such as this, because it will give you an exposure with the rigour of academic learning. One of the main aims of the undergraduate programme is to encourage the curiosity and dedication needed to study psychology as a science. You will learn to use research methods including observation, questionnaire, hypothesis testing, experimental design and logical deduction. You will also learn to use statistical analysis and develop writing and communication skills.

Applicants are required to have a minimum of six O'Level passes including Leaving Certificate with two Higher Level papers at C3 and four Ordinary or Higher Level papers at C3 and four Ordinary or Higher Level papers at C3.

Entry requirements

Course structure

As a Single Honours B.A. degree, Psychology is taken with two other subjects in First Year. Students take Psychology only in Second and Third Year. At the end of First Year, students who do not wish to proceed with the specialised degree in Psychology have the option to continue with two other Arts subjects to degree level. They also offer Bachelor of Arts Psychology degree (BSOC) and a Bachelor of Science Psychology degree (BSCPSY).

Click here for further details

Course Structure

Courses @ NUIM.ie
Prospective Students | Current Students | Memo | Low Vision

Course structure

BA PSYCHOLOGY

Award Type and NFQ Level: UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE (8)
Course code: PSY
CAO/PAC code: MH106

Notes

Required module
A required module is a compulsory module which must be passed without compensation

International module
An international module is a module available to international students.

Year 1

Select 3 Subjects

PSYCHOLOGY - PSS100 Credits: 20 Compulsory ✓

All first year modules must be passed without compensation in order to proceed to second year Psychology.

Module	Code	Credits	Semester	Compulsory
BIOLOGICAL & DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY	PS101	5	1	✓
RESEARCH DESIGN & STATISTICS	PS104	5	1	✓
COGNITIVE & SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	PS102	5	2	✓
HISTORY & METHODOLOGY OF PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH	PS105	5	2	✓

ACCOUNTING - AC100A Credits: 20 Not compulsory ✗

Modules

7. Studying Abroad

Information regarding studying in other countries can be found on www.qualifax.ie and through the relevant embassies.

The image shows a screenshot of the Qualifax website. The browser address bar displays http://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_content&view=article. The website header includes the Qualifax logo and navigation tabs: Home, Students, Adult learners, Guidance professionals, Parents / Family, News, IFQ, and My Account. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a sidebar with a 'In this section...' menu containing links to Students, Career Events, Choosing a Career, Course Finder, DARE and HEAR, Frequently Asked Questions, How to use Qualifax, Support and Advice, and Useful Tools. The main content area has a heading 'Are you looking for the widest range of education and training programmes?' and a list of links including Accommodation, Careers, Career Events, Courses in Ireland, Courses outside Ireland, Coming to Ireland to Work or Study, Disability, FAS, FETAC (QQI), Glossary of Terms, Grants, HELS (Higher Education Links Scheme), How to Use Qualifax, HPAT, Interest Assessment, Leaving Cert Applied LCA, and LCVP. A right-hand sidebar contains sections for International Students, View My Tagged Courses, Some good news..., Subject Choice, and Where are the jobs? Two black arrows point from the left side of the image to the 'Students' tab and the 'Courses outside Ireland' link in the sidebar.

The United Kingdom operates a similar system to the C.A.O. system. This is referred to as U.C.A.S. The following points are worth noting:

- The system allows for a maximum of five courses in any order on an application.
 - A candidate can only apply for Oxford or Cambridge but not both.
 - Oxford and Cambridge operate an interview process and an assessment test procedure.
 - Other colleges also operate an interview process for their more popular courses such as Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry.
 - No more than four choices allow in (i) Medicine, (ii) Dentistry, (iii) Veterinary.
 - Closing date for Oxford and Cambridge is mid-October.
 - Closing date for Medicine, Density, and Veterinary is mid-October.
 - Closing date for most other courses is mid-January.
 - Closing date for Art & Design courses is mid-March.
 - The courses you apply for are described as being “invisible”. There is because each college is not aware of the other colleges/courses you have applied for.
 - Once the application is sent it cannot be returned or amended if errors are found later.
- The website for applications is www.ucas.com.

