

SUBJECT CHOICE

Ard Scoil na nDéise
2026

Ms. C. O'Shea
Guidance Counsellor

Leaving Certificate Established

7 Subjects

Core subjects for examinations:

- English
- Irish
- Maths

Also non exam subjects of:

Computers, Physical Education, Health Education, Religion, Career class

Choice Subjects Groups Overview

Languages:

French

German

Creative/Practical:

Art

Music

Humanities:

History

Geography

Sciences:

Physics

Chemistry

Biology

Social:

Scientific and Social
(Home Economics)

Business:

Accounting

Economics

Business

Accounting

Art

Biology*

Business*

Chemistry*

Economics

French

Geography**

German

History

Music

Physics*

Scientific and Social (Home Economics)

Subjects

What do I need to know?

(a) Ability in the Subject

(b) Interest in the Subject

(c) Knowledge of the Subject

Online platforms (Reach programme)

Teachers

Past or Present Pupils

Past Papers

Textbooks/Curriculum

Research/Information Needed for Subject Choice

Career Areas (What do I need to know?)

- (a) Minimum Entry Requirements
College Web Sites/Career Notice Board/qualifax.ie

- (b) Essential Versus Desirable
Subjects
e.g.. Science Subject/3rd language
College websites/qualifax.ie

- (c) Options Available/Unavailable
Plan B

Best **six** subjects counted for CAO

Leaving Certificate Grades/Points

LC Grade	Higher	Lower	Bonus points Higher Maths
H1/O1	100	56	25
H2/O2	88	46	25
H3/O3	77	37	25
H4/O4	66	28	25
H5/O5	56	20	25
H6/O6	46	12	25
H7/O7	37		

Minimum Entry Requirements - Examples

Institution	General Entry Requirements	Required Subjects
NUI Colleges	2 H5 & 4 O6/H7	O6/H7 in Eng, Irish & Oth. Language*
Trinity College	3 H5 & 3 O6/H7	O6/H7 in Eng, Maths & Oth Lang.
SETU	2 H5 & 4 O6/H7	O6/H7 in Maths*, Eng or Irish

Veterinary Medicine Example

Institution	General Entry Requirements	Required Subjects
UCD	2 H5 & 4 O6/H7	O6/H7 in Eng, Irish, Other Language & Maths H5 Chemistry , 589 points Min. 60 hrs practical experience
ATU	2 H5 & 4 O6/H7	O6/H7 in Eng & Maths H4 Chemistry AND H4 Biol or Ag. Science or Physics Min. 60 hrs practical experience *Casper Test
SETU	2 H5 & 4 O6/H7	O6/H7 in Maths, Eng or Irish H4 Biol or Chemistry Min. 60 hrs practical experience

CAREER AREAS

RESEARCH! RESEARCH!

Research:

- Online career platforms
- Career websites
- College prospectus
- Career Interviews
- Career books

(Outside GC office)

Results from:

- Interest tests online
and in class
- Work Experience(TY)
- Job Shadow

CAREER AREAS RESEARCH! RESEARCH!

more options

Found **1785** courses [Clear All Filters](#) View Sort by Course Title [Print](#)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AU902 CAO	Accounting (Sligo Campus)	ATU Sligo	8	3 Years	320 ▲ 4	▼
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DB521 CAO	Accounting and Finance	Dublin Business School - DBS	8	3 Years	242 ▲ 48	▼
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DC115 CAO	Accounting and Finance	Dublin City University - DCU	8	3 Years	532 ▲ 9	▼
<input type="checkbox"/>	DK810	Accounting and Finance	Dundalk Institute of Technology -	8	3 Years	210 ▼ -17	▼
<input type="checkbox"/>						254	▼
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MH403 CAO	Accounting and Finance	Maynooth University	8	3 Years	412 ▲ 3	▼
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ID001 CAO	Accounting and Finance	ICD Business School	8	3 Years		▼
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NC022 CAO	Accounting and Finance	National College of Ireland - NCI	8	3 Years	336 ▲ 6	▼

CAO Entry Requirements

CAO Points 949

New CAO courses for 2026

No Maths required

Accepts Foundation Maths

Accepts Ordinary Maths

Lab Science required

Lab Science not required

Modern Language required

Modern Language not required



A few key
points to keep in mind

A Third Language

- You do not need a foreign language for all third level studies but it is a necessity for entry to the **National Universities of Ireland (UCC, UCD, UCG, RCS and NUI Maynooth** (unless you are exempt due to a disability (e.g. a hearing problem or dyslexia).
- Some exceptions like **Nursing (all)** and most recently **Engineering and Sciences** courses in most of these universities. Business courses
Maynooth
- Others include St Angela's College -all Home Economics
- Theology at Pontifical University Maynooth
- Shannon College of Hotel Management

The following NUI universities and colleges require a pass in a third language for most of their courses:

- UCC
- NUI Galway
- UCD
- NUI Maynooth
- The Royal College of Surgeons
- Pontifical University, Maynooth
- Shannon College of Hotel Management
- Cadetships Army

Modern Languages - not required

Course Name or Code —

Example: "ani" will find animal and mechanical.

