

CHOOSING A COURSE

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS AND ADVICE



There are 3 important aspects to the process



Reflect



Research



Reach out



Reflect

Look back at the 'knowing yourself' questions & results from your interest tests.

- What am I good at?
- What are my strengths?
- What do I like?
- What are my favourite subjects? Why?
- What career areas interest me? Why?
- Will this career area suit my personality?

Remember

- You don't always need to have studied something as a subject at school, to study it in college- if it interests you and you feel you have an aptitude for it, it is worth exploring!
e.g. Business, Marketing, Accounting, Data Analytics, Music, Psychology, etc.
- Several courses offer languages at beginner level.
- Transferrable skills are gained throughout your studies. There are opportunities to specialise at Post Graduate Level in many disciplines. Some will require specific prior knowledge, others won't.



Research

Tools to explore courses and options -

- **The Euroguidance 'European Schools' section of the website**
(which will be updated annually)
<https://euroguidance.ie/european-schools>
- **Course finder**
www.qualifax.ie *
www.careersportal.ie *
https://careersportal.ie/courses/simple_search.php?default=1&types_in=2
- **Career stories:**
<https://careersportal.ie/articles/index.php>
<https://cc.careersportal.ie/interviews/index.php>
<https://cc.careersportal.ie/videos/careers.php>
- **View college course videos:**
<https://careersportal.ie/videos/courses.php>
- **Explore each college- virtually:**
<http://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=hei&type=general>
(links to college websites)
https://careersportal.ie/colleges/cd_notices.php (college updates)
- **Open Days/ Student Experience days**
https://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=22 (college events)
https://careersportal.ie/colleges/cd_events.php (college events)
- **Apply to taster days & summer school in Ireland -**
sample information below.
<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/undergraduate-studies/summer-school> (information for 2021 not available yet)
<https://ucdsummerschool.ie/> (information for 2021 not available yet)
<https://www.dcu.ie/ctyi/summerscholars/index.shtml>
(information for 2021 not available yet)
<https://www.dcu.ie/ctyi/summerscholars/courses.shtml>
<https://www.iadt.ie/news/creative-arts-summer-school>
<https://www.iadt.ie/news/taster-days-17th-20th-february-2020> (information for 2021 not available yet)
<https://www.ncad.ie/study-at-ncad/visit-ncad-open-days/> (workshops/events)(information for 2021 not available yet)



Reach out

Use your connections:

- Talking to someone who works in a career you think you might like can be very useful. Prepare questions in advance.
- Ask parents, relatives, friends. Don't be shy!

Seek summer work experience / job shadowing:

- Once you've decided on a career sector you like, try and get some on the job, real world experience. You'll learn quickly what you like and don't like about the role. The challenges and pressures as well as the opportunities.

Remember

There is never just one path to a specific career. Ask the adults around you about their career journey so far.

- Did they know they'd be in their current role 10 years ago?
- Did they ever lose out on an opportunity only to find a better one presented itself afterwards?
- Did they take the 'scenic route' to where they are currently in their career?
- Has hindsight taught them anything interesting?

You might find some ideas for questions to ask here: <https://euroguidance.ie/sites/default/files/resources/EG-Share-YOUR-Journey-EN.pdf>

ALWAYS check and double check the following:

- Do I meet the minimum matriculation requirements for this college?
- Do I meet the minimum requirements for this course?
- Is there anything else I need to prepare? e.g. a portfolio/ audition/ entry test etc.
- Does it have a work experience placement?
- Does it have a study abroad opportunity?
- What skills will I gain by doing this course?
- What will this course lead to?
- Will I enjoy it?

Examples of specific requirements:

- NUI colleges require **Irish***, English and a Third Language in most courses for matriculation purposes. (e.g. UCC, NCAD, RCSI, UCD, NUIG, NUIM, St. Angela’s College)

The language requirement often differs for courses in the science area - always check.

**See exemption information.*

- IT’s require English **or** Irish and **generally** do not require another language. (IADT and NCI work similarly.)
- TCD & UL **generally** require a certain grade in English & either Irish or another language
- Many courses will have a maths grade requirement.

Samples of specific course requirements for courses in 2019/20:

See the specific grade requirements below and using the table on pg 83 of <http://www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/Guidelines-EU-EFTA.pdf>, try to work out what the EB equivalent grade would be:

- Engineering (UCC)(UCD)(NUIM)- H4 Maths.
In the EB this would mean I need _____
- Medicine (UCC)- H4 Chemistry & Bio/Physics.
In the EB this would mean I need _____
- Data science and analytics (UCC)- H3 Maths requirement.
In the EB this would mean I need _____
- Primary School Teaching -H4 in Irish.
In the EB this would mean I need _____
- Biomedical engineering (DCU)- H4 Maths.
In the EB this would mean I need _____
- Journalism (DCU)- H4 English.
In the EB this would mean I need _____
- Human Nutrition & Dietetics (TUD)- H4 Chemistry.
In the EB this would mean I need _____
- Theoretical Physics (TCD)- H3 Physics.
In the EB this would mean I need _____
- Veterinary Medicine (UCD)- H5 Chemistry & animal handling. **In the EB this would mean I need _____**
- Financial Maths (UL)- H3 Maths.
In the EB this would mean I need _____

See if you can figure out what EB grade is required. Don’t worry if you can’t work it out, your Guidance Counsellor will guide you through!

Note:

- Most medical/science-based subjects (Inc. Nursing/ Speech& Language Therapy etc.), require at least 1 lab science subject
- Courses where you will be studying a language specifically will usually have a higher language grade requirement.

The below document also contains information regarding

- Entry requirements for the participating universities
- Recognised subjects

<http://www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/Guidelines-EU-EFTA.pdf>

In particular, the following will be of interest*:

- Pg. 4-13 (Introduction etc)
- Pg.: 83/84 (the European Baccalaureate)
- Pg.: 88- 97 (Recognised subjects)

Note:

Although included in the agreed entry requirements document, Trinity calculates scores in its own way!

See: <https://www.tcd.ie/study/apply/admission-requirements/undergraduate/>

