# St. Ciaran's Community School

# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice



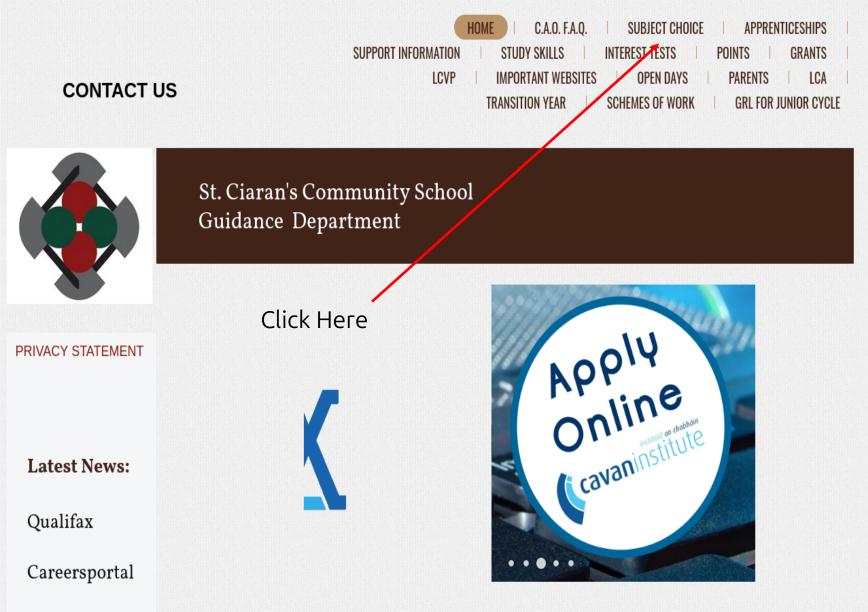
March 2025

Motivation is a better indicator of Academic Success than I.Q. **Useful Websites** 

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



# **Guidance Office**



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.

Click Here

For information on Project Maths click here.

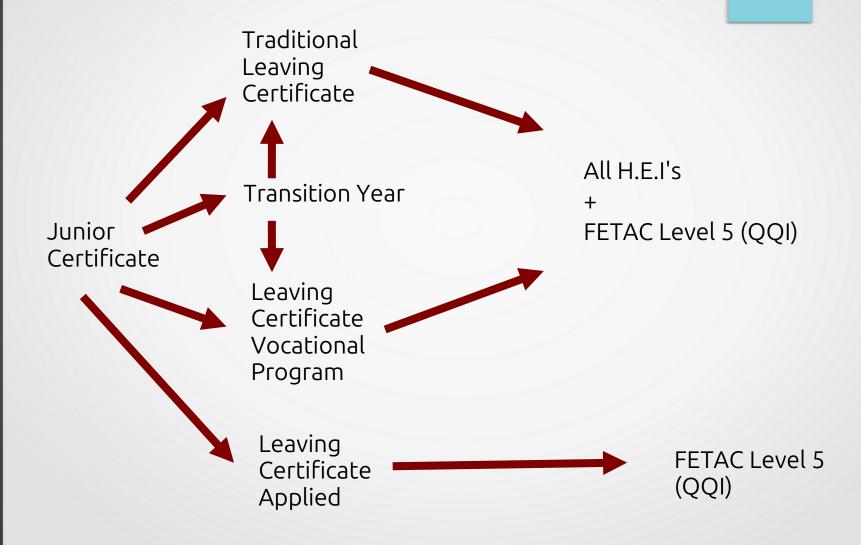
N.U.I. Matriculation requirements here.

Senior Cycle Subject Choice Cheat Sheet here.

