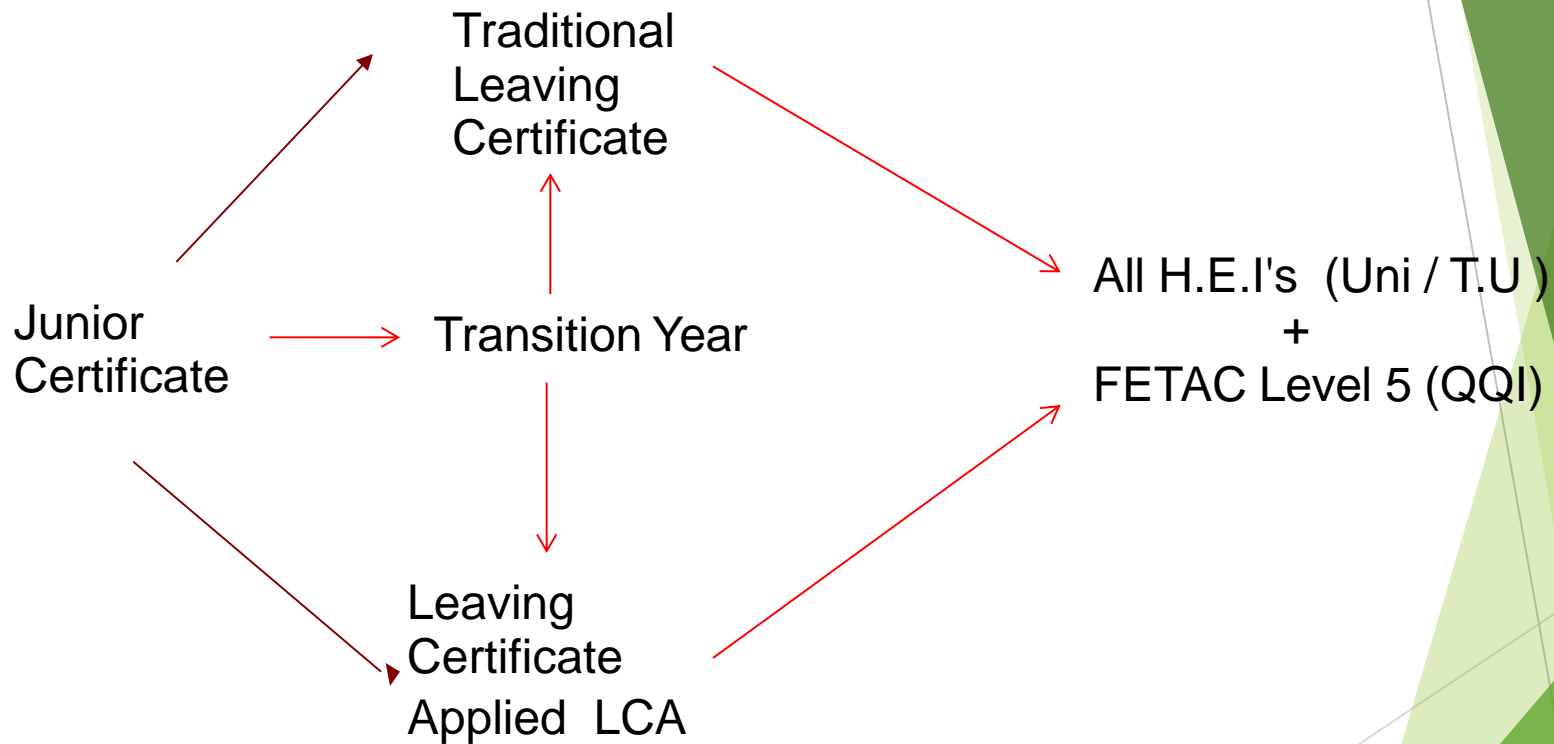


Parents Night SUBJECT CHOICE April 16th 2026

Leaving Certificate 2026-2028





HEI=Higher Education Institute
Uni=Universities
I.O.T= Institute of Technology
T.U = Technological Universities

Useful Websites

qualifax.ie

careersportal.ie

classroomguidance.ie

cao.ie

careersnews.ie

curriculumonline.ie

SUBJECT CHOICE



When it comes to making subject choice it is important to get advice and to choose wisely as it has far reaching implications for the future.

