## Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

## St. Ciaran's Community School

February 2024


## Useful Websites

## guidanceoffice.info

 curriculumonline in qualifax.ie carcersportal.ie cao.ie

## Guidance Office



## Senior Cycle Subject Choice:

Teaching Council Requirements (for those who wish to register as a Secondary School Teacher after 2017 Version) Teaching Council Requirements (for those who wish to register as a Secondary School Teacherafter 2023 Version)

LCVP Powerpoint Presentation here.

For a copy of the 2024 Presentation on Subject Choice for Senior Cycle click here. Video of 2024 Subject Choice Presentation here.

For the official outline of the Leaving Certificate Subjects available please click here.
For a brief overview of Leaving Certificate Subjects please click here.


Click Нere For information on Project Maths click here.
N.U.I. Matriculation requirements here.

Senior Cycle Subject Choice Cheat Sheet here.

Narrow your choices worksheets here.

Points System 2024 here.

Leaving Certificate Applied:

For a brief description click here.
SLSS Brochure page one here. SLSS Brochure page two here.
Overview of Leaving Certificate Applied for parents here.

## Further Study Options

Traditional
Leaving


Leaving Certificate Vocational Program

Leaving
Certificate
Applied

FETAC Level 5 (QQI)

HIGHER
LEVEL

ORDINARY
LEVEL
罒
Points

Bonus Points for H1-H6 Maths

## LCVP Recognition

## INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY / TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITIES / UNIVERSITIES

Distinction (80-100\%) 66 points
Merit (65-79\%) 46 points
Pass (50-64\%) 28 points

## Foundation Level Maths Recognition

12

90-100\%
$80-89 \%$

Ensure it is recognised by the HEI you are applying to.

## Sample Calculation

| Subject | Level | Grade | Score |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Irish | Honours | H1 | 100 |
| English | Ordinary | O1 | 56 |
| Maths | Honours | H3 |  |
| Physics | Honours | H2 | $77+25=102$ |
| Biology | Honours | H5 | 88 |
| D.C.G. | Ordinary | O2 | 56 |
| German | Honours | H5 |  |

## UCAS Points for Irish Leaving Certificate

Official title: Leaving Certificate - Higher Level (Ireland - first award 2017)

| Grade | Tariff points |
| :--- | :--- |
| H1 | 36 |
| H2 | 30 |
| H3 | 24 |
| H4 | 18 |
| H5 | 12 |
| H6 | 9 |

Official title: Leaving Certificate - Ordinary Level (Ireland - first award 2017)

| Grade | Tariff points |
| :--- | :--- |
| O1 | 12 |
| O2 | 10 |
| O3 | 8 |
| O4 | 6 |

## Accompanying Conditions:

- The six best results in one Leaving Certificate Examination will be counted for points computation.
- One sitting only of the Leaving Certificate Examination will be counted for points purposes.
- In the case of Foundation Level Mathematics, or Foundation Level Irish, some HEls may not award the points shown. If in any doubt, check with the Admissions Office of the appropriate HEls.
- Matriculation for Medicine must be completed in the year of application.


## Getting into college - 3 Doors

General
Requirements


Specific Course Requirements

Points



ARTS - Maynooth University

## Researching Subject Choice with Qualifax

## OUALFANE

## you discover your pathway.

Our comprehensive database of up to 15,000 courses is here to help students, jobseekers, parents, guidance professionals and graduates explore their education and training options. So whether you're a student looking for a CAO course or an employee interested in microcredentials for that next promotion, we have you covered.


## Useful Tools

CAO subject requirementsCAO Points Calculator

## Subject Requirements Tool

Planning to make application to the CAO? This tool will help you choose the right subjects and levels at Leaving Cert.


Click Here

Please select a subject from the subject dropdown on the left.

All courses referred to in this section are Third Level CAO entry. The Course Data in this section is for the CAO entry in 2024
"A Science Subject" includes the following subjects: Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics and Chemistry.
"A Second Language" includes the following subjects: Ancient Greek, Arabic, French, German, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Lithuanian, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish.
"A Third Language" includes the following subjects: Ancient Greek, Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Lithuanian, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish.

## Subject Requirements <br> Tool

Planning to make application to the CAO? This tool will help you choose the right subjects and levels at Leaving Cert.

