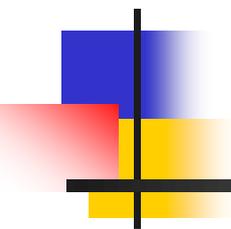
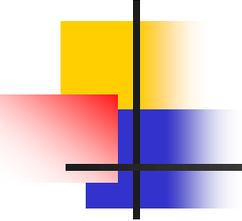


Subject and Grade Requirements for Entry to Irish Universities and Technological Universities 2026



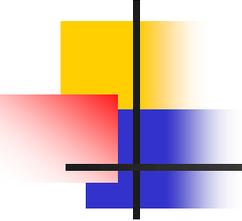
Presented by
Kathy Mc Manus & Teresa Connaughton
Maynooth Post Primary School
Guidance Department



Basis for Choice

- In making this choice your son/daughter must take the following into consideration:
 1. Interests: What they like to do in school/outside of school.
 2. Ability and strengths: What are they good at?
 3. College/Career Entry Requirements



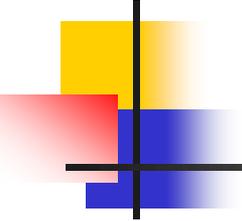


Who Chooses and Who Helps?

- **TEACHERS** : Advise on whether or not your son/daughter has the aptitude required for a certain subject.
- **GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS:** Advise students about course requirements and career opportunities, both in class and during individual Guidance appointments.
- **PARENTS/GUARDIANS:** Can discuss options and give your views.

Subject Choice Presentation will be on the school website and will help inform decisions

The final decision must be left to your son/daughter

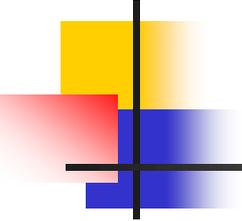


College Requirements



When making subject choices there are two broad areas which should be considered:

- **Having the essential subjects for a course**
- **Maximising points and getting the grades specified by colleges**

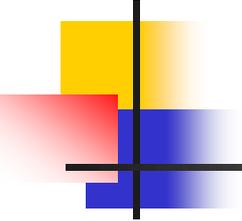


Leaving Cert Points

Grade %	Points	Grade %	Points
H1 - 90-100	100		
H2 - 80-89	88		
H3 - 70-79	77		
H4 - 60-69	66		
H5 - 50-59	56	O1 - 90-100	56
H6 - 40-49	46	O2 - 80-89	46
H7 - 30-39	37	O3 - 70-79	37
H8 - 0-29	0	O4 - 60-69	28
		O5 - 50-59	20
		O6 - 40-49	12
		O7 - 30-39	0
		O8 - 0-29	0

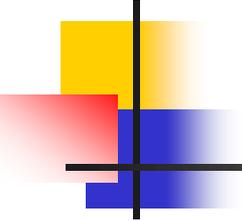
Students who achieve grade H6 or above in Higher Level Maths will be awarded 25 bonus points.

LCVP Grade	% Score	LCVP Points
Distinction	85 - 100	66
Merit	65 - 79	46
Pass	50 - 64	28



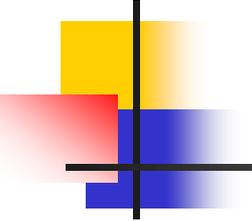
Core Subjects

- Beyond the essential core subjects of **Irish, English and Maths** the number of courses which require specific subjects is, in fact, quite small.
- Specific subject course requirements usually refer to **a modern language** or **science subject**
- **Be aware that some courses have Higher Level subject requirements. IGC Booklet**



Matriculation

- Each college has certain *subject requirements, without which a student will not be considered for any college place (Irrespective of points)*.
- These are sometimes called [minimum entry requirements or matriculation](#).
- All information is available on Careersportal.ie
- Qualifax.ie / Individual College websites



