

Ireland-

Researching your options

Higher Education, Further Education and Training Opportunities



Education and Culture

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RESEARCHING HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The higher education or third level sector in Ireland is comprised of universities, technological colleges and teacher training colleges (colleges of education), also some non-State-aided private/independent colleges. As English is the language of instruction, students must demonstrate a proficiency in English to be accepted for studying a third level programme.

Each university has an International Office and/or Web Page that will provide information to EU and non-EU applicants in relation to educational requirements, application procedures, fees, and many other aspects of living and studying in Ireland.

UNIVERSITIES

There are seven universities in the republic of Ireland. These universities offer degree programmes at Bachelor, Masters, and Doctorate levels and postgraduate diplomas in a range of disciplines. The universities undertake research at many levels and are also involved in continuing and distance education.

National University of Ireland, Maynooth

Faculties: Arts, Science, Engineering,

Celtic Studies and Philosophy.
www.may.ie

National University of Ireland, Galway
Faculties: Arts, Engineering, Medicine & Health Sciences, Celtic Studies, Commerce, Law, Science.
www.nuigalway.ie

The University of Limerick
Colleges: Kemmy Business School, Education, Humanities, Engineering, Informatics and Electronics, Science.
www.ul.ie

University College Cork
Faculties: Arts, Celtic Studies, Commerce, Engineering, Food Science and Technology, Law, Medicine, Science.
www.ucc.ie

University College Dublin
Faculties: Arts, Agriculture, Celtic Studies, Commerce, Engineering & Architecture, Human Sciences, Interdisciplinary Studies, Law, Medicine, Science, Veterinary Medicine.
www.ucd.ie

University of Dublin, Trinity College
Faculties: Arts (Humanities), Arts (Letters), Business, Economics & Social Studies, Engineering & Systems Sciences, Health Sciences, Science.
www.tcd.ie

Dublin City University

Faculties: Engineering & Computing, Science & Health, Humanities & Social Sciences, Oscail, Joint faculty of Education Studies.

www.dcu.ie

Details of higher education institutions in Ireland are available from:

The Higher Education Authority
An tUdaras um Ard-Oideachas
Marine House, Clanwilliam Court,
Dublin 2

T +353 1 6612748

F +353 1 6610492

www.hea.ie

INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY

There are fourteen Institutes of Technology (IoTs) in the Republic of Ireland. IoTs provide Honours Degree, Ordinary Bachelor Degree, and Higher Certificate level courses, mainly in science, engineering, technology and business. Some offer courses in humanities, languages, healthcare, art and design, tourism, agriculture and horticulture. Postgraduate, continuing education and distance education programmes are also offered in many Institutes.

The Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) awards

qualifications and sets and monitors standards at all levels of higher education and training up to PhD level. Ireland has a National Framework of Qualifications maintained by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland www.nqai.ie. HETAC (www.hetac.ie) validates the awards of the Institutes of Technology except in certain instances where Institutes are allowed to validate their own programmes. The quality and standard of Irish educational awards is recognised globally.

Each institution has an International Office and/or web page that will provide information to EU and non-EU applicants in relation to educational requirements, application procedures, fees, and many other aspects of living and studying in Ireland.

Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT)
Schools of Business Studies,
Engineering, Humanities and Hospitality
Studies and Science
www.ait.ie

Cork Institute of Technology (CIT)
Schools of Business and Humanities,
Engineering, Science and Computing.
Crawford College of Art & Design and
Cork School of Music are constituent
schools of Cork Institute of Technology.
www.cit.ie



Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) DIT has statutory authority to award its own degrees at all levels. It is the largest third level institute in Ireland. Faculties of Applied Arts, Built Environment, Business, Engineering, Science, Tourism and Food
www.dit.ie

Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) Schools of Business and Humanities, Engineering, Science and Computing
www.dkit.ie

Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT) School of Business and Humanities, School of Art Design and Media, and School of Science and Technology
www.iadt.ie

Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) Schools of Business and Humanities, Engineering, Science, Nursing and Hotel and Catering
www.gmit.ie

Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) Schools of Business, Computing, Design, Engineering, Nursing and Science
www.lyit.ie

Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) Schools of Art and Design, Engineering, Professional and Management Studies, Department of Information Technology,

Department of Applied Science, Centre for Tourism and Hospitality Studies
www.lit.ie

Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown (ITB) School of Informatics and Engineering and School of Business and Languages
www.itb.ie