You should consider the following:

Is the subject essential for certain third level courses?

Is the subject relevant?

Is the subject attractive?

* Individual College prospectus must be checked carefully for exceptions. Also use www.qualifax.ie

Core Subjects

All students must choose 7 subjects for the Leaving Cert cycle.

The following 3 Subjects are Mandatory for all students:

- Irish *
- English
- Maths





You may choose 4 subjects from the following groupings

Subject Groupings

Language Group

French, German, Spanish

Science Group

Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Agricultural Science.

Business Studies Group

Accounting, Business, Economics.

Applied Science Group

Design Communications Graphics , Home Economics,
Construction Studies , Technology

Social Studies Group

History, Geography, Art, Music

Subjects with a practical element

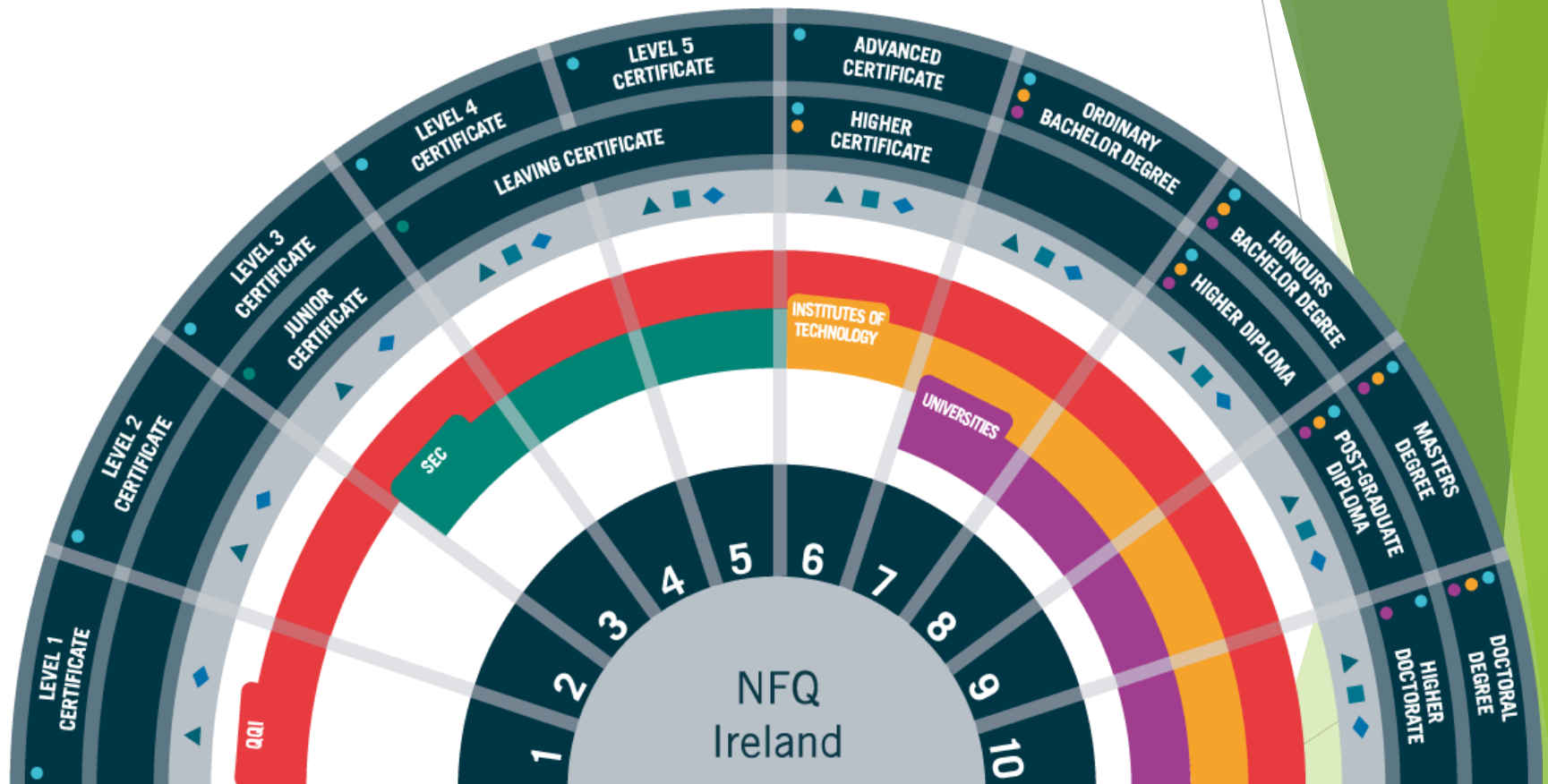
Many subjects have project work that accounts for a substantial percentage of the overall grade which can ease the burden on students in the final exam. For example:

-History	20% Project	+	80% Exam
-Geography	20% Field Study	+	80% Exam
-Art	62% Practical	+	38% Exam
-DCG	40% Portfolio	+	60% Exam
-Construction	50% Practical	+	50% Exam
-Technology	50% Practical	+	50% Exam
-Music	50% Practical	+	50% Exam
-Ag Science	25% Practical	+	75% Exam
-Home Ec.	20% Journal	+	80% Exam
-*Business	40% Investigation	+	60% Exam
-*Physics, Chemistry, Biology	40% Practice Investigation	+	60% Exam

Grading System

LC GRADE	% MARK
H1/O1	90-100
H2/O2	80-89
H3/O3	70-79
H4/O4	60-69
H5/O5	50-59
H6/O6	40-49
H7/O7	30-39
H8/O8	0-29

National Qualifications Framework



Getting into College

General Requirements

6 Subjects

2H5s

English, Irish &
a Language



Specific Course Requirements

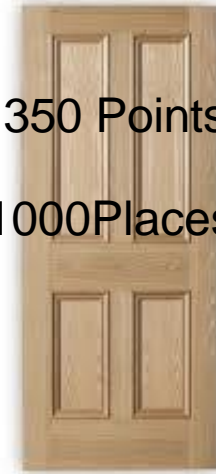
None



Points

350 Points

1000 Places



ARTS – NUI Galway

Getting into college

General Requirements

6 Subjects

2H5s

English, Irish



Specific Course Requirements

Maths H4

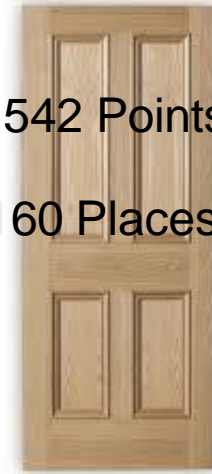
Science



Points

542 Points

160 Places



Engineering – NUI Galway

Minimum Entry Requirements

Institution	Minimum Entry Requirement	Required Subjects
NUI Colleges (NUI Galway UCD, UCC, Maynooth)	2 H5 + 4 O6/H7	06/H7 in English, Irish, Maths & a modern language ** <i>**Exception NUIG, UCD NUIM for <u>most</u> Science/Engineering</i>
Trinity College Dublin	3 H5 + 3 O6/H7	06/H7 in Maths, English, Irish or Third Language
DCU	2 H5 + 4 O6/H7	06/H7 in Maths, English or Irish
UL	2 H5 + 4 O6/H7	06/H7 in Maths, English, Irish or Third Language
Technological Universities eg ATU (L8)	2 H5 + 4 O6/H7	06/H7 in Maths, English or Irish
(L6/7)	5 O6/H7	

Specific Course Requirement

- These are set by the individual faculty.

Some examples:

- **Science NUIG** requires O6/H7 in one Science.
- **IT (NUIG)** requires H6 or O2 in Maths.
- **Veterinary Medicine (UCD)** H4 Chemistry
- **Primary school teaching (All colleges)** H4 in Irish
- **Engineering (NUIG)** requires H4 in Maths and O6/H7 in Science.
- **Genetics** in UCC requires a H4 in Biology
- **Human Health & Disease TCD** H4 in Biology & Physics / Chemistry
- **Arts (Mathematics and Education NUIG)** requires H5 or O1 in Maths.

