



# Studying in Ireland

Career FAQs for students of the European Schools



1. I am unsure about what I want to do after completing my BAC exam. What options are available to me in education in Ireland when I'm finished?

The world is your oyster! You can consider applying to university, there are seven under the National University of Ireland (NUI). Another option is to research applying to Institutes of Technology (IoT), of which there are fourteen in Ireland, so plenty to choose from! Independent/private colleges form a third option, while teacher training along with other specialised courses in education are yet another choice.

To see the full listing and contact details of universities, IoTs, private and teacher training colleges see: <http://www.ncge.ie/reports/Study%20In%20Ireland%202010.pdf>

To hear more about your choices after second level see:

<http://www.examsupport.ie/samples/ CVS-SM-82-002/index.html>.



Time saving Tip! To hear more about this topic alone, check out the timer at the bottom of the screen on the video and tune in from 3:40 to 4:34! Levels 6, 7 and 8 of the National Framework of Qualification are explained between 5:00-6:20.

2. I want to apply to third level colleges in Ireland. How and when do I do it? Oh yeah, and are there specific provisions for students with disabilities?

Applications to first year undergraduate courses are processed by the Central Applications Office (CAO). The participating higher education institutions in the Republic of Ireland retain the function of making decisions on admissions. The closing date for applications is the 1st of February each year.

For a detailed presentation on applying through the CAO and downloading the application form, see:

<http://www.examsupport.ie/samples/ CVS-SM-82-002/index.html>.



Time saving Tip! Check out the timer at the bottom of the screen on the video and tune in from 10:15-22:52)

To answer your second question- yes there are provisions for students with disabilities! The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on a reduced points basis to school leavers with disabilities. It is for school leavers who have the ability to benefit from and succeed in higher education but who may not be able to meet the points for their preferred course due to the impact of their disability.

For more information, including DARE Advice clinic dates, language exemptions, and a DARE guide video, see: <http://www.accesscollege.ie/dare/contact.php>



Provision is also made for students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds through the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) scheme, which offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. For more information see: <http://www.accesscollege.ie/hear/contact.php>

### 3. What are the BAC equivalencies?

The BAC equivalencies help to 'translate' your grades in the Baccalaureate exam to those of the Irish system, to help you determine whether you are eligible for a course.



Trinity College has different BAC equivalencies to National University of Ireland (NUI) colleges. Check out the link below.

<https://docs.google.com/open?id=0B3rQnxypGtKISDRoVDhzcmxTZk93YVhQUXdjZDQwZw>

### 4. I am confused about my future career- what should I be thinking about?

When confused the best place to start is with who and what you **do** know



Look at what you **do** know! Check out the link below and start thinking about the career which appeals do you most.

<https://docs.google.com/open?id=0B3rQnxypGtKINVU0WIFpYVVURIdCcnhaV3YxOEkwUQ>



Check out the following tips on deciding what to study in college:

<http://www.examsupport.ie/samples/ CVS-SM-82-002/index.html> (Tune in from 25:26-26:18)

5. Where can I find out more about courses available in Ireland?

The most comprehensive database of course available in Ireland is Qualifax- [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie).

It's easy- you can search by course type, name, institution type, number of points required, course code, career area, even by province! You can also take an interest assessment and check qualifications.

If you want to narrow down your course search, find out more about specific occupations first. Hear from those on the frontline what it is *really* like to work in your area of choice! Check out: <http://www.careersportal.ie/careers/index.php>



Check out these tips on how to use Qualifax:

[http://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=129&Itemid=27](http://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=129&Itemid=27)

6. Do language exemptions apply to me as a student of the European Schools?

If you are Irish and have lived and been educated outside Ireland for three years then you are entitled to an exemption from the Irish language requirement for courses that you wish to apply for in National University of Ireland (NUI) colleges. Irish is not a required matriculation subject for Trinity College Dublin (TCD).

In order to have the exemption verified you **must** download the exemption form from the NUI website - [www.nui.ie](http://www.nui.ie). Get this signed by your school principal, and return it to the NUI. Full details of eligibility criteria, matriculation requirements, and exemption forms are available from [www.nui.ie](http://www.nui.ie).



To confirm your exemption you **must** download the exemption from [www.nui.ie](http://www.nui.ie). Failure to do so could mean that you are deemed ineligible for entry to NUI college courses.

7. I want to plan ahead.. is it expensive to study in Ireland?

For EU students attending approved third level courses, the 'Undergraduate Free Scheme' covers the cost of tuition but not the cost of registration, examinations and student services. In order for an international applicant to qualify under the scheme, they must satisfy three criteria: (i) nationality (hold EU nationality/official refugee status), (ii) residency (have been resident for at least three of the previous five years in an EU member state) and (iii) previous studies (must be first time undergraduates).

To find out more about course fees, grants, student assistance funds, funds for students with disabilities and scholarships, check out: [www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie)

For advice on the likely costs in Ireland and budgeting as a student here: <http://www.examsupport.ie/samples/CVS-SM-82-002/index.html>



Time saving Tip! Check out the timer at the bottom of the screen on the video and tune in from 23:53 to 25:23

8. What type of accommodation is available for third level students?

Each educational institution differs on the type of accommodation available, with some providing specific provision for students on site or in student 'villages'. Almost every institution will have a specific section on its website dedicated to accommodation. To check out the accommodation webpages on third level institutions in Ireland, see:

[http://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=187&Itemid=214](http://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=187&Itemid=214)



In addition to checking out the website of each institution, give them a call! It is worth asking whether preference is given to first year undergraduates. It may be possible to stay on campus- less trekking to those lectures!

### 9. How do I find out about Open Days?

It is highly recommended that you make the time to visit the institution you wish to apply to in advance, this can be very valuable in terms of your choice of college/institution. Qualifax has a listing of open days and you can also search for future events! Check out:

[http://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com\\_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=22](http://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=22)



To get the most from your Open Day experience- prepare, prepare, prepare! Check out the institution's website in advance and make a list of questions about the academic and sports, social aspects etc. If you have a physical /learning disability, enquire about the resources available on campus.

Preparing in this way will focus your time on the day and means you get you the most from your visit!