Institute of Technology, Carlow (ITC) Departments of Humanities & Applied Languages; Business & Management Studies; Mechanical, Civil & Construction Engineering; Electronic Engineering; Computing, Physics & Mathematics; Applied Biology & Chemistry
www.itcarlow.ie

Institute of Technology, Sligo (IT Sligo) Schools of Business and Humanities, Engineering, Science, and Life Long Learning.
www.itsligo.ie

Institute of Technology, Tallaght (IT Tallaght) Schools of Science, Engineering and Business and Humanities
www.ittallaght.ie

Institute of Technology, Tralee (ITT) Schools of Business and Social Studies, Engineering and Construction Studies, Science and Computing
www.ittralee.ie

Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)
Schools of Science, Humanities,
Engineering and School of Accountancy,
Business Studies and Adult Education
www.wit.ie

TEACHER TRAINING IN IRELAND

In Ireland the system of teacher training differs between primary and second level school teachers. (Primary School children are generally aged 4 -12 and Post Primary are 12-18)

Primary school teachers in Ireland receive training at one of the colleges of education. The Bachelor of Education degree (B.Ed.) is awarded on successful completion of an undergraduate degree lasting three to four years. Courses leading to undergraduate degrees in education are provided by the following colleges:

Church of Ireland College of Education,
Co. Dublin. www.cice.ie

Froebel College of Education, Co.
Dublin
www.froebel.ie

Mary Immaculate College of Education,
Limerick
www.mic.ul.ie

St Patrick's College of Education
www.spd.dcu.ie

The Marino Institute of Education
www.mie.ie

Please note that there is an Irish Language requirement in some of the courses leading to teaching qualifications in Ireland. Please check with individual colleges.

Teachers at post-primary level follow an undergraduate degree programme in various disciplines followed by a one-year Higher Diploma in Education. If you intend to teach at post-primary level you must ensure that the subjects you have chosen are recognised for teaching purposes. The Higher Diploma in Education (known as H Dip) is available in the following Universities:

National University of Ireland,
Maynooth
www.may.ie

National University of Ireland, Galway
www.ucg.ie

University College Cork
www.ucc.ie

University College Dublin, Dublin
www.ucd.ie

University of Dublin, Trinity College,
Dublin
www.tcd.ie



OTHER SPECIALISED COURSES IN EDUCATION:

Mater Dei Institute of Education (A College of Dublin City University)
Training of religious educators for post-primary level.
www.materdei.ie

St. Angela's College
Degree and post graduate courses available in Home Economics, Religious Education, Economic and Social Studies, Nursing – Bachelor of Nursing Science Degree, General and Mental Handicap
www.stacs.edu.ie

For further information on qualification requirements to teach at primary level, contact:

Department of Education and Science
Primary Registration Unit
Athlone, Co. Westmeath

T +353 90 6483734
F +353 90 6476939
www.education.ie

For further information on requirements for teaching at second level, contact:

Department of Education and Science
Post Primary Registration Unit
Athlone, Co. Westmeath
T +353 90 6483823

F +353 90 6476939
www.education.ie

INDEPENDENT / PRIVATE COLLEGES

There are a number of independent private education institutions in Ireland that offer a range of programmes in areas such as accountancy, art, business studies, hotel and catering, humanities, law, medicine, primary teacher training etc. Many of the programmes offered by these colleges are validated by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC). Some Colleges have links to Universities in Ireland and overseas (usually UK) through which accreditation is awarded. For a list of independent colleges accredited by the National Qualifications Authority see the International Education Board of Ireland website www.educationireland.ie and HETAC www.hetac.ie

APPLYING TO THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION IN IRELAND

Access to third level education in Ireland is competitive. Obtaining a place on a particular course depends on the subjects undertaken in the Irish Leaving Certificate (or equivalent qualifications obtained by overseas students). Application for full-time undergraduate degree and higher certificate courses validated in the Republic of

Ireland are made through the Central Applications Office (CAO). The CAO provides a handbook and application pack listing all the courses available and how to apply. You can also access this information, and complete your application on line, this is a less expensive method www.cao.ie. If the Higher Education Institution (HEI) you have chosen is not part of the CAO system, make direct enquiries to the institution. The closing date for all EU applicants is February 1st of the year of admission. Non EU applicants are advised to apply well in advance of the closing date of February 1st, preferably not later than 15th December of the previous year. Some HEIs require non-EU applicants to apply direct to the institution. Applicants should contact the admissions office of the Higher Education Institution they wish to attend to enquire whether they need to apply to the institution or through the CAO system. Applicants presenting qualifications other than Irish school leaving examination should also make enquiries to the admissions office of their chosen third level institution.