POINTS ALLOCATION

%	L.C. Grade	Honours	L.C. Grade	Ordinary	Bonus*
90<100	H1	100	O1	56	25
80<90	H2	88	O2	46	25
70<80	H3	77	O3	37	25
60<70	H4	66	O4	28	25
50<60	H5	56	O5	20	25
40<50	H6	46	O6	12	25
30<40	H7	37	O7	0	0
0<30	H8	0	O8	0	0

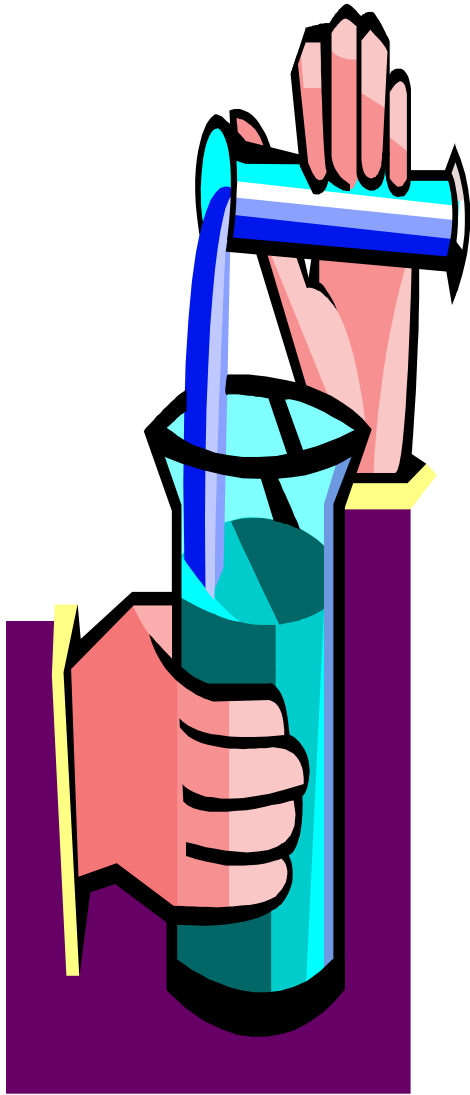
Bonus* for Higher level Maths only

L Cert Life, Community and Work

Points: Distinction 66 Merit 46 Pass 28

Accompanying Conditions:

- The **six best** results in one Leaving Certificate Examination will be counted for the calculation of points.
- Points vary from college to college and from year to year. The points reflect
 - (a) the result of the applicants for that year and
 - (b) the number of available places for that year on the course
- They are not set by individual colleges. CAO regulates points yearly.
- Points do not guarantee a place at third level as basic entry and faculty requirements must also be satisfied
- 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.
- (HEI = Higher Education Institutes)



Desirable Subjects

- 1 **science subject** (often 2 science subjects) is essential for careers in medical, paramedical careers (Physiotherapy, Radiography, Human Nutrition, Pharmacy Medical laboratory Science) and Nursing.
- 1 **science subject** is required for a career in Engineering and most faculties of science require you to have a laboratory science subject.
- **Consult Qualifax.ie**

2 Science Subjects

- Pharmacy (**UCC**)
- 5 Year Medicine (**RCSI**)
- Medicine & Dental Science (**TCD &UCC**)
- Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Human Health & Disease, Biological & Biomedical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Physical Sciences(**TCD**)