Matriculation Requirements

NUI National University Ireland

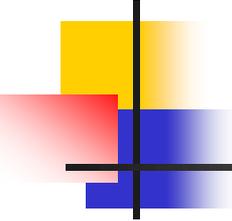
English, Irish, a Modern Language (Ord/Higher) + 3 other subjects
4 x O6/H7 2 x H5 = total 6 subject

*Irish/Modern Language exemption (specific grounds)

NUI Colleges: UCD, UCC, NUIG, MU - Level 8 Hons Degree and other courses affiliated with NUI
eg. NCAD, RCSI

Modern Language No longer required for Agriculture, Engineering, Science and Nursing UCD,
Engineering & Science UCC and MU.

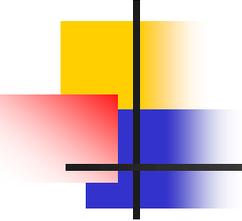
MU no longer require a third lang (modern lang) for Business, Accounting, Finance and Law
degree programmes.



Matriculation Requirements (cont'd)

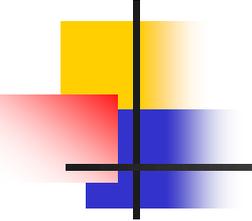
- **TCD** English, Maths a Mod Lang (Ord/Higher)
(eg. Irish/French/German/Spanish)
 - + 3 other subjects
 - 3 x O6/H7
 - 3 x H5
 - = total 6 subjects (Level 8 Hons Degree)

- **DCU** Maths, English/Irish (Ord/Higher)
 - + 4 other subjects
 - 4 x O6/H7
 - 2 x H5
 - = total 6 subjects (Level 8 Hons Degree)



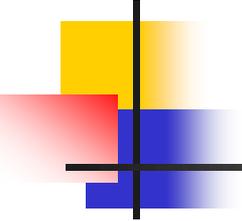
Matriculation Requirements (cont'd)

- TUDublin and other Technological Universities Degrees (Level 8) Honours
 - English/Irish, Maths (Ord/Higher)
 - + 4 other subjects
 - 4 x O6/H7
 - 2 x H5 = total 6 subjects
- TUDublin and other Technological Universities Certificates (Level 6) and Ordinary Degrees (Level 7) Higher
 - English/Irish, Maths (Ord/Higher)
 - +3 other subjects
 - = 5 x O6 or H7
- (Foundation level Maths is accepted for a number of courses where Maths is not part of the course)



Specific Course Requirements

- In addition to matriculation requirements, some courses and faculties have specific subject requirements, **which must be checked in the college prospectus/website as they may change from year to year**, Eg. Veterinary Medicine UCD (H5 Chemistry + Work Experience) or Media Studies, Maynooth University (H5 English)

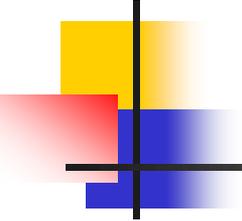


Remaining Subjects

- These should be selected from those that your daughter/son is interested in and those in which he/she will be able to gain the highest grades.

INTEREST & ABILITY = SUCCESS 😊

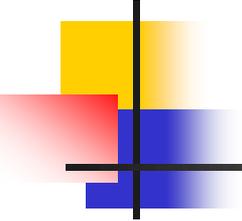




To keep most options open

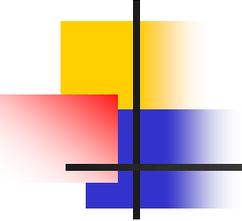
- To keep most options open, then a modern language and at least one science subject may be taken.
- **However, your son/daughter should not choose a subject that he/she really dislikes and maybe is not very good at, just to keep all options open.**





2 Business or Science subjects?

- Students who by 3rd year have discovered they have a leaning towards a particular group of subjects e.g. [Business or Science](#) would be well advised to take a second subject in their favourite group.
- It is not necessary to have taken a Business subject in school to study Business in college.
- It is not necessary to have studied Engineering in school to study it at 3rd level