COSTS

For EU students attending approved third level courses, the "Undergraduate Free Fees Scheme" implemented by the Department of Education and Science covers the cost of tuition but does not

cover the cost of registration, examinations and student services.

In order for an international applicant to qualify under the "Undergraduate Free Fees" scheme they must satisfy three criteria.

- hold EU nationality or official refugee status.
- have been ordinarily resident in an EU member state for at least three years of the five preceding their entry into an approved third level course.
- applicants must be first-time undergraduates.

Any applicant NOT eligible under the "Undergraduate Free Fees Scheme" may be eligible for financial support through their local authority under the "Higher Education Grants Scheme". Applicants should contact their local authority.

For more information on maintenance grants contact:

The Third Level Support Unit
Department of Education and Science
Portlaoise Road,
Tullamore, Co. Offaly
T + 353 506- 24381
F +353 506-51340
www.education.ie



For more information on fees relating to higher education contact:

Free Fees Initiative.

Higher Education Section
Department of Education and Science
Marlborough St., Dublin 1

T +353 1 8892220
F +353 1 8896596
www.education.ie

Details of scholarships and bursaries are available from third level institutions.

Students from new EU member states entering undergraduate higher education in Ireland for the first time in the 2004/2005 academic year are entitled to be considered under the Free Fees Initiative. However students from new EU member states already registered for courses may not change their status.

MATURE STUDENTS

An applicant who is at least 23 years of age on 1st January of the year of entry or re-entry to an approved third level course may be considered a mature student. Mature EU candidates in most cases apply for third level undergraduate education through the CAO system, paying special attention to the section for mature applicants. In all

cases, EU and non- EU intending mature candidates must contact the admissions officer or the mature student officer in the HEI of their choice, well in advance of the February 1st deadline as regulations can vary. Some HEIs have different definitions of mature applicants. Some institutions have different age requirements and some will consider applications received after 1st February. Most HEIs require non-EU mature applicants to apply direct to the institution.

For further information or copy of Mature Student Handbook contact:

Department of Education and Science
1 Marlborough St
Dublin 1
T +353 1 8896400
www.education.ie

For mature students attending approved third level undergraduate courses in Ireland the payment of fees will be governed by the same criteria as outlined above for EU and non EU candidates.

For information on grants available to EU Candidates contact:

Department of Education and Science
Student Support Unit
T +353 1 8734700

Non-EU mature applicants should contact the information office of the HEI they wish to attend for details of fees and examination costs.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES

There are a large range of post-graduate courses plus research opportunities available in the third level sector in Ireland. Courses are offered on a full and part-time basis with options for distance learning offered by some institutions. Applicants for most postgraduate studies require a primary degree. Entry is competitive and applicants will need to provide evidence of academic achievement if they are to secure a place. With the exception of teacher training in the National University of Ireland Colleges, there is no centralised applications system for postgraduate study.

Graduate Diplomas can be taught or research based, full or part time, or delivered through distance learning. The time requirements will depend on which option you choose. A taught graduate diploma undertaken on a full time basis normally takes one year.

A masters degree can be taught or research based, full or part time or distance learning.

A taught masters degree undertaken on

a full time basis normally takes one year.

A doctorate degree is research based and normally requires a full time commitment of at least three years.

As there is no central application system for postgraduate study the deadline for applications varies from one institution to another. Applicants should investigate the closing dates and other relevant information well in advance of the course starting date.

As a postgraduate student you can expect to pay fees, unless you are eligible for a grant. The fees vary between courses and between institutions. For information regarding costs intending candidates should contact the relevant third level institutions.

For more information and lists of courses available see www.gradireland.ie

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have a disability or specific learning difficulty you are encouraged though not obliged to indicate this on your CAO application form. If you are not applying through the CAO system you are encouraged to inform the relevant institution. The purpose is



solely to support access to higher education by students with a disability or specific learning difficulty. Each applicant is aware of their particular needs and the access office in consultation with the student endeavours to provide the supports identified.

For further information you should contact the access officer at the relevant HEI or

The National Disability Authority
www.nda.ie

AHEAD Association for Higher Education Access and Disability
www.ahead.ie

RESEARCHING FURTHER EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.

A wide range of vocational education and training courses are offered to students who have completed their second level education. The principal programmes are Post Leaving Certificate courses (PLCs), apprenticeship training and a variety of vocational courses, ranging from nursing to catering.