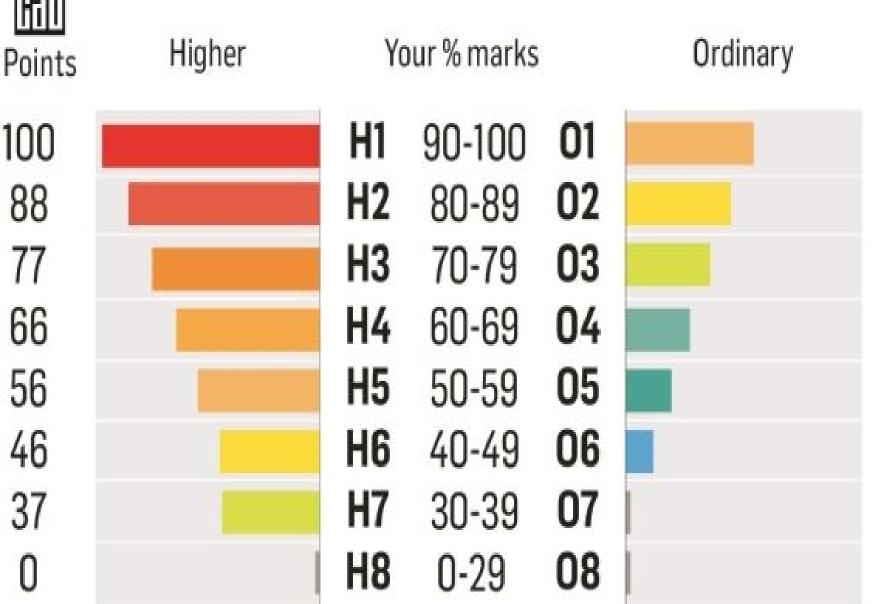
Narrow your choices worksheets here.

Points System 2024 here.

# **Further Study Options**







HI

Points

+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	НЗ	77+25= <b>102</b>
Physics	Honours	H2	88
Biology	Honours	H5	56
D.C.G.	Ordinary	O2	46
German	Honours	H5	56
Add the 6 best score	es shown in <b>RED</b>		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



#### QUALIFAX

#### Courses About Us Information Hub Calendar News Q

#### 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

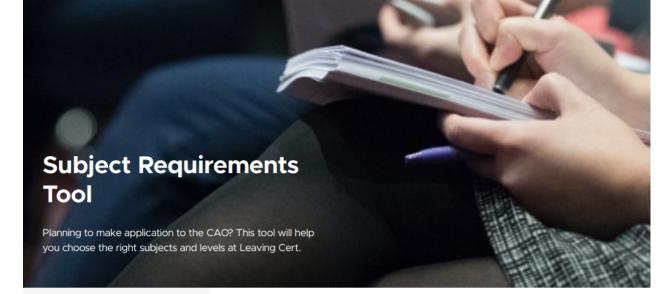
Lifelong education and training options

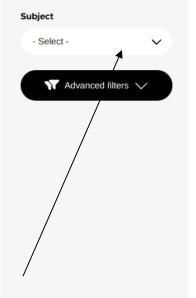


#### Adult learners

Continuing education options for adults







**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.

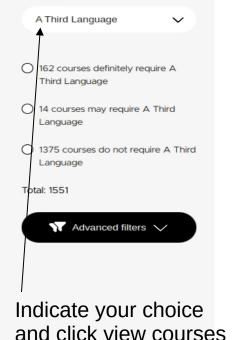
"A Second Language" includes the following subjects: Ancient Greek, Arabic, French, German, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Lithuanian, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish.

"A Third Language" includes the following subjects: Ancient Greek, Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Lithuanian, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish.

## Subject Requirements Tool

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

#### Subject



Please select one of the 3 categories 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.

#### **QUALIFAXXX**

## **Subject Requirements** Tool

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

Subject	Su	bj	ect
---------	----	----	-----

Subject	Courses that definitely require A Third Language
A Third Language	
	Higher Education CAO         Level 8 NFQ         NFQ Type: Major         DN520
<ul> <li>162 courses definitely require A Third Language</li> </ul>	Joint Honours - Irish Studies
14 courses may require A Third	😰 University College Dublin
Language	O Belfield
	ည် CAO Points: 419
<ul> <li>1375 courses do not require A Third Language</li> </ul>	
Total: 1551	Higher Education CAO         Level 8 NFQ         NFQ Type: Major         DN520
	Joint Honours - Sociology
Mathematical Advanced filters V	C University College Dublin
	Belfield
	ဝို CAO Points: 419

Level 8 NFQ

NFQ Type: Major

CK202

Higher Education CAO

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.

