St. Ciaran's Community School

Leaving Certificate Subject Choice



March 2025



Useful Websites

guidanceoffice.info curriculumonline.ie qualifax.ie careersportal.ie cao.ie



A variety of programmes, including Transition Year,

Vocational Programme, and the Leaving Certificate

senior cycle. Select Option Here »

Guidance Office

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HOME | CAD.FAQ | SUBJECT CHOICE SUPPORT INFORMATION STUDY SKILLS INTEREST TESTS POINTS GRANTS LCVP IMPORTANT WERSITES OPEN DAYS PARENTS | LCA TRANSITION YEAR | SENIOR CYCLE CLASS WIDE SCHEMES OF MUCK GRL FOR JUNIOR CYCLE

St. Ciaran's Community School Guidance Department

Latest News Qualifax

Careersportal

Careersnews

Printable Career Report with job and course matching

Store your career research

EUNICAS EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY CENTRAL APPLICATION SUPPORT SERVICE

List of courses accepting Foundation level Maths here. (September 2020)

List of country-wide careers events for Senior Cycle students here. The Leaving Cert Results Are Out - What Now? (2020 Edition) Here. Elegibility Reckoner for Maintenance Grants here.

List of Nationwide events for interested Senior Cycle students here.

A reminder to 6th Years that the 'CAO App' is available on itunes and google play.

Qualifax: every course explained

Apply on-line before 20th January for a reduced fee of €25.

Need Help? demonstration videos, guides and answers to

frequently asked questions.

Demo Application more familiar with the

Important Dates: Apply online by this

date to avail of the discounted fee of €25 Normal closing date or applications (17:15)



Select Option Here »

Select Option Here »

The junior cycle provides the student with a broad range of learning experiences. The jurior cycle provioes the student with a throat range of learning experience, it aims to develop the student's knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for study and for life beyond education.

> Important Dates Student Resources **Access Routes** DARE / HEAR Restrictions **Mature Applicants** About Change of Mind Parents Information for Schools Media and Statistics About CAO Useful Links FAQ Contact Us

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applications Office

ilications Office processes applications for undergraduate courses in Irish Higher Education Iniciatoris Online processes applications for undergraduate courses in that majner coucardin Institutions (HEIs). Decisions on admissions to undergraduate courses are made by the HEIs who instruct CAO to make offers to sucessful candidates.



Guidance Office

CONTACT US

C.A.O. F.A.O. SUBJECT CHOICE **APPRENTICESHIPS** SUPPORT INFORMATION STUDY SKILLS INTEREST TESTS **POINTS GRANTS OPEN DAYS** LCVP **IMPORTANT WEBSITES PARENTS** LCA SCHEMES OF WORK TRANSITION YEAR **GRL FOR JUNIOR CYCLE**



PRIVACY STATEMENT

St. Ciaran's Community School Guidance Department

Click Here





Latest News:

Qualifax

Careersportal

Careersnews

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 Teacher after 2023 Version)

LCVP Powerpoint Presentation here.

For a copy of the 2025 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.

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:

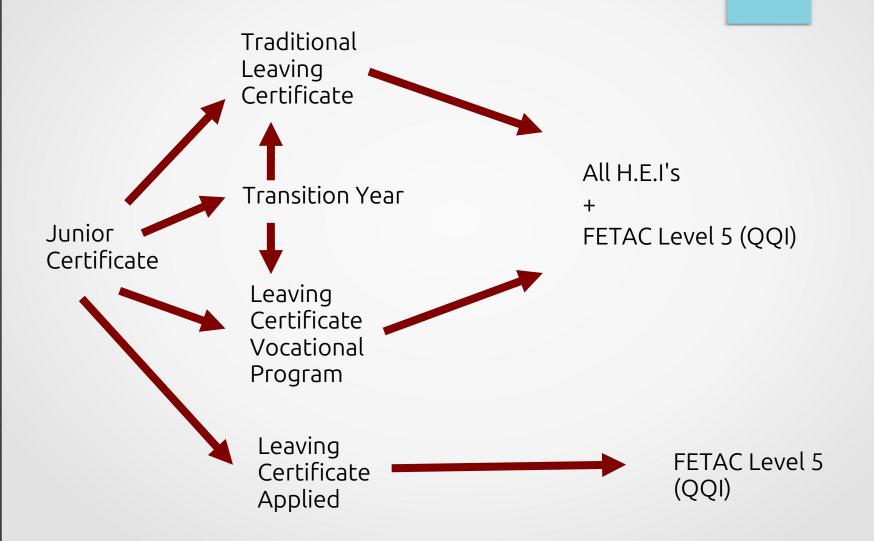
For a brief description click here.