My Favourites 0

Career Sectors —

- Accountancy, Finance & Insurance ▼
- Agriculture, Animals & Food ▼
- Business, Sales & Tourism ▼
- Creative Arts, Fashion & Media ▼

CAO (Higher Education - HET) × Modern Language not required × University of Galway - UG ×
University College Dublin - UCD × University College Cork - UCC × Maynooth University ×
National College of Art and Design - NCAD × RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences ×
ATU Sligo St. Angelas ×

Found **182** courses [Clear All Filters](#)

View

Sort by [Print](#)

Save	Course	Course Title	College	NFQ Level	Duration	QQI Links	Points	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MH403 CAO	Accounting and Finance	Maynooth University	8	3 Years	↻	412 ▲ 3	▼
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DN230 CAO	Actuarial & Financial Studies	University College Dublin - UCD	8	4 Years		613	▼

- **NB** These exceptions are **increasing** so check the individual course requirements carefully!

<http://www.nui.ie/college/entry-requirements.asp>

A Science Subject is required for most Science, Medical, Paramedical, and Nursing, Engineering or Technology areas.

2 Science Subjects required for:

Some Science based courses at Trinity College, e.g. Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Medicine**, Dental Science, Human Genetics, Nanoscience ..

Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy in UCC. ***(H4 in Chemistry and either Physics or Biology)***

Also.....

**HPAT also required. Also for Occupational Therapy (UL) and Speech & Language Therapy (UL)

Chemistry is required for :

Dentistry - UCC & Royal College of Surgeons

Veterinary Medicine - UCD

Human Nutrition and Dietetics - TU Dublin

Medical & Health Sciences - UCC

Medicine - UCC

Pharmacy - UCC & Trinity (RCSI - 1 science)

Medical & Health Sciences - UCC

Biology is required for

Genetics - UCC

Health Science with Dietetics Studies - ATU

Health Science with Occupational Therapy Studies -
ATU

Health Science with Physiotherapy Studies - ATU

Human Health & Disease - Trinity

Immersive Bioscience & Biotherapeutics - UL

Physiotherapy - ATU

Physics is required for
Theoretical Physics -
Trinity

***Also important for
Engineering and Electronics***

Check requirements carefully

CAO (Higher Education - HET) x Lab Science required x

Search for any course name c

Exam
mechanical.

My Favourites

Career Sectors

Accountancy, Finance & Insurance

Agriculture, Animals & Food

Business, Sales & Tourism

Creative Arts, Fashion & Media

Government, Law & Education

Healthcare, Wellbeing & Sport

Found **213** courses [Clear All Filters](#)

View

Sort by



Course Title



Save	Course	Course Title	College	NFQ Level	Duration	QQI Links	Points
	RC006 CAO	Advanced Therapeutic Technologies	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences		4 Years		476 ▲ 1
	LM077 CAO	Aeronautical Engineering	University of Limerick - UL		4 Years		556 ▲ 2
	DN250 CAO	Agri-Environmental Sciences - Agricultural Science	University College Dublin - UCD		4 Years		431 ▲ 31
	CK412 CAO	Agricultural Science	University College Cork - UCC		4 Years		484 ▲ 62
	DN250	Agricultural Science -	University College				471



Jan 21

17:19 IE

Course Name or Code

Search for any course name or code

Example: "art" will find art and mechanical.

My Favourites

Career Sectors

Accountancy, Finance & Insurance

Agriculture, Animals & Food

Business, Sales & Tourism

Creative Arts, Fashion & Media

Government, Law & Education

CAO (Higher Education - HET) x Lab Science not required x

Found 1572 courses [Clear All Filters](#)

View

Sort by



Course Title

Print

Save	Course	Course Title	College	NFQ Level	Duration	QQI Links	Points
	CM004 CAO	Oideachas - Bunmhúinteoireacht - Trí Mheán na Gaeilge (daltai Gaeltachta - TEG)	Marino Institute of Education		4 Years		496 # ▲ 25
	DL847 CAO	3D-Animation	Institute of Art, Design and Technology Dun Laoghaire - IADT		4 Years		605 # ▲ 27
	CK202 CAO	Accounting	University College Cork, UCC		3 Years		510 ▲ 12

To check for individual subjects

qualifax.ie/subject-requirements



garvan.com bookmarks Tyro Classroom Edco Learning - Boo... Gill Explore - Dashb... Worldometer - real ti... Population of WORL...



Courses About Us Information Hub Calendar News Help Q

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

- Select -



Advanced filters



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

A broad range of subjects might
look like this:

- One Language
- One Business
- One Science
- One Humanities

.....however

Words of Warning

- Beware of prejudices and rumours of others
- Do not base subject choice on what your friends are choosing.
- Do not base subject choice on who you think the teacher may be!!!!
- Choose what is best for you!!