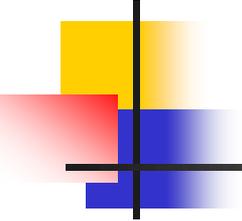


Science subjects



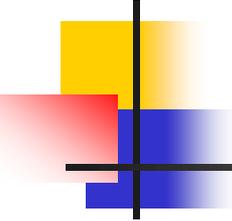
- If he/she is interested in a career in:
 - Science
 - Medical or Paramedical area (Radiotherapy, Physiotherapy, Nutrition, Pharmacy, Sports Science, Nursing, Medicine)
 - Most Engineering courses

The requirement is at least one Science subject.



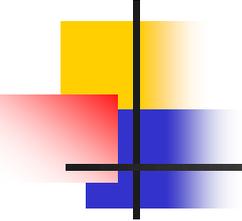
Which Science subjects?

- Some science courses require 2 Science subjects (see careersportal, qualifax.ie)
- For Medical/Nursing courses - Biology and/or Chemistry are preferable



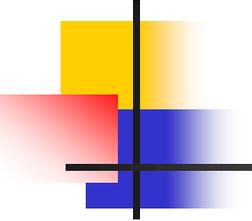
Which Science subjects?

- For Engineering, some students may find it helpful to have taken 2 Science subjects, particularly Physics & Chemistry or Applied Maths
- Chemistry is required for Veterinary, Pharmacy, Dietetics, Public Health Nutrition, Dentistry, some courses in Medicine



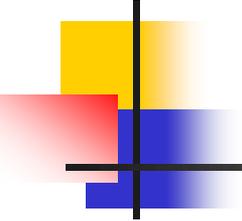
Languages

- A language is needed for some NUI courses. (Apply to NUI.ie in the case of language exemption) Other colleges may have separate language waiver forms which may need to be completed. (relevant college websites)
- You do not need a language for: TCD (if you have Irish), DCU, TUDublin and other Technological Universities (unless you are doing a course which includes the study of a language)
- Industry & employers rate language skills highly especially if combined with computing, science, business.



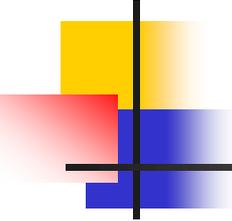
Useful Websites

- www.cao.ie; Central Applications Office
- www.qualifax.ie; Database of courses and career information in Ireland and abroad subject choice module, self-assessment test
- www.careersportal.ie; Study skills test, career videos, course videos, self-assessment test, job profiles, further education and PLC courses, good subject choice info.
- www.ucas.com (UK/NI) eunicas.com (Europe)
- www.ncca.ie National Council for Curriculum Assessment- subject descriptors
- www.curriculumonline.ie/seniorcycle
- www.susi.ie (Grants)
- www.accesscollege.ie (HEAR and DARE)
- www.apprenticeship.ie
- www.nto.ie



How to use Qualifax for subject requirement search

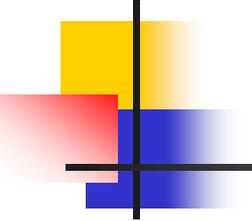
- www.qualifax.ie
- Scroll to bottom of page
- Click “Subject Requirement Tool”
- Select Subject and use Advanced Filter for more specific details
- Will help clarify requirements for many science based or medical courses



Students should make informed choices!