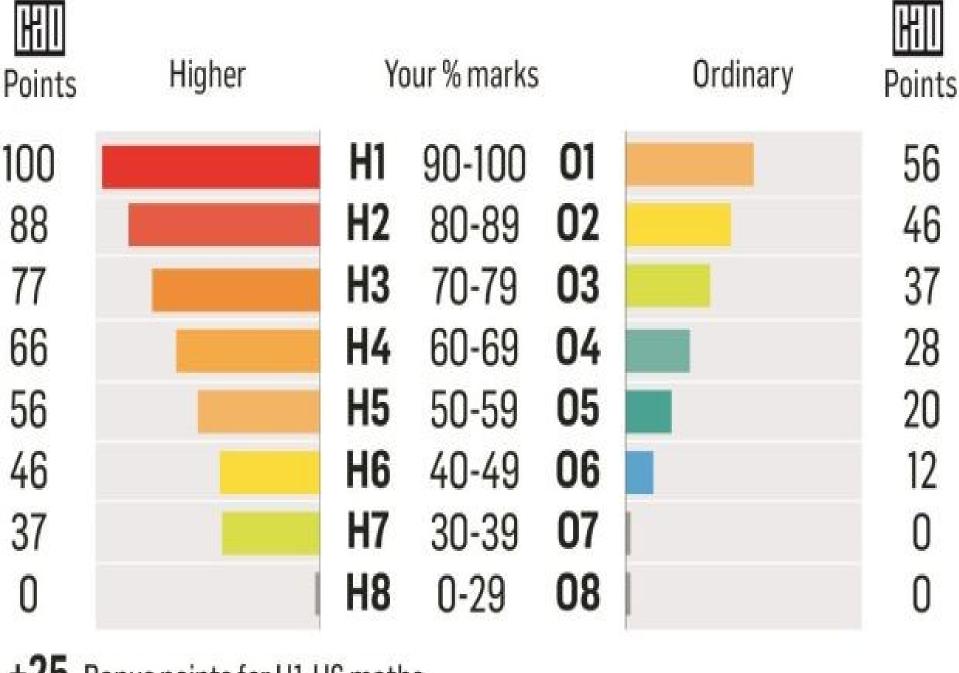
SLSS Brochure page one here. SLSS Brochure page two here.

Overview of Leaving Certificate Applied for parents here.

Click Here

Further Study Options





+25 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

F1	20	90 – 100%
F2	12	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	01	56
Maths	Honours	H3	77+25= 102
Physics	Honours	H2	88
Biology	Honours	H5	56
D.C.G.	Ordinary	O2	46
German	Honours	H5	56
Add the 6 best scores shown in RED			Points = 458

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 HEIs may not award the points shown. If in any doubt, check with the Admissions Office of the appropriate HEIs.
- Matriculation for Medicine must be completed in the year of application.

Getting into college – 3 Doors



ARTS – Maynooth University (MH101)

Researching Subject Choice with Qualifax



About Us

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.