Science Essential

SCIENCE

ENGINEERING*

MEDICINE*

DENTISTRY*

VETERINARY*

PHARMACY*

PHYSIOTHERAPY**

RADIOGRAPHY

NURSING

NAVAL CADETS

* Means specific subject
required

ARCHITECTURE

OCCUP. THERAPY

SPEECH THERAPY

SPORTS SCIENCE

MED LAB SCIENCE

DIETETICS

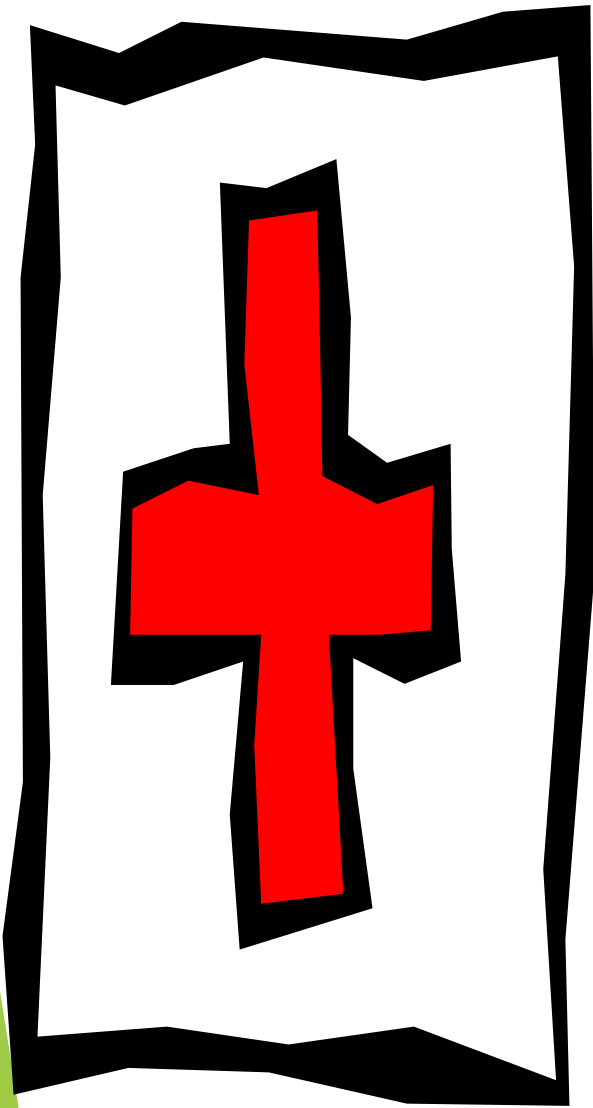
OPTOMETRY

PRODUCTION MGT.

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

INFO. TECH.

** TCD



CHEMISTRY

- PHARMACY
- VETERINARY
- MEDICINE
- DENTISTRY
- HUMAN NUTRITION

School

All Leaving Cert Subjects

Useful Subject Tips

Guide to Choosing Subjects

Subjects & Career Choice

Subjects by Grade Explored

FAQs

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 Technology

Engineering

Physical Education

Technology



Anne-Marie Kennedy, Chartered Sport Psychologist

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

What I didnt expect in my psychology degree was the level of maths and statistics that was required. I was not at

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

Artistic & Creative Group

These subjects involve developing creativity and the appreciation of the work of others. This involves learning the methods and techniques of the subject and producing your own work using these skills.

- Art
- Drama, Film and Theatre Studies
- Music
- Design and Comm Graphics

Humanities Group

statistics that was required. I was poor at maths and struggled a bit with this aspect of my degree. I probably would have chosen biology for leaving cert in hindsight just to get a better insight into how the brain works.

I found honours English throughout secondary school did help as I was used to writing essays and critically analysing pros and poetry. There was a lot of philosophy in my degree which can be taxing if you havent been exposed to it before so if there was an option to do a philosophy subject I would recommend that.

Ask me another question!

 **Laura Glendon, Multilingual Software Support SAP**

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

Career Zone

1 2 3 4 5



NFQ Level

4

Duration

2 Years

Summary

Grades Awarded

Course Overview

Course Content

Exam Structure

Career Possibilities

3rd Level Requirements

Summary

The video player displays a collage of images related to chemistry, including a person in a lab coat, a person in a blue shirt, and a person in a white lab coat. A large red play button is centered over the collage. The video title is "Studying Chemistry for Leaving Cert" and the channel is "CareersPortal". At the bottom right of the player, it says "Watch on YouTube".

