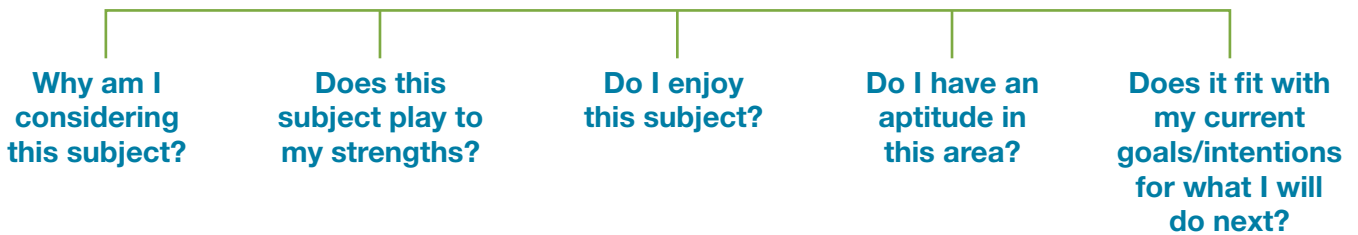


# CHOOSING SUBJECTS

## WHAT TO CONSIDER



When choosing subjects, there are a few things to consider



You should consider what third level course/ path you might be interested in when you leave school. If you have specific courses in mind, check that your subject choices and levels match the entry requirements for these courses.

### If you don't know what you want to study yet

- Research your subject options- what does each subject entail? What will I be learning? How will I be examined?
- Assess your subject options using the questions above.
- Reach out to others- speak with your teachers, parents, those who know you well.
- Do you know what subjects you don't want to do? (that's useful information too!)



### Important to consider

#### Recognised subjects

- Strongly consider picking 'distinct' subjects, where possible. Some HEIs will not consider a subject studied at advanced level as two distinct subjects. (e.g. L2 and Advanced L2 etc.)

#### Matriculation requirements/ Subject requirements/ Grade requirements

- It is also important to check what subjects and levels you might need for college/ courses/ career areas you are contemplating. e.g. you will require a certain level of English; you may require a certain level of math; a specific language or a specific science subject etc.

#### Levels:

- It is advisable, where possible, to keep as many >3-hour subjects as possible. These convert towards more 'points'
- Where possible, try to keep up > 5-hour math as it is awarded bonus points in several colleges. (see examples). Trinity College award these bonus points for >3hour math.

#### Remember

- Choosing subjects that suit your nature, play to your strengths and match your interests is important.
- Look at the result of your career interest test and explore career sector options that might suit you. (see example).
- If you are still unsure, it is advisable to take a good mixture of subjects to keep future options open.

### 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:

The Minimum Subject Requirements tool on 'Qualifax' is a really useful way to find out what subjects are needed for courses. [https://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com\\_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=77](https://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=77)

See the specific grade requirements below and using the table on pg 84/5 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. 84/85 (the European Baccalaureate)
- Pg. 90-99 (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/index.php>