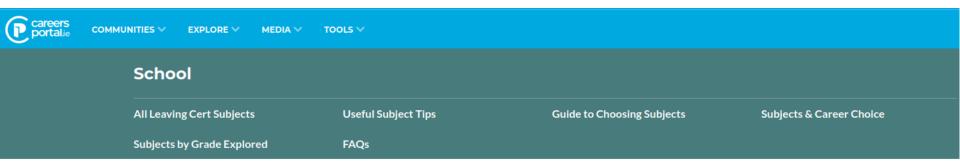
# Specific Subjects or course requirements

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
Chemistry	Mathematics	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 tech subjects they include extremely

# 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 Construction Engineering DCG History **Home Economics** Geography **Economics Applied Maths** 

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% project 80% final exam 20% fieldtrip 80% final exam 20% project 80% final exam 80% final exam 20% project

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

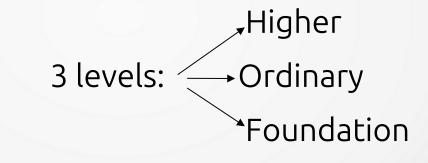
Tranche 1 subjects
Ancient Greek
Arabic
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Climate Action and Sustainable Development
Drama, Film and Theatre Studies
Latin
Physics

# **Obligatory Subjects**

Irish\*

Maths





\* May have an exemption

**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 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 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 <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**

#### **COLLEGE SUBJECTS** in order of importance to college subject 2 1 3 **BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES** Biology Chemistry Mathematics Biology Horticulture Agriculture Marine Biology Chemistry **Mathematics** CHEMICAL SCIENCES **Physics** Chemistry Biochemistry Chem. Engineering Medicinal Chem. PHYSICAL SCIENCES Physics **Mathematics** Chemistrv **Physics** Astronomy **Electronics** Computing ENGINEERING Mathematics **Physics** Chemistry Civil Mechanical Aeronautical Electrical MEDICAL SCIENCES Chemistry Biology Physics Pharmacy Nursing Opthalmic Optics Nutrition **MEDICINE / DENTISTRY** Chemistry **Physics** Biology Medicine Dentistry British Association for the Advancement of Science Vet. Medicine

Leaving Certificate Science Subjects

# 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

# HistoryGeographyArtMusic

# 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.

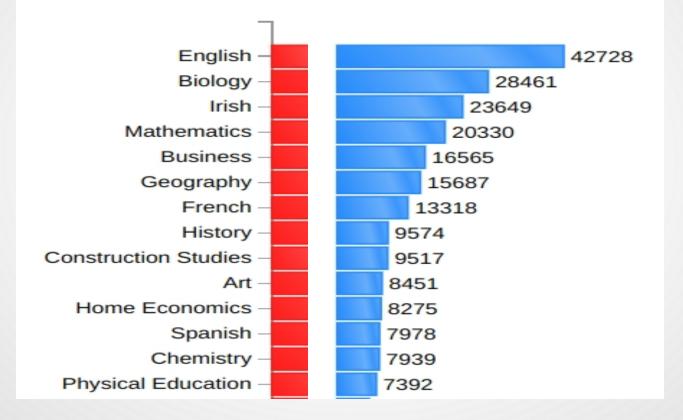
## **Applied Science**

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

### Home Economics

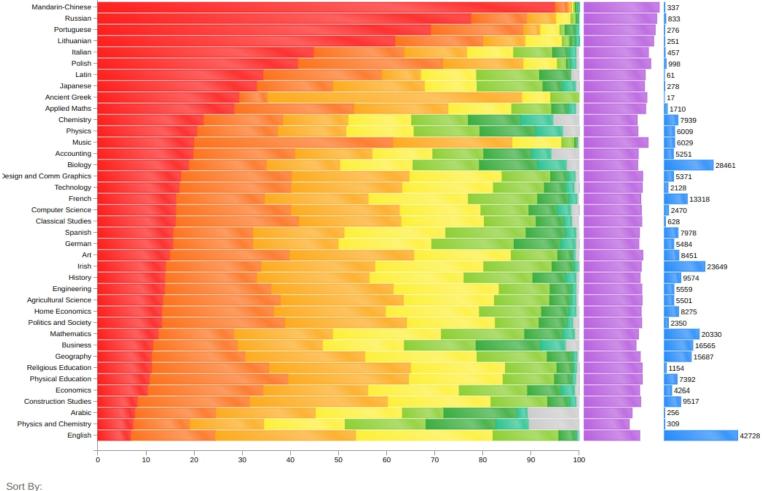
#### **Courses that may require Home Economics** Higher Education CAO Level 8 NFQ NFQ Type: Major TU881 Higher Education CAO Level 8 NFQ NFQ Type: Major AU985 Education Home Economics & Biology with concurrent Teacher Education -Food Science - Grangegorman Second Level Teaching - Sligo St. Angela's P TU Dublin - Technological University Dublin 😤 ATU - St. Angela's Grangegorman Alternative provider: ATU - Atlantic Technological University CAO Points: 330 Sligo Town CAO Points: 510 (1) Higher Education CAO Level 8 NFQ NFQ Type: Major MT930 Higher Education CAO Level 8 NFQ NFQ Type: Major MI022 Home Economics & Business - Cork Education Home Economics & Business Studies - Second Level Teaching - Thurles 🔗 MTU - Cork Campuses Ary Immaculate College - Thurles Campus Alternative provider: Mary Immaculate College Alternative provider: MTU - Munster Technological University O Thurles O Cork City CAO Points: 531 CAO Points: 495 Higher Education CAO Level 8 NFQ NFQ Type: Major AU987 Higher Education CAO Level 7 NFQ NFQ Type: Major TU761 Education Home Economics & Irish with concurrent Teacher Education - Second Level Teaching - Sligo St. Anglea's **Ophthalmic Dispensing - Grangegorman** ATU - St. Angela's 🔗 TU Dublin - Technological University Dublin Alternative provider: ATU - Atlantic Technological University () Grangegorman Sligo Town CAO Points: 429 (1) CAO Points: 316 Higher Education CAO Level 8 NFQ NFQ Type: Major AU986 Level 6 NFQ NFQ Type: Major Higher Education CAO TU654 Education Home Economics & Religious Education with concurrent Teacher **Pharmacy Technician Studies - Grangegorman** Education - Second Level Teaching - Sligo St. Anglea's 🞓 TU Dublin - Technological University Dublin S ATU - St. Angela's Alternative provider: ATU - Atlantic Technological University () Grangegorman Sligo Town CAO Points: 288 CAO Points: 424