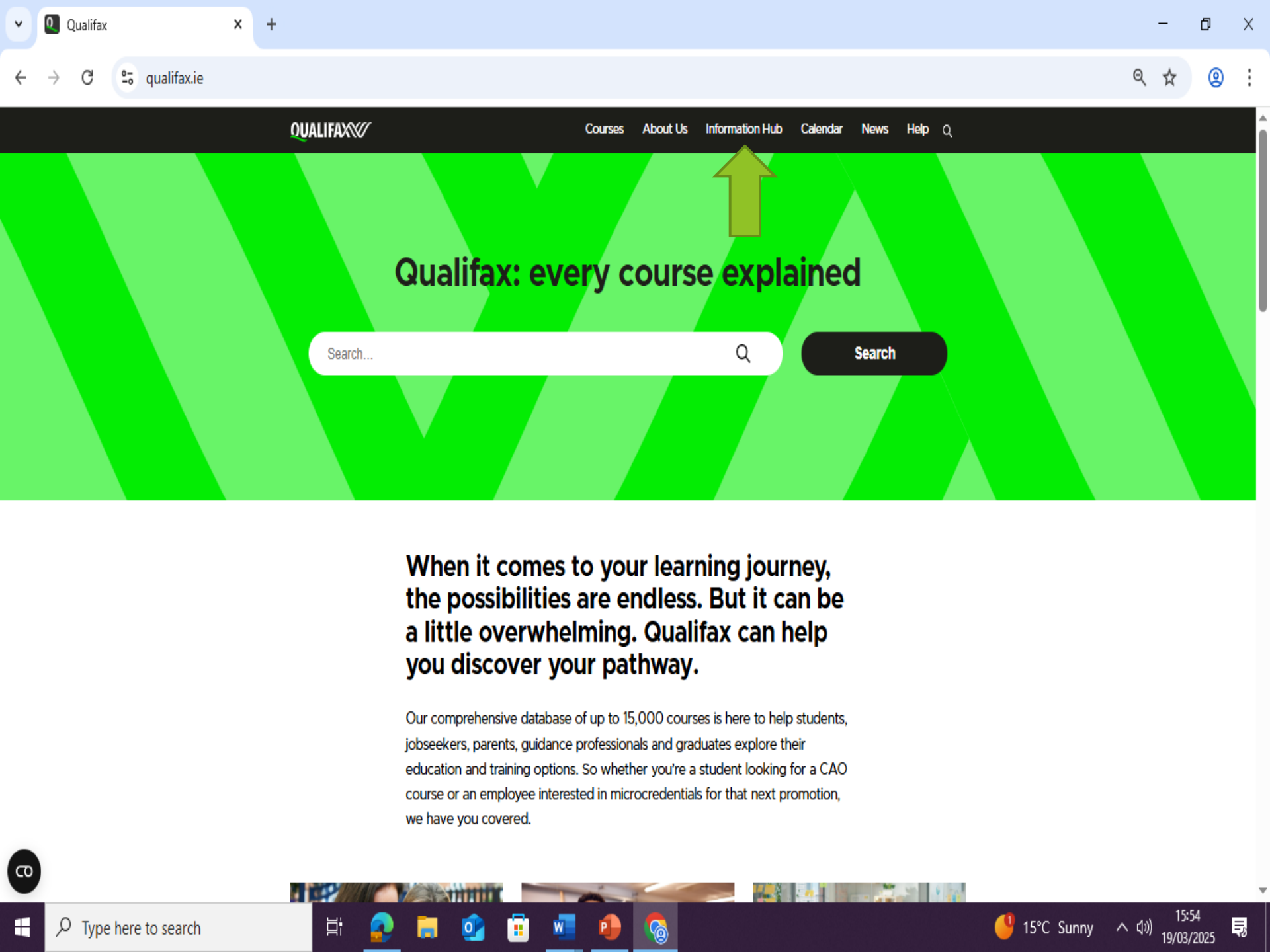


Studying Chemistry - Chemistry

Researching Subject Choice with Qualifax

The logo for Qualifax, featuring the word "Qualifax" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letter "Q" is stylized with a thick, horizontal blue bar extending from its base. A small "TM" trademark symbol is positioned above the "X".