A personal statement (4000 character essay, about 1¼ A4 pages) is required when

With over 38,000 courses in 300 plus institutions, the UK offers the widest possible choice to prospective students. However, applications that are received after 30 June will go directly into Clearing. Clearing is a service available between July and September and is similar to the Vacant Places facility in the CAO system. Universities in the UK typically make offers based on the number of UCAS Tariff points students have gained or in many cases a combination of the tariff points and the achievement of certain grades in subjects in the Leaving Certificate.

What Support is Available?

Irish students get the same treatment as UK students regarding fees. For a typical undergraduate degree, institutions in England can charge up to £9,000 per year in fees. Irish students do not have to pay fees in Scotland. While tuition fees are lower than the rest of the UK, it is important to remember that courses in Scotland typically run for an extra year, meaning additional living costs. Fees in Northern Ireland and Wales for Irish students are in the region of £4,500 due to various grants and assistance available to them. However students can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan to cover their fees. Interest on this loan is linked to the rate of inflation and students do not start repayments until they earn more than £21,000 per year. Students applying through UCAS will automatically receive an application form when they are offered a place. Irish students studying in the UK can apply for the same support from the Irish Government as if they were remaining in Ireland to study and bring it with them to the UK. Finally, most UK universities offer some scholarships and bursaries. More information is available at www.ucas.com/students/studentfinance/

How to Apply?

All applications to universities in the UK should be completed and submitted through UCAS using 'Apply' at www.ucas.com. CUKAS is the online admissions service for music programmes at UK conservatoires but auditions take place in the individual colleges.

EUNiCAS is the European Universities Central Application Support Service. It enables Irish students to apply to up to eight degree programmes, in universities across Europe. At undergraduate level, there are now close to 1000 programmes taught exclusively through English including, Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Medicine, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Psychology, Law, Fine Art, Game Design, Business, International Relations, Engineering, and a wide range of Natural Science programmes. These qualifications are recognised by our own professional bodies, and those in the UK. Invariably, entry requirements are much lower than equivalent programmes here. However, Irish students are reporting that, though the programmes might be easy to get into, you have to work really hard when you get there.

What Support is Available?

There are no tuition fees in the Scandinavian countries, or Germany. In the Netherlands, fees are €1900 but all EU students can avail of a Tuition Fee Loan repayable over 35 years. In Italy, annual fees for the programmes in medicine are between €650 and €3800, fixed with reference to parental income. If students are entitled to a SUSI Maintenance Grant, they can usually take it with them. In some countries there are loans or grants towards living expenses, though these usually depend on students getting part-time jobs.

How to Apply?

Information on new programmes and developments, assistance in organising university visits and alerts on extended deadlines and late vacancies are available on www.eunicas.ie

8. Non-CAO Options

www.teagasc.ie for course in Agriculture & Food Development that do not require points.