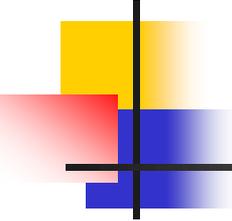
Research the content of subjects:

- Subject Choice Presentation available on School Website
- Talk/Email teachers
- Talk to students doing the subjects
- Seek out sound advice-not negative advice
- Research courses and careers
- Check the careers notice board and websites regularly
- Contact Guidance Counsellors
- Don't choose subjects based on who you think will be teaching the subject
- Do not make choices on what friends are doing



Summary

- Beyond core subjects of Irish, English and Maths there are very few specific subject requirements
- When there is a specific subject requirement it is usually for a modern language or science subject, so these will keep most options open
- Look at interest and aptitudes and choose subjects they like
- Remember: there are many options after Leaving Certificate



Other Options after Leaving Cert

- Colleges of Further Education; 1or 2 years study; Post Leaving Cert course = QQI (Fetac) Level 5 Certificate. 5 x O6 + interview/reference(s) eg. Dunboyne CFE, Ballyfermot CFE, Marino,
- www.nto.ie
- Apprenticeships, Employment
- Study Overseas, ETB training courses
- Defence Forces, Military.ie, Gardaí,
- Teagasc.ie (Agricareers.ie Horticulture)

Checklist

Subject Choice

CHECKLIST DATE: _____

No	ACTIVITIES	YES	NO
1	I have gone through and understand the presentation on Subject Choice covered in class by the guidance counsellor		
2	I know which websites are helpful and where to find the relevant information on them		
3	I understand what is meant by Matriculation Requirements/ Minimum Entry Requirements and where to find more information on them		
4	I understand what is meant by Specific Subject Requirements and where to find more information on them		
5	I have read all the relevant information on www.careersportal.ie		
6	In particular I have used www.careersportal.ie to read the in-depth information on each subject I intend to choose		
7	I know how to use www.qualifax.ie		
8	I know how to check entry requirements on www.qualifax.ie for courses in which I am interested		
9	I have looked at the subject presentations on the school website		
10	I have gone through all of the Subject Choice information with my parents/guardians at home and discussed my subject choice with them		
11	I have asked the relevant subject teachers any questions I have about choosing the subjects in which I am interested.		
12	I have looked at the entry requirements directory supplied to all on the subject fair evening		
13	I fully understand the implications of my subject choices and am aware I should go back to the guidance counsellors or subject teachers if I did not understand something		

If you have answered yes to all of the above statements you are now ready to input your choice on Vsware. Remember to input these choice in order of preference.
Deadline; March 2025

Maynooth Post Primary

Essential Websites for Subject Choice

Research for extensive information

Topic	Web Address	Description
CAREERS PORTAL Course search, career paths and subject choice information	https://careersportal.ie	Excellent site with information and resources on all available courses in each university and college and on career choices. It also provides a comprehensive guide to Subject Choice for the Leaving Certificate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Log onto www.Careersportal.ie ☐ Click onto Communities (Just below top menu bar) followed by School ☐ Click onto Leaving Certificate, then select Leaving Certificate Subjects <p style="text-align: center;">Here you will find information under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Guide to choosing subjects ☐ Subjects by Grade Explored ☐ All Leaving Cert Subjects ☐ Subjects and Career Choice ☐ Useful Subject Tips ☐ FAQs
QUALIFAX course searching	https://www.qualifax.ie	Provides an A to Z of courses in Ireland and information on each one, including the necessary entry requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Log onto www.qualifax.ie ☐ Scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click onto Useful Tools ☐ Click on CAO Subject Requirements ☐ Select the Leaving Certificate Subject you wish to check and apply filters as appropriate
Matriculation Requirements	https://mtr.ie	Matriculation requirement information for the NLI Colleges/Universities
Apprenticeships	https://www.sabos.ie https://apprenticeship.ie	Information on apprenticeships
Central Application Office	https://www.cao.ie	Information on all Third Level courses currently on offer and the application process.
UCAS	https://wwwucas.com	College application system for the UK
EUNICAS	https://www.eunicas.eu	Helps students to explore and secure a third level course of their choice in the EU
MPPS website	https://www.mpps.ie/page/5th-Year-Subject-Choice/50762/index.html	Key information on 5th year options subject choice. Presentation explaining the importance of research, entry and subject requirements. Description of optional leaving certificate subjects available to study in MPPS.