QualifaxTM



Qualifax: every course explained

When it comes to your learning journey, the possibilities are endless. But it can be a little overwhelming. Qualifax can help 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.



Adult learners



Apprenticeships



CAO



Further Education and Training



Guidance advice



Postgraduate Opportunities



Student supports



Studying Abroad

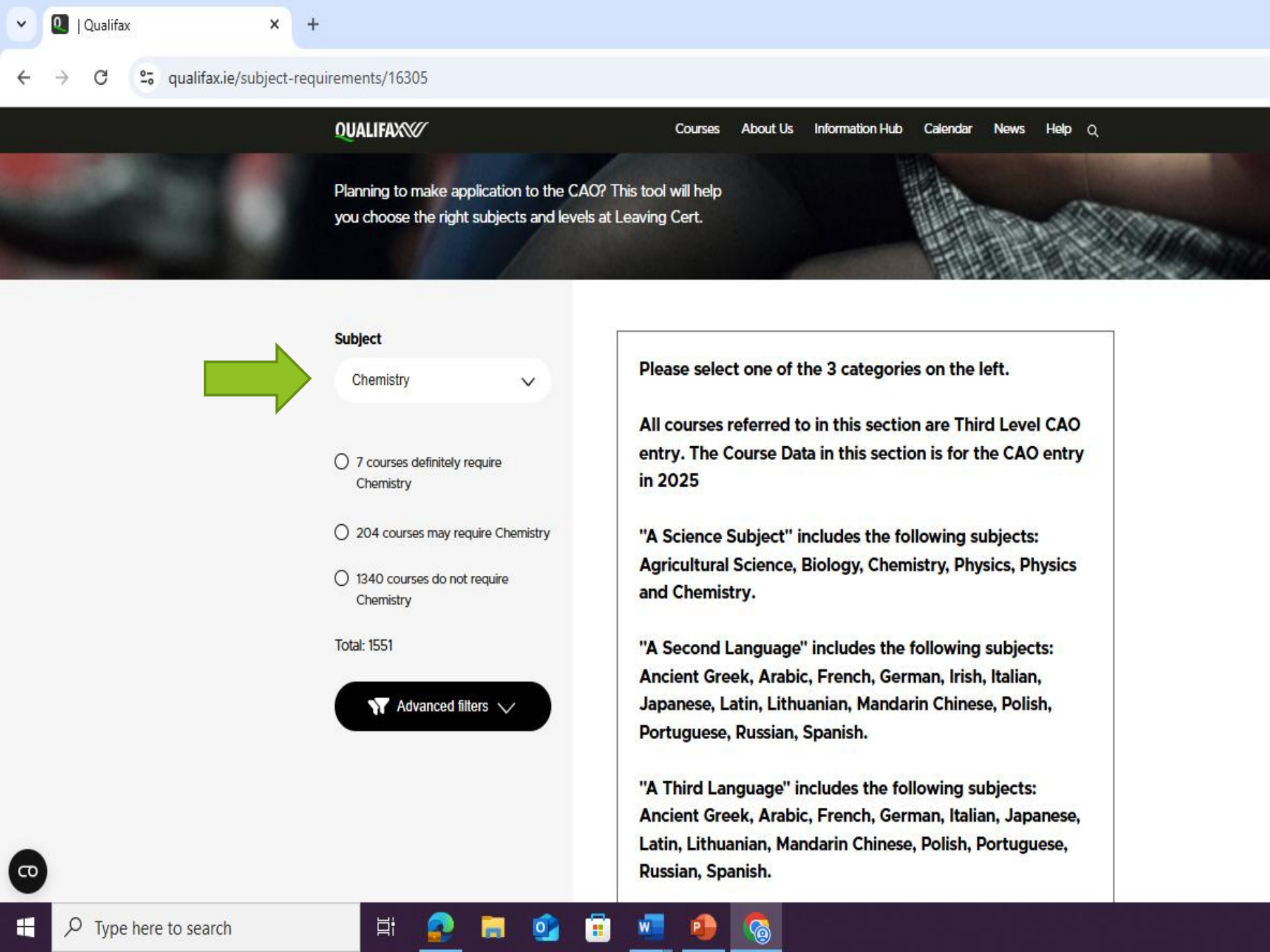


Recognition of Prior Learning



National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)





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



Subject

Chemistry

- 7 courses definitely require Chemistry
- 204 courses may require Chemistry
- 1340 courses do not require Chemistry

Total: 1551

Advanced filters

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.