CAO

Everything you need to know about the CAO process



Further education and training

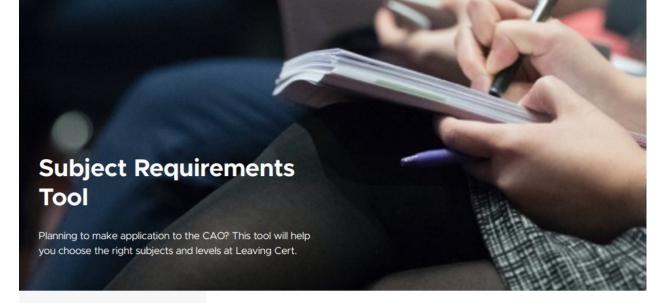
Lifelong education and training options

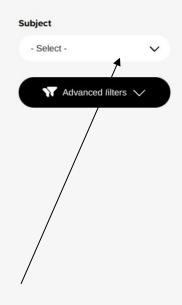


Adult learners

Continuing education options for adults

Useful Tools





Click Here

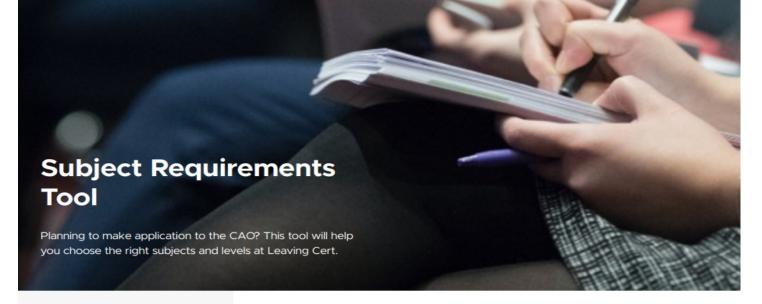
Please select a subject from the subject dropdown on the left.

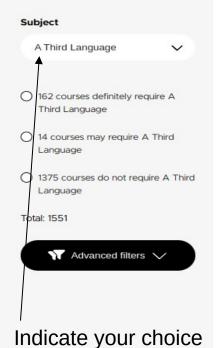
All courses referred to in this section are Third Level CAO entry. The Course Data in this section is for the CAO entry in 2025

"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.





and click view courses

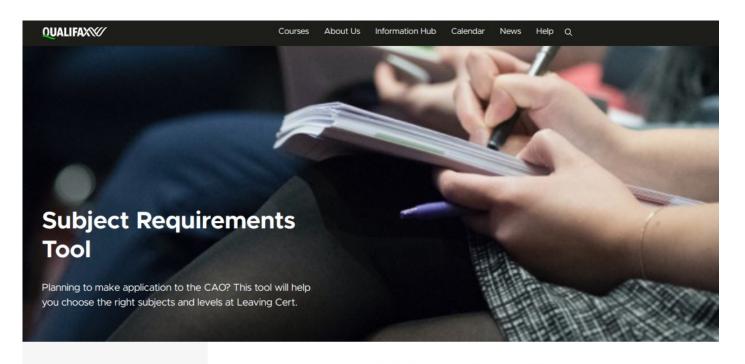
Please select one of the 3 categories on the left.

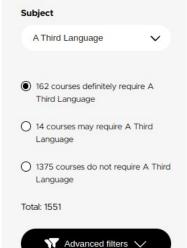
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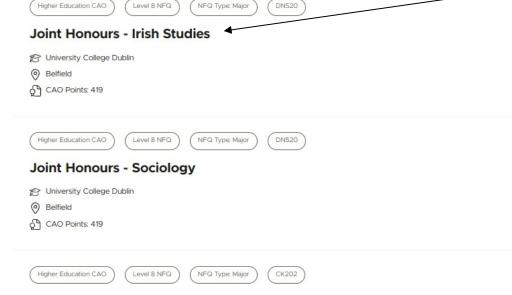
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Ancient Greek, Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese,
Latin, Lithuanian, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese,
Russian, Spanish.





Courses that definitely require A Third Language



You are 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 requirements further.

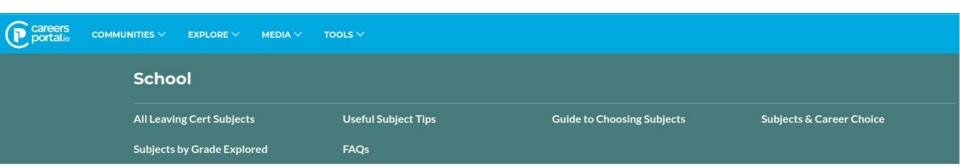
Specific Subjects or course requirements

Leaving Certificate entry requirements:

At Least six subjects must be presented. Minimum grade H5 in two subjects and minimum grade O6/H7 in four other subjects. English and Irish are requirements for all programmes unless the applicant is exempt from Irish. Applicants will need to meet the following minimum entry requirements:

English O6/H7 Irish O6/H7 Maths O6/H7 Other Language O6/H7 Now you have the specific requirements of an individual course.

https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer.php



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 Mathematics Chemistry **Physics Physics and Chemistry Computer Science**



Aoife McEleavy, Manufacturing Engineer

What subjects did you take in school and how have these influenced your career path?