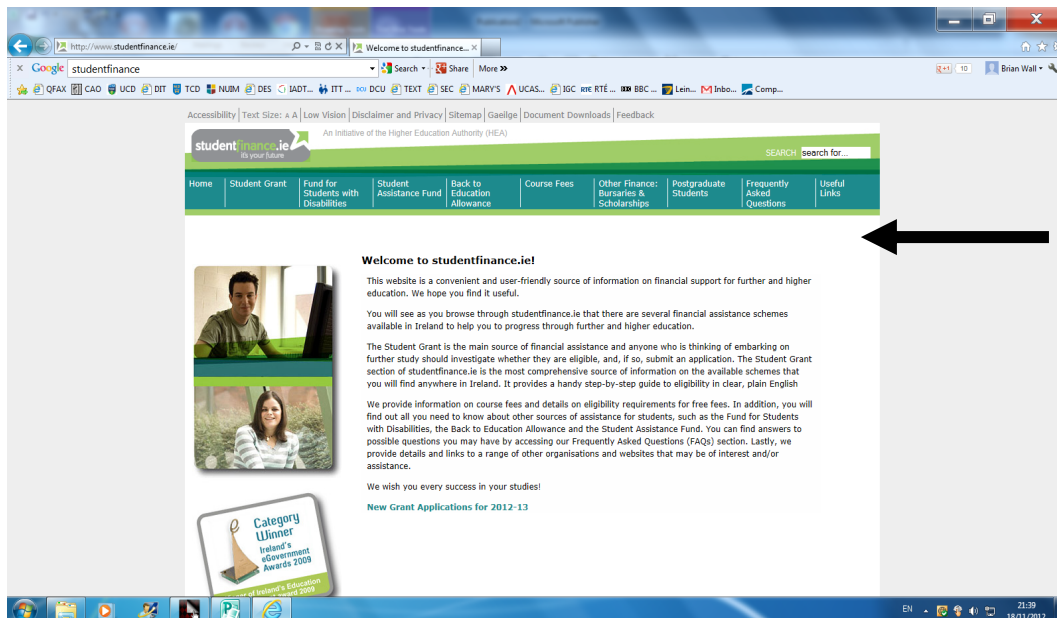
www.bim.ie for courses in fisheries and sea food industries that do not require points.

www.defenceforces.ie for the Army, Navy and Air Corp careers.

www.garda.ie for careers in An Garda Síochána.

www.solas.ie for trades and other training.

9. Grants & Scholarships



**Grants
&
Scholarships

&

Other
Funding**

10. Useful Websites

Leinster	www.maynoothuniversity	(Maynooth University)
	www.maynoothcollege.ie	(Pontifical University, Maynooth)
	www.ucd.ie	(University College, Dublin)
	www.dit.ie	(Dublin Institute of Technology)
	www.tcd.ie	(Trinity College, Dublin)
	www.rcsi.ie	(Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland)
	www.it-tallaght.ie	(Institute of Technology, Tallaght)
	www.iadt.ie	(Inst. of Art Design & Technology, Dun Laoghaire)
	www.ncad.ie	(National College of Art and Design)
	www.dcu.ie	(Dublin City University)
	www.itb.ie	(Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown)
	www.ncirl.ie	(National College of Ireland)
	www.allhallows.ie	(All Hallows College, Drumcondra)
	www.mie.ie	(Marion Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue)
	www.materdei.ie	(Mater Dei Institute of Education, Dublin)
	www.cice.ie	(Church of Ireland Coll. of Education, Rathmines)
	www.itcarlow.ie	(Institute of Technology, Carlow)
	www.dkit.ie	(Dundalk Institute of Technology)
	www.ait.ie	(Athlone Institute of Technology)
Connaught	www.nuigalway.ie	(National University of Ireland, Galway)
	www.gmit.ie	(Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology)
	www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie	(St. Angela's College Sligo)
	www.itsligo.ie	(Institute of Technology, Sligo)
Munster	www.lyit.ie	(Letterkenny Institute of Technology)
	www.ucc.ie	(University College, Cork)
	www.ul.ie	(University of Limerick)
	www.micul.ie	(Mary Immaculate College, Limerick)
	www.lit.ie	(Limerick Institute of Technology)
	www.shannoncollege.com	(Shannon College of Hotel Management)
	www.stpats.ie	(St. Patrick's College, Tipperary)
	www.lit.ie	(Limerick Institute of Technology, Limerick)
	www.ittralee.ie	(Institute of Technology, Tralee)
	www.wit.ie	(Waterford Institute of Technology)
Ulster	www.lyit.ie	(Letterkenny Institute of Technology)
Others	www.qualifax.ie	(Course search site)
	www.careersportal.ie	(Careers site)
	www.careersnews.ie	(Careers news site)
	www.cao.ie	(Central applications office)
	www.education.ie	(Department of Education)
	www.examinations.ie	(State Exams Commission)
	www.accesscollege.ie	(The HEAR & DARE scheme)
	www.studentfinance.ie	(Grants and Scholarships)
	www.solas.ie	(Apprenticeships)
	www.vec.ie	(P.L.C. courses)
	www.gradireland.ie	(Explains job opportunities from various degrees)
	www.garda.ie	(Careers in An Garda Síochána)
	www.military.ie	(Careers in the Army, Navy, Air Corp)
	www.ucas.co.uk	(Third Level Education in the United Kingdom)
	www.studentfinanceni.co.uk	(Third Level Finance in Northern Ireland)
	www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance	(Third Level Finance in the England)
	www.saas.gov.uk	(Third Level Finance in Scotland)
	www.studentfinancewales.co.uk	(Third Level Finance in Wales)
	www.fulbright.ie	(Studying in the United States)