What courses require Honours Irish/Maths?

- IRISH: Higher Irish (H4) is the main subject requirement for Primary teaching . Some degree programme have Irish as a core subject. (e.g. Irish + Journalism in DCU or Gno agus Cumarsaid (ATU).
- MATHS: All level 8 honours degree programmes in Engineering require H4 . Some level 8 honours degree programmes in Information Technology also Actuarial studies, Financial Maths+ Economics, Theoretical Physics require Higher level Maths.
- * Individual College prospectus must be checked carefully for exceptions. Also use www.qualifax.ie

What happens if you do not take a third language?

We recommend that all student take a 3rd language so as to keep their options open

Most University courses have a language component

Your son/daughter will not meet the entry requirements to several college courses or entry to some professions

What influences Subject Choice

- Perceived as being 'easy' or 'hard'
- Likes/dislikes the teacher, or the teacher they think will be teaching them
- Friends/parents/significant others such as siblings

Faulty thinking is saying.....

- Only really intelligent swots do that subject!
- That's only a subject for girls/boys
- None of my friends are doing it, so I'm not going to do it!

► Consider

- Needing the subject for course/career choice after the Leaving Certificate
- Being good at the subject – attainment in JC. Some students appear to do better at certain subjects and this may be due to a practical element – Art, Tech Graphics, Music
- -Subjects that students do best in are those they are interested in and enjoy. So you should choose the subjects that you like best - they yield higher points
- -All subjects require a two year commitment.

Summary of Subject Choice

- ▶ Talk to students studying subjects at the moment
- ▶ Talk to teachers of the subject
- ▶ Look at a copy of the textbook & maybe exam paper.
- ▶ Subject Choice is necessary for forward planning.
- ▶ Students should choose subjects
 - That interest them,
 - That they have an Aptitude for (or are good at) ,
 - That satisfies the entry requirements 3rd level
- ▶ Of utmost importance is the relevance of third language for NUI colleges.
- ▶ Keep options open if uncertain about a career.- one Science**, one Business and one broad. The broader the choice of subjects the more career choices later.
- ▶ Be mindful of alternative routes of entry.
- ▶ Research is vital when choosing subjects.
- ▶ ** Look out for courses requiring 2 Science subjects

Subjects OPTIONS in 5th Year

LINE 1: Irish/Subject for those exempt

LINE 2: English

LINE 3: Maths

LINE 4: French / German /Spanish/ Resource

LINE 5

LINE 6:

LINE 7:

Leaving Certificate Life, Community and Work

Extra subject

- Life, Community and Work (LCW) is a new, two-year Leaving Certificate subject starting in September 2026, replacing the current LCVP. It focuses on practical skills for adult life, work, and community involvement. Develops competencies in communication, teamwork, and critical thinking for future education and employment.
- Assessed at a common level, it consists of a 60% portfolio... Includes a digital portfolio containing coursework, such as a CV and career investigation, developed over two years and a 40% written exam
- **Recognition:** Distinction = 66 Pts (H4), Merit = 46 Pts (H6), Pass = 28 Pts
{Distinction 80%-100% Merit 65%-79% Pass 50%-64%}

The range of Subjects to offered in Sept 2026 will depend on teacher availability.

SUBJECT CHOICE IS PART OF CAREER CHOICE.

CAREER CHOICE IS A PROCESS AND NOT AN EVENT.

Career websites to assist you :

www.qualifax.ie

www.careersportal.ie-
(https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer.php)

www.careersnews.ie

www.cao.ie

www.curriculumonline

www.courses.ie

www.ucas.com

www.eunicas.ie

Study in UK
Study in Europe