## Subject

A Third Language

161 courses definitely require $A$
Third Language

12 courses may require $A$ Third Language

1390 courses do not require $A$ Third Language

Total: 1563

Advanced filters

Please select one of the $\mathbf{3}$ categories on the left.

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## Subject Requirements Tool

Planning to make application to the CAO? This tool will help you choose the right subjects and levels at Leaving Cert.

You are

Subject

## A Third Language

O 161 courses definitely require A Third Language12 courses may require A Third Language1390 courses do not require A Third Language

Total: 1563

7 Advanced filters

Courses that definitely require $\mathbf{A}$ Third Language


Advanced Therapeutic Technologies
8 Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
() St Stephens Green
©. CAO Points: 487
now
presented with a list of courses that require a Third Language

You can pick one of these courses if you would like to explore the subject requiremen ts further.

## Specific Subjects or course requirements

Now you have the specific
Leaving Certificate entry requirements: requirements

At Least six subjects must be presented. Minimum grade H 5 in two subjects and minimum grade $\mathrm{O} 6 / \mathrm{H} 7$ in four other subjects. English and Irish are requirements for all programmes unless the applicant is exempt from Irish. of an individual course.

## School

## Leaving Cert Subjects

## Leaving Cert | Leaving Cert Applied (LCA)

## Practical Group

These subjects are 'hands-on' and involve working with tools and machinery on physical things like wood, metals and plastic. They may involve designing, planning and building things.

## Construction Studies

## Engineering

Technology

## Science Group

These subjects demonstrate how to explore nature using carefully planned methods, and teach the basic methods and findings of scientific investigation.

| Agricultural Science | Applied Maths | Biology |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Chemistry | Mathematics | Physics |
| Physics and Chemistry | Computer Science |  |

In school I studied Tech Design and absolutely loved the subject. I also studied several engineering courses in School. From there, I went onto University of Ulster to study Design Engineering. At the time I thought it was the only option of study for me but I soon realised it wasn't my favourite part of the engineering industry. It's good to explore the practical subjects available in school as well as the ech subiects they include extremely

## Home Economics

| Career Zone | NFQ Level | Duration |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 12345 | QQI | ? |
| 12 | 2 Years |  |


| Summary |
| :--- |
| Grades Awarded |
| Course Overview |
| Course Content |
| Exam Structure |
| Career Possibilities |
| 3rd Level Requirements |

## Summary

The Home Economics syllabus provides students with knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes necessary for managing their own lives, for further and higher education and work. The learning experiences in home economics develop flexibility and adaptability in students, prepare them for a consumer-oriented society and provide a learning foundation for a wide range of careers in food, textiles, science, design, social studies and tourism.

## Why Study Home Economics

Students should study this subject in order to:

- Be able to research, study, analyse and interpret material.
- Be able and willing to learn Nutrition and Culinary skills.
- Be able to communicate well.
- Be organised.


## Home Economics

Career Zone
(12) 345

NFQ Level
${ }_{6}$

Duration
2 Years

## Summary

Grades Awarded

## Course Overview

Course Content

## Exam Structure

Career Possibilities
3rd Level Requirements

## Grades Awarded



## What Influences Subject Choice

- Perception of 'easy' or 'hard’ subjects
- Like/dislike the teacher they think will be teaching them
- Friends/parents/significant others such as siblings
- Needing the subject for course/career after Leaving Cert
- Being good at the subject - attainment in JC
- Likes/dislikes the subject - enthusiasm \& interest


## Watch for Non-Essential Subjects

- You don't need D.C.G. to become an Architect
- You don't need Engineering to be an Engineer
- You don't need Biology to be a Nurse
- You don’t need Business to take a Management Degree
- You don’t need a Modern Language for Primary School Teaching
- You don't even need Italian to study Italian in Trinity!


## Watch for Subjects with a 'practical element'

## Art

Construction
Engineering
DCG
History
Geography
Home Economics
Applied Maths
Economics

62\% practical 38\% final exam 50\% practical 50\% final exam 50\% practical 50\% final exam 40\% practical 60\% final exam 20\% project $80 \%$ final exam
20\% fieldtrip 80\% final exam
20\% project $80 \%$ final exam
20\% project 80\% final exam
20\% project 80\% final exam

## Course Work / Projects Deadlines \& Orals

Many subjects now contain a course work or project element and unfortunately the deadlines for these projects fall very closely together.