CERTIFICATION

Further Education and Training Awards Council(FETAC) (www.fetac.ie) awards are part of the national framework of qualifications in Ireland. Programmes

leading to FETAC certification are provided by FÁS, Fáilte Ireland (formerly CERT), Teagasc centres and further education centres including the VECs. The Institutes of Technology also deliver craft apprenticeship programmes. A FETAC award offers pathways to employment and further education and training. FETAC awards are nationally and internationally recognised.

POST LEAVING CERTIFICATE COURSES.

Post Leaving Certificate courses (PLCs) are aimed at young people who have completed second level schooling. PLCs are full-time, of one and two year duration and offer integrated general education, vocational training and work experience for those who need further training to enhance their educational and employment opportunities. PLCs combine academic work, hands on practical work and work experience. The number of courses available has increased dramatically over the years and now almost all occupational areas are catered for e.g business and secretarial skills, computer, art craft and design, multi-media production, theatre and stage production, performing arts, child-care and community care, sport and leisure, tourism, hotel and catering, equestrian studies, horticulture, applied languages and information technology and teleservices.

For further information about PLC courses in your area contact your nearest Vocational Educational Committee (VEC) or www.daycourses.com/vec/veclist.html There is a list of PLC courses available on the Department of Education website – www.education.ie

APPLICATIONS

Students join the programme by contacting the nearest Vocational Education Committee or school offering PLC courses. Many of the VECs publish their own guides to the courses available and schools and centres advertise in local newspapers.

COSTS

Students attending full-time PLC courses are liable for fees. However there is a means-tested maintenance grant scheme available to students. The Student Support Section of the VEC in your area will be able to give you further information and grant application forms.

CERTIFICATION

Most courses lead to FETAC certification. In addition, many programmes are validated by professional and international bodies.

Under the Higher Education Links scheme, places on selected courses in the Institutes of Technology are allocated on the basis of achievement in FETAC (NCVA Level 2) awards, by candidates on PLC courses.

For further information see www.fetac.ie or www.cao.ie

HOTEL, CATERING AND TOURISM.

The National Tourism Development Authority is the state training agency for hotels, catering and tourism. It provides training courses for chefs, accommodation assistants, waiters/waitresses, hospitality assistants, bartenders, hotel receptionists, hotel and catering managers and tourism information assistants. Details of courses and locations of schools, colleges and training centres are available on www.failteireland.ie

Or
Fáilte Ireland
Amiens Street
Dublin 1
T+353 1 8556555



AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND FISHING.

Apart from Agriculture and Horticultural and Marine courses in the CAO system, a range of courses are on offer through Teagasc the Agricultural and Food Development Authority and BIM (Board Iascaigh Mhara) the Irish Sea Fisheries Board.

All of Teagasc vocational courses have been benchmarked and upgraded in recent years and are now nationally accredited by the Further Education and Training Awards Council with the opportunity to progress right up to degree level (www.fetac.ie). These courses are suitable for people who wish to make a career in agriculture, horticulture, horses or forestry but who do not wish to complete a third level course. Participants who achieve the necessary results may transfer to third level courses. Teagasc is also involved in the provision of 11 third level courses through the Teagasc/Institute of Technology partnership. (Application through CAO.)

For further information and course list see www.teagasc.ie
Or
www.cao.ie

APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeship is the recognised means by which persons are trained to become craftpersons in Ireland. Apprenticeships operate in a number of designated trades, for example engineering, construction, motor, electrical, printing and furniture. FÁS the National Training and Employment Authority in association with the Department of Education and Science, has responsibility for providing suitable training and education. Apprenticeships combine on the job training and academic training in FÁS training centres and educational colleges around Ireland.

On successful completion of their apprenticeship candidates receive a National Craft Certificate, recognised in Ireland, in EU and non-EU countries.

For further information see www.fas.ie

FÁS also provides courses for the unemployed, community training schemes, enterprise development and general training support schemes for industry.

NURSING

An Bord Altranais (The Irish Nursing Board) is the statutory regulatory body for the nursing profession in Ireland. There are three courses leading to a nursing qualification in Ireland

General Nursing
Psychiatric Nursing
Mental Handicap Nursing

Applications are made through the Central Applications Office (CAO)
The CAO handbook and application form, plus details on online application are available at www.cao.ie

There are a specific number of places allocated for mature students for each nursing education course. When filling in the CAO application candidates should pay particular attention to the section on "mature applicants for nursing".

The same entitlements/conditions regarding fees and means tested third level grants apply to student nursing (see previous section on costs).