## Popularity of Leaving Certificate Honours Subjects



# **Subject Grades Explorer**

#### Leaving Certificate Higher Level 2024



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** (a) 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 <u>www.myucd.ie</u> For contact details and Frequently Asked Questions, please see <u>www.ucd.ie/admissions</u>

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 Code	Course Title		Course Entry Requirements					Minimum Points		
		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 <sup>(1)</sup>	2	568	567	285
DN200	Science	O6/H7	O6/H7		O2/H6	O2/H6 <sup>(1)</sup>	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 <sup>(1)</sup>	2	400	400	250
DN261	Food Science	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 <sup>(1)</sup>	2	490	487	47
DN262	Human Nutrition	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 <sup>(1)</sup>	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) <sup>(3) (4)</sup>	See www.ucd.ie/grad_entry for details 5								
DN310	Veterinary Nursing	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 <sup>(1)</sup>	2	481	518	44
DN400	Medicine (Undergraduate Entry) <sup>(3) (5)</sup>	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 <sup>(1)</sup>	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 <sup>(1)</sup>	1	554*	544*	98
DN411	Diagnostic Radiography (Graduate Entry) <sup>(4)</sup>	See www.ucd.ie/grad_entry for details 20								
DN420	Physiotherapy <sup>(3) (4)</sup>	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 <sup>(1)</sup>	1	588	579	58
DN425	Sport, Health & Exercise Science	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 <sup>(1)</sup>	2	542	534	55
DN430	Sport and Exercise Management	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 <sup>(1)</sup>	2	478	484	58
DN440	Biomedical, Health and Life Sciences	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 <sup>(1)</sup>	1	600	601*	40
DN450	General Nursing <sup>(3)</sup>	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 <sup>(1)</sup>	2	408	393	164
DN451	Children's & General Nursing (Integrated) (3)	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 <sup>(1)</sup>	2	495	499	42
DN452	Midwifery <sup>(3)</sup>	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 <sup>(1)</sup>	2	519	510	27
DN453	Mental Health Nursing (3)	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 <sup>(1)</sup>	2	367	407	39

# Present Shortages

#### **1** SKILLED TRADES

electricians, welders, mechanics

#### **3** ENGINEERS

chemical, electrical, civil, mechanical

#### 5 MANAGEMENT



low, middle & top level management

#### 7 DRIVERS

truck, delivery, construction, mass transit



#### 9 HEALTHCARE

doctors, nurses and other non-nursing health professionals



#### **2** SALES REPRESENTATIVES



B2B, B2C, contact center

#### 4 TEACHERS



primary and secondary school education

#### 6 PROFESSIONALS

project managers, lawyers, researchers

#### 8 OFFICE SUPPORT

administrative assistants, PAs, receptionists

#### **10** TECHNICIANS

quality controllers, technical staff



# 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: ሰ ም በ 🖜

1. What are your interests?

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- 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.



The Higher Education Access Route



The Disability Access Route to Education



# Any Questions?

# Doates@StCiaranscs.ie