The deadline for the DCG coursework is in mid-January. March sees the deadline for projects in Engineering, Art, Technology and LCVP. Home Economics Food Studies is November, Textile Studies is in April.

Agricultural Science coursework deadline is early April and the end of April sees the coursework deadline for History and Geography, as well as Religious Studies, Music, Home Economics (textile elective) and the Construction Studies project.

## Orals for Irish and the modern European languages now take place at Easter.

It is wise to consider the coursework involved in the subject combination you are thinking about before making your final decision.

## Compulsory Subjects

Higher

## English

 2 levels: OrdinaryMaths

\author{

* May have an exemption
}


## Optional Subjects: Five Areas

19 subjects to choose from

Languages
$\square$ Sciences

- Business
- Social Studies
- Applied Sciences


## Language Area

- Irish

English

- French
- German
- Outside of school - Latvian /

Lithuanian / Polish / Russian /
Croatian / Romanian

## Irish

A requirement for UCD, Maynooth, Galway, Shannon College of Hotel Management, Royal College of Surgeons, St. Angela's College of Education (TUS), the Institute of Public Administration and UC Cork.

For entry to the Garda Siochana you must have a proven proficiency in either Irish or English is required. There is no longer a requirement to have a second language.

In Ireland you need a H4 or better in Honours Irish to become a primary school teacher.

Irish satisfies the requirement of a modern language for entry to Trinity College, and as a language, other than English, for entry to the University of Limerick (UL) and Dublin City University (DCU).

Remember - there are still no points for Foundation Level Irish.

## English

Check with teachers about movement from honours to ordinary level.

Most Universities, colleges and employers require English at Ordinary level, other colleges will take Irish or English.

Don't Fail Honours English.

Higher English is required for a handful of courses in areas such as Journalism, Multimedia, Communications, Media Studies, Legal Studies and Speech Therapy. (Psychology in UK Courses.)

## Modern Languages

An increase in courses such as business that have a modern language as part of the course.

You may need it as a matriculation requirementfor some courses for the NUI Colleges (Ordinary Level only).

You also need it if you are interested in the Cadets.
Language is obviously an important requirement for courses such as European Studies, Tourism, Languages and Marketing.

A Modern European Language is not required for Nursing, Primary School Teaching, Science, Ag. Science or Engineering even at University level. (Nor for most of Business in NUI Maynooth.)

The best advice would be not to take a language if you have struggled with it up to now.

French and German are available. Students may also sign up for the Leaving Certificate Polish exam among others.

## Science Area

Biology
■ Chemistry

- Physics
- Mathematics
- Agricultural Science
- Applied Mathematics


## Biology / Chemistry / Physics

Courses that require a science subject include engineering and medical courses, paramedical courses such as biomedical science, dentistry, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, radiography and human nutrition.

You may pursue a course in, science, technology, engineering or maths at an Institute of Technology or Technical University without a science subject, but ask if it might be a disadvantage.

If a career in medicine or nursing is high on your list you should think in terms of Chemistry and Biology (preferably both).

Two science subjects are required for Medicine and Dentistry in Trinity College, Dublin.

Interested in engineering then Physics and Chemistry should both be considered.
Biology is desirable but not necessary for those who wish to study Nursing. Students who opt for the Biology Elective for Home Economics Training in St. Angela's (TUS) must pass one of: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Agricultural Science. (Note: even P.E. with Biology in DCU will accept Physics or Chemistry).