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

What Influences Subject Choice

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

Essential Subjects (or non-essential!)

- You don't need Design and Communication Graphics 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 Accountancy to become an Accountant
- 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	62% practical	38% final exam
Construction	50% practical	50% final exam
Engineering	50% practical	50% final exam
DCG	40% practical	60% final exam
History	20% project	80% final exam
Home Economics		80% final exam
Geography	20% fieldtrip	80% final exam
Economics	20% project	80% final exam
Applied Maths	20% project	80% final exam

Tranche 1 subjects will be introduced to the curriculum for all schools in 2025 and are set out here:

Tranche	1 sub	jects
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Ancient Greek

Arabic

Biology

Business

Chemistry

Climate Action and Sustainable Development

Drama, Film and Theatre Studies

Latin

Physics

Additional Assessment Component - 40% - 20 Hours Work

Obligatory Subjects

English

2 levels: Higher
Ordinary

Irish*

Maths

Higher

3 levels: Ordinary

Foundation

Optional Subjects: Five Areas

19 subjects to choose from

- Languages
- Sciences
- Business
- Social Studies
- Applied Sciences



Language Options

- Irish
- English
- French
- German
- 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. (Foundation Level Irish is not acceptable.)

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

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 pass 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.)

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 requirement for 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 <u>not</u> required for Nursing, Primary School Teaching, Science, Ag. Science or Engineering even at University level. (Nor for 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 must pass Biology. (Note: even P.E. with Biology in DCU will accept Physics or Chemistry).

Appliance of Science

			Leaving (Leaving Certificate Science Subjects		
COLLEGE SUBJECTS		in order of importance to college subject				
			1	2	3	
BIOLOGIC	AL SCIENCES		Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	
Biology	Horticulture					
Agriculture	Marine Biology					
CHEMICA	AL SCIENCES		Chemistry	Mathematics	Physics	
Chemistry	Biochemistry					
Chem. Engineering	Medicinal Chem.					
PHYSICA	L SCIENCES		Physics	Mathematics	Chemistry	
Physics	Astronomy					
Electronics	Computing					
ENGI	NEERING		Mathematics	Physics	Chemistry	
Civil	Mechanical					
Aeronautical	⊟ectrical					
MEDICA	L SCIENCES		Chemistry	Biology	Physics	
Pharmacy	Nursing					
Opthalmic Optics	Nutrition					
MEDICINE	/ DENTISTRY		Chemistry	Physics	Biology	
Medicine	Dentistry					
Vet. Medicine			British Association for the Advancement of Science			

Maths / Applied Maths

Mathematics is a requirement for a great number of jobs and courses.

A grade O3 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.

Maths is required by relatively few courses (71), 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 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

- 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 / Archaeology & Geology programmes.

Art / Music

ART (including Crafts):

Although art is not specified as an entry requirement for **all** Colleges of Art, a portfolio of work is 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.