Important Dates August/September 2018

These dates are estimated dates based on last years days and dates. Dates will be confirmed

August 2018		
Wed. 15th	Results Published	Available in your school and on line at www.examinations.ie using P.I.N. number
Thurs. 16th		
Fri. 17th		
Mon. 20th	1st round C.A.O. offers published	Offers published on-line from 6.00 a.m. at www.cao.ie (C.A.O. number required). Also due by post that morning.
Tue 21st	Script review deadline	Return 'card' received with results to the school by this date
Wed. 22nd		
Thurs. 23rd		
Fri. 24th		
Mon. 27th	Final acceptance of 1st round offers	Deadline 5.15 p.m.
Tue. 28th		
Wed. 29th		
Thurs. 30th	2nd round C.A.O. offers published	Offers published on-line from 6.00 a.m. at www.cao.ie (C.A.O. number required). Also due by post that morning.
Fri. 31st	Review scripts	Session 1 - 6.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. Your school will allocate you one of these sessions.
Sat. 1st	Review scripts	Session 2 - 9.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. & Session 3 - 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Sept. 2018		
Mon. 3rd		
Tue 4th	Recheck deadline	The Sate Exams Commission (Athlone) must receive recheck applications THROUGH YOUR SCHOOL.
Wed. 5th	Final acceptance for 2nd round offers	After the 2nd round offers have been processed there will be a small number of offers by post/phone until mid-Oct.
Thurs. 6th		
Fri. 7th		
Mon. 10th	College registration	Registration may start for some colleges this week.
Mon 17th	College registration	Registration may start for some colleges this week.
Oct. 2018		If a student missed registration they may not be able to select subject/modules they want..
Mid-Oct.	Recheck results published	Sent to the school and C.A.O. The C.A.O. office will contact students if there is any change in offers.
	C.A.O. number: → Produced when making a C.A.O. application	
	Examination Number: → From the State Examinations Commission - given to students through the school	
	P.I.N. Number: → From the State Examinations Commission - given to students through the school	



The Institute of Guidance Counsellors is the professional body for Guidance Counsellors in Ireland. Its members work in the Second, Further, Adult and Higher Education sectors. The main object of the Institute is to discuss, promote and research matters relating to guidance counselling services. The Institute also seeks to promote best practice and the professional development of its members in order to serve and protect the interest of those whom they serve and to maintain, develop, and advance the personal, social, educational and career development of individuals and groups through supporting guidance counselling practice.

This publication is part of the following series of booklets published by the
Institute of Guidance Counsellors

Academic

Study - Learning To Learn
Separate Parents' Guide for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 5th Years,
& Planning The Year Ahead for 6th Years
Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

Career Guidance

Optimising Choices
Clues To A Future Career Direction
Taking The Next Step
A Parents & 6th Year Students Guide To Further & Higher Education
The Results Are Out – What Now
A Guide For Parents & 6th Year Students

Health & Wellbeing

The Transition To Secondary School
Sharing Ideas & Experiences Of Those Who Have Gone Before You
Sharing Experiences & Suggestions Around Alcohol & Substance Abuse
A Collaborative Guide For Parents
Allowing Young People Grieve
When Your Child Loses A Friend - A Guide For A Parents
Allowing Yourself To Grieve
When You Lose A Friend - A Guide For Young People