## Appliance of Science

| COLLEGE SUBJECTS | Leaving Certificate Science Subjects in order of importance to college subject |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES | Biology | Chemistry | Mathematics |
| Biology Horticulture <br> Agriculture Marine Biology |  |  |  |
| CHEMICAL SCIENCES | Chemistry | Mathematics | Physics |
| Chemistry Biochemistry <br> Chem. Engineering Medicinal Chem. |  |  |  |
| PHYSICAL SCIENCES | Physics | Mathematics | Chemistry |
| Physics Astronomy <br> Electronics Computing |  |  |  |
| ENGINEERING | Mathematics | Physics | Chemistry |
| Civil Mechanical <br> Aeronautical Eectrical |  |  |  |
| MEDICAL SCIENCES | Chemistry | Biology | Physics |
| Pharmacy Nursing <br> Opthalmic Optics Nutrition |  |  |  |
| MEDICINE / DENTISTRY | Chemistry | Physics | Biology |
| Medicine Dentistry <br> Vet. Medicine  | British Associ | for the Advancem | of Science |

## Maths / Applied Maths

Mathematics is a requirement for a great number of jobs and courses.
A grade O4 or better in Ordinary Level Maths is required for many Science or Commerce courses at University. This reflects the level of Mathematics that has to be studied as part of the course.

Honours Maths is required by relatively few courses (73), the majority of which are Honours Engineering Degrees.

Foundation Maths is acceptable for many Careers. Some Colleges will allow it where no Maths is involved in the course, but may not award any points for it. Some employers will accept it for apprenticeships. Most PLC courses will also accept it, an exception being Accounting Technician and some Pre-University courses. Not acceptable for the Gardai.

Foundation Maths is acceptable for places on Arts, Music, Social Science and Law Degrees in the N.U.I. Colleges, as well as a small number of courses in DCU.

Honours Applied Maths fulfills the Honours Maths requirement for Engineering \& Computing courses in DCU.

## Business Area

■ Accounting*

- Business

■ Economics

Not compulsory for any Business, Management or Commerce course at third level

* One exception: Commerce \& Accounting in N.U.I. Galway requires Accounting as a subject (H4).


## Social Studies Area

- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music


## History / Geography

## HISTORY

Even though history is not essential for entry to any third-level course, nonetheless, the study of history contributes enormously to an all-round education.

Very helpful for the study of Law, Politics or Journalism.

## GEOGRAPHY:

Although Geography is not essential for entry to third-level courses, in Trinity College it is accepted as one of the H5 grades for entry to both Science and Pharmacy. While in UCD Geography may be used as a laboratory science subject for entry to Science / Applied Maths is also acceptable. .

## Art / Music

ART (including Crafts):
Although art is not specified as an entry requirement for all Colleges of Art, a portfolio of work may be an essential element for application.

Many students take a year out to complete a portfolio preparation course in order to try and enhance their chances of getting a place in Art College.

National College of Art and Design require a pass in Art or a language.

## MUSIC

At the moment Music can only be taken as a subject outside of school.
If you intend to study music at third level you need to check to see which courses specify a grade in music.

Expect to be asked to attend a special music test or audition if applying for courses in Music.

Watch for Performing Arts - Irish Traditional Music / Irish Traditional Dance / Contemporary Dance / Voice / World Music in UL. (Musical Auditions)

## Applied Sciences Area

■ Engineering

- Design \& Communication Graphics
- Construction Studies
- Home Economics (Scientific \& Social)


## Home Economics

| Code | Course | Course Provider |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TU944 | Culinary Science - Grangegorman | TU Dublin - City. |
| M1015 | Education Home Economics \& Business Studies <br> - Thurles - Second Level Teaching | Mary Immaculate College |
| AU987 | Education Home Economics \& Irish with concurrent Teacher Education - St. Angela's | ATU - Sligo St. Angela's |
| AU986 | Education Home Economics \& Religious Education with concurrent Teacher Education St Angela's | ATU - Sligo St. Angela's |
| TU881 | Food Innovation - Grangegorman | TU Dublin - City. |
| TU645 | Food Science \& Management - Grangegorman | TU Dublin - City. |
| MT930 | Home Economics \& Business - Cork Campus | MTU - Cork Campuses |
| TU761 | Ophthalmic Dispensing - Grangegorman | TU Dublin - City. |

## The most popular Higher Level Subjects 2023:

| English | 43275 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Biology - | 28723 |
| Irish | 23899 |
| Mathematics | 20516 |
| Geography - | 16889 |
| Business - | 15869 |
| French | 14701 |
| History - | 9503 |
| Construction Studies | 9165 |
| Home Economics | 9105 |
| Chemistry | 8068 |
| Art | 7642 |
| Spanish | 7574 |
| Physical Education - | 6508 |
| Physics | 6143 |
| Agricultural Science | 6132 |
| German | 6129 |
| Music | 5870 |
| Engineering - | 5624 |