Applied Science

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

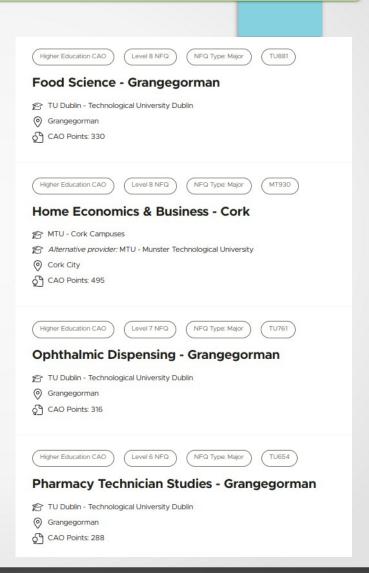
Home Economics

Courses that may require Home Economics Higher Education CAO Level 8 NFQ NFQ Type: Major Education Home Economics & Biology with concurrent Teacher Education -Second Level Teaching - Sligo St. Angela's ATU - St. Angela's Alternative provider: ATU - Atlantic Technological University Sligo Town CAO Points: 510 (i) Higher Education CAO Level 8 NFQ NFQ Type: Major MI022 Education Home Economics & Business Studies - Second Level Teaching - Thurles Mary Immaculate College - Thurles Campus Alternative provider: Mary Immaculate College O Thurles CAO Points: 531 Higher Education CAO Level 8 NFQ NFQ Type: Major AU987 Education Home Economics & Irish with concurrent Teacher Education - Second Level Teaching - Sligo St. Anglea's ATU - St. Angela's Alternative provider: ATU - Atlantic Technological University Sligo Town CAO Points: 429 (i) Higher Education CAO Level 8 NFQ NFQ Type: Major AU986 **Education Home Economics & Religious Education with concurrent Teacher** Education - Second Level Teaching - Sligo St. Anglea's ATU - St. Angela's

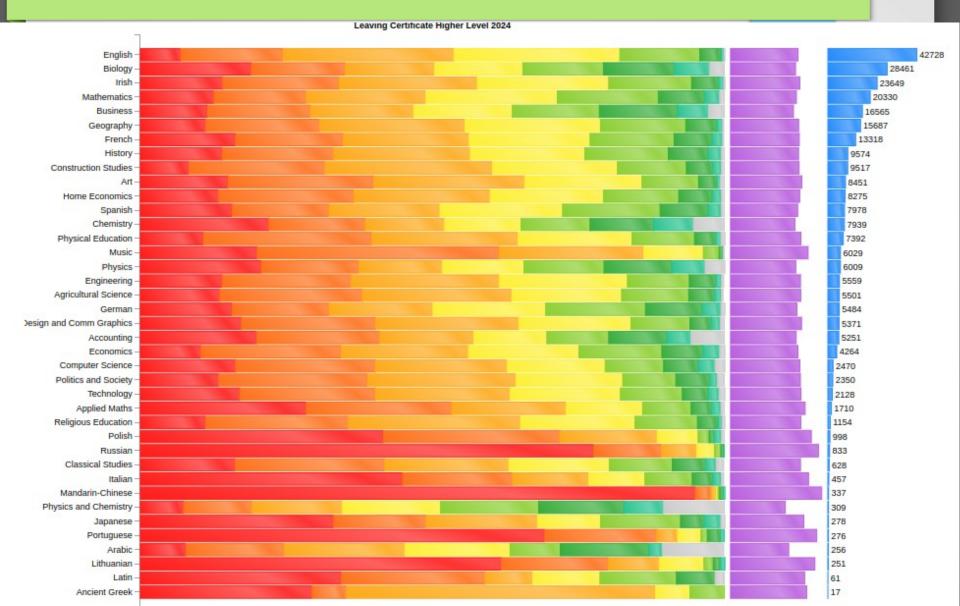
Alternative provider: ATU - Atlantic Technological University

Sligo Town

CAO Points: 424

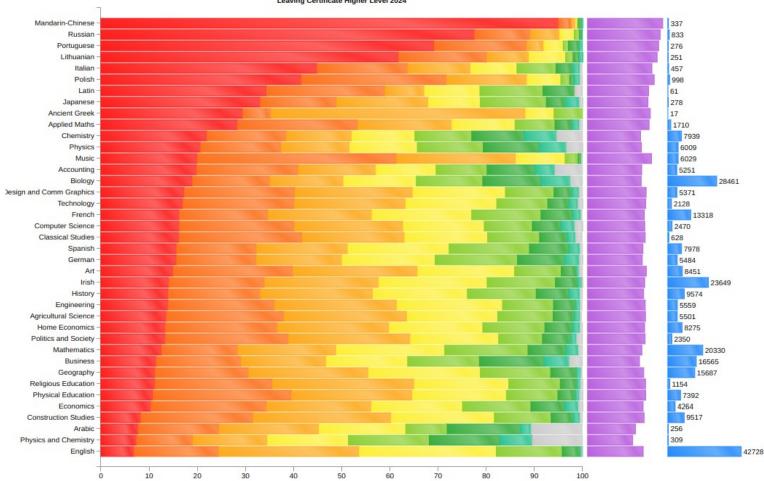


Popularity of Leaving Certificate Honours Subjects



Subject Grades Explorer





Sort By:

Subject Name Average Points Candidates

Sort By Grades:

H1 (A1) H2 (A2-B1) H3 (B2-B3) H4 (C1-C2) H5 (C3-D1) H6 (D2-D3) H7 (30-39%) H8 (0-29%)

Sort By Grade Bracket:

H1-H2 H1-H3 H1-H4 H1-H5 Pass 0-29

Change Year:

2024 2023 2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 2011

Change Level:

Higher Ordinary

Real World Example



University College Dublin – Summary Entry Requirements

This table is a summary of entry and matriculation requirements for school-leavers. **Any changes in requirements will be updated** @ www.ucd.ie/lc). **Please note:** For some courses particular subjects, while not required, are recommended –see the prospectus for full details

Course details are published in the UCD Undergraduate Prospectus 2025, available online at www.myucd.ie
For contact details and Frequently Asked Questions, please see www.ucd.ie/admissions

As cut-off points are determined by the school-leaving results of applicants, it is not possible to forecast the points which will be required for entry in 2025

CAO	Course Title	Course Entry Requirements						Minimum Points		
Code		Irish	English	Other Language	Maths	Laboratory Science Subject	Additional Matric Subjects	2024 Round 2	2023 Final	Places 2025
DN100	Architecture	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7		3	552	566*	57
DN120	Landscape Architecture	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7		3	474	477	28
DN130	City Planning and Environmental Policy	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7		3	477	487	31
DN150	Engineering	O6/H7	O6/H7		H4	H6 ⁽¹⁾	2	568	567	285
DN200	Science	O6/H7	O6/H7		O2/H6	O2/H6 ⁽¹⁾	2	544	555	420
DN201	Computer Science	O6/H7	O6/H7		O2/H6		3	533*	558	105
DN230	Actuarial and Financial Studies	O6/H7	O6/H7		H2		3	613*	613	50
DN240	Sustainability	O6/H7	O6/H7		O2/H6		3	531	529	70
DN250	Agricultural Science	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	400	400	250
DN261	Food Science	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	490	487	47
DN262	Human Nutrition	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	532	533	34
DN300	Veterinary Medicine (Undergraduate Entry) (2)(3)	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	Chemistry H5	1	589*	589	82
DN301	Veterinary Medicine (Graduate Entry) (3) (4)	See www.ucd.ie/grad_entry for details 5								
DN310	Veterinary Nursing	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	481	518	44
DN400	Medicine (Undergraduate Entry) (3) (5)	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	1	735	735*	121
DN401	Medicine (Graduate Entry) (3) (4)	See www.ucd.ie/grad_entry for details 77								
DN410	Radiography	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	1	554*	544*	98
DN411	Diagnostic Radiography (Graduate Entry) (4)	See www.ucd.ie/grad_entry for details 20								
DN420	Physiotherapy (3) (4)	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	1	588	579	58
DN425	Sport, Health & Exercise Science	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	542	534	55
DN430	Sport and Exercise Management	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	478	484	58
DN440	Biomedical, Health and Life Sciences	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	1	600	601*	40
DN450	General Nursing (3)	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	408	393	164
DN451	Children's & General Nursing (Integrated) (3)	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	495	499	42
DN452	Midwifery (3)	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	519	510	27
DN453	Mental Health Nursing (3)	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	367	407	39

Present Shortages

Top 12 In-Demand Skills in Ireland



Information Technology Skills



2. Cloud Computing Skills



3. Al Skills



4. Cybersecurity Skills



5. **Teaching** Skills



6. Construction Skills



7. Sales Skills Sales



8. Healthcare Skills



9. Finance Skills



10. **Driving** Skills



11. Hospitality Skills



12. Engineering Skills





More Advice

Talk to students studying 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 AI 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?

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.





And Finally...

Any Questions?

Doates@StCiaranscs.ie