It is possible to follow a degree-level programme at 13 HEIs in association with 45 Healthcare Agencies (Hospitals/ Clinical Sites)

On completion of a four year Pre-Registration/Degree Course a candidate must apply to the Nursing Board for consideration to be registered as a General Nurse (RGN), Psychiatric Nurse (RPR) or Mental Handicap Nurse (RMHN). A Bachelor of Science Degree (BSc) is awarded by the HEI.

For Further information contact An Bord Altranais, the Irish Nursing Board at www.nursingcareers.ie

Reference Guide to sources of information for studying in Ireland available on the internet

Information on	Organisations	Website address
Course Search	QUALIFAX – Database of third level courses Career directions – Careers Information database from FAS PLOTEUS – Search for learning opportunities throughout Europe Dept of Education – Education provider locator	www.qualifax.ie www.careerdirections.ie www.europa.int.eu/ploteus/portal/home.jsp www.education.ie
Accommodation in Ireland	PLOTEUS Irish Council for International students OASIS DAFT-Digital accomadation finder terminal	www.europa.int.eu/ploteus/portal/home.jsp www.icosirl.ie www.oasis.gov.ie http://www.daft.ie/
Costs of Living in Ireland	Irish Council for International students OASIS	www.icosirl.ie www.oasis.gov.ie
Facts About Ireland	Irish Council for International students OASIS	www.icosirl.ie www.oasis.gov.ie
Immigration	The Department of Foreign Affairs Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform Irish Council for International students OASIS International Education Board of Ireland Youth Information Service	www.foreignaffairs.gov.ie www.justice.ie www.icosirl.ie www.oasis.gov.ie www.educationireland.ie www.youthinformation.ie
Learning English	International Education Board of Ireland Advisory Council for English Language Schools Irish Council for International students	www.educationireland.ie www.acels.ie www.icosirl.ie
Medical Services in Ireland	OASIS Youth Information Services	www.oasis.gov.ie www.youthinformation.ie

Opportunities For Adults in Ireland	<p>PLOTEUS</p> <p>AONTAS Department of Education and Science Adult Education Guidance Services</p>	<p>www.europa.int.eu/ploteus/portal/home.jsp www.aontas.com</p> <p>www.education.ie</p> <p>www.ncge.ie</p>
Short Term Study	<p>PLOTEUS</p> <p>International Education Board of Ireland Youth Information Centre</p>	<p>www.europa.int.eu/ploteus/portal/home.jsp www.educationireland.ie</p> <p>www.youthinformation.ie</p>
Student Services	<p>Students Union of Ireland – USI Student Support Unit – DES</p>	<p>www.usi.ie www.education.ie</p>
Studying and Working Abroad	<p>Ploteus</p> <p>The British Council EURES</p> <p>Euroguidance</p>	<p>www.europa.int.eu/ploteus/portal/home.jsp www.britishcouncil.org http://europa.eu.int/eures/index.jsp www.euroguidance.org.uk</p>
Studying in Northern Ireland	<p>UCAS Youth Information Centre</p>	<p>www.ucas.com www.youthinformation.ie</p>
Third Level Education	<p>Ploteus</p> <p>Irish Department of Education and Science The Association of Graduate Careers services in Ireland OASIS Central Applications Office International Education Board of Ireland Qualifax Career Directions GradIreland</p>	<p>http://europa.eu.int/ploteus/portal/home.jsp www.education.ie</p> <p>www.gradireland.com</p> <p>www.oasis.gov.ie www.cao.ie</p> <p>www.educationireland.ie www.qualifax.ie www.careerdirections.ie www.gradireland.com</p>



NCGE

National Centre
for Guidance in Education

1st Floor, 42/43 Prussia St,
Dublin 7

T: +353 1 869 0715

F: +353 1 882 3817

W: www.ncge.ie

This information leaflet provides a brief overview of higher and further education, and training in Ireland. The National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE) acknowledges the assistance of the Leonardo da Vinci programme in the funding of this publication.

The National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE) is an agency of the Department of Education and Science with responsibility to support and develop guidance in all areas of education, and inform policy in this field.

NCGE is a member of the Leonardo da Vinci funded EUROGUIDANCE Network of National Resource Centres for Guidance, which aims to support guidance counsellors in promoting European Mobility and the European Dimension within education and training.

There are two EUROGUIDANCE centres in Ireland the EUROGUIDANCE centre at NCGE, responsible for information on further education and training opportunities, and the EUROGUIDANCE centre at FÁS, responsible for information on vocational training and labour market opportunities.



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