## Subject Grades Explorer



## Real World Example

Approx

| Course | 2024 Course Entry Requirements and notes | Points 2023 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Points } \\ & 2022 \end{aligned}$ | Approx |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Places $2024$ | Alternative <br> Entry Routes |
| DN100 Architecture | O6/H7 in Irish, English, another language, Mathematics and | 566* | 555* | 57 | DARE HEAR MY |
|  | 2 other recognised subjects |  |  |  | Prog |
|  | Fees apply for the Master's portion of this course |  |  |  |  |
|  | Please note: subject to approval the language requirement may be removed for $\underline{\underline{2025}}$ |  |  |  |  |
| DN120 Landscape Architecture | O6/H7 in Irish, English, Mathematics and | 477 | 440 | 28 | DARE HEAR MY FET |
|  | 3 other recognised subjects |  |  |  |  |
| DN130 City Planning \& | O6/H7 in Irish, English, Mathematics and | 487 | 455 | 29 | DARE HEAR MY |
| Environmental Policy | 3 other recognised subjects |  |  |  |  |
| DN150 Engineering | H4 in Mathematics and | 567 | 566 | 285 | DARE HEAR MY |
|  | H6 in a Laboratory Science subject and |  |  |  | Prog |
|  | O6/H7 in Irish, English and |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2 other recognised subjects |  |  |  |  |
| DN200 Science | O2/H6 in Mathematics and a Laboratory Science subject (OR Geography OR Applied | 555 | 556 | 420 | DARE HEAR MY |
|  | Mathematics OR Computer Science) and |  |  |  | Prog FET |
|  | O6/H7 in Irish, English, and |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2 other recognised subjects |  |  |  |  |
|  | For details of options available please see prospectus |  |  |  |  |
| DN201 Computer Science | O2/H6 in Mathematics and | 558 | 556 | 105 | DARE HEAR MY |
|  | $\mathrm{O} 6 / \mathrm{H} 7$ in Irish, English and |  |  |  | Prog FET |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DARE Disability Access Route to Higher Education |  |  |  |  |  |
| HEAR Higher Education Access Route |  |  |  |  |  |
| GE A graduate entry pathway for this degree |  | Mu E. DEACCOSS DOME |  |  |  |
| MY Application on Grounds of Mature Years |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Prog Progression routes from UCD or other HEl level 6/7
FET QQI-FET admission path

## Present Shortages



## 9 HEALTHCARE

doctors, nurses and other non-nursing health professionals

8 OFFICE SUPPORT
administrative assistants, P/s, receptionists

10 TECHNICIANS
quality controtters, technical staff


## Моге Advice

Talk to students studying the subjects at the moment

Talk to teachers of the subject

## Look at a copy of the textbook

Look at a copy of the Leaving Cert Exam Papers for the subject in question

## Even Al can help

Sure，here＇s a list of questions to help third years with subject choice for the Leaving Certificate：

1．What are your interests？
2．What subjects do you enjoy the most？
3．What subjects do you find the most challenging？
4．What career paths are you considering？
5．Which subjects are required for your desired career？
6．Do you prefer practical or theoretical subjects？
7．Are you considering attending college？If so，what subjects do you need for your desired course？
8．Are there any subjects you have not yet studied that interest you？
9．Are there any subjects you have already studied that you would like to drop？
10．Do you have any particular strengths or weaknesses that may impact your subject choice？
11．Are there any extracurricular activities you are involved in that could impact your subject choice？

12．Are there any language requirements for your desired career or college course？
13．Do you need to take higher level or ordinary level in certain subjects for your desired career or college course？
14．Have you talked to your teachers or guidance counselor for advice on subject choice？
15．Are you willing to put in the effort and time required to excel in certain subjects？

## VERY IMPORTANT. PLAN AHEAD!!

Access Programs: If you feel that you cannot achieve your full academic potential because of a disability (dyslexia / dyscalculia), or ongoing illness, you may make a supplementary application through the CAO.

Does your report need updating? Check out www.accesscollege.ie.


The Higher Education Access Route


The Disability Access Route to Education

## And Finally...

Any
Questions?

DOates@Stciaranscs.ie