Lastly, give consideration to:

- Motivation - full time commitment, 2 years!
- Best Results
- Keep Options Open
- Important to Have a Plan B

Options On Leaving School

Options on Leaving School

Leaving Certificate

Further Education

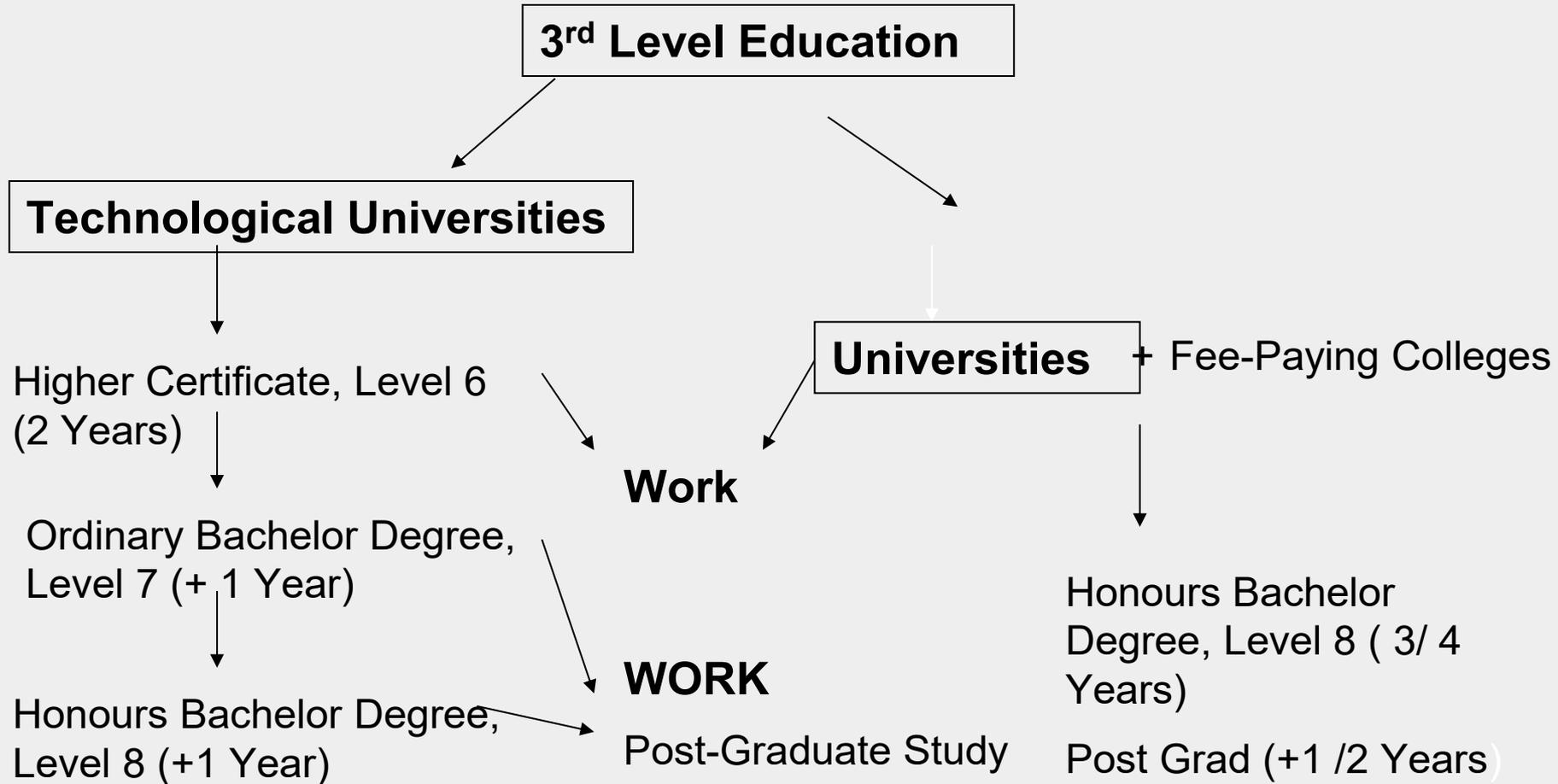
3rd Level Education

- Work
- Apprenticeship
- Youth Training and Employment Scheme
- Adult Course
- Garda Síochána
- Banking
- Defence Forces

- Further Education Courses
- Agricultural Courses

FETAC

Options on Leaving School



**Follow on Opportunities

New Initiatives

Launched in 2023, Tertiary Education Programmes are a new pathway to a bachelor's degree. A joint further and higher education degree programme, beginning in a local Education and Training Board Centre (College of Further Education and Training) and finish in a University e.g. Nursing, Business, IT courses

Over 40 courses started in 2024.
eg. Bachelor of Business degree
- year 1 Dungarvan College, year 2 & 3 SETU

More info at <https://nto.heai.ie/courses/>

More varied types of Apprenticeships on offer
<https://apprenticeship.ie/career-seekers/jobs>

Helpful Websites

- www.qualifax.ie
- www.careersportal.ie
- www.ncca.ie Subject Fact Sheets
- University and College websites
- <https://apprenticeship.ie/career-seekers/jobs>
- <https://nto.heai.ie/courses/>

Thank you

ciaraoshea@ardscoildungarvan.com