



University College Dublin

Belfield

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www.ucd.ie

Sunday Times ranking 2= (3)

Research income €79.2m

Median points for entry 446

(300-575*)

Unemployment 2.7%

Firsts and 2:1s 66%

Student/staff ratio 15.8:1

Dropout rate 13.7%

Undergraduates 12,518 (4,050)

Postgraduates 3,796 (2,095)

Teaching staff 923

Mature students 26.8%

Overseas students 11.3%

Non-standard entry 17.3%

Sports facilities ★★★★★

University College Dublin is the 2006 Sunday Times University of the Year after one of the biggest makeovers in its 152-year history. This month, the slimmed-down academic structure will see the introduction of the largest range of new cross-disciplinary courses it has ever offered.

Those entering many of UCD's existing degree courses, also, will have more choice about what they study. Full-time undergraduates, for example, can now take two modules a year from outside their core degree area. This has helped push up applications by 10%.

The sprawling campus, two miles from Dublin city centre, has been likened to a former East German town in architectural terms. Social life is centred on its campus bars and other events take place in the city centre.

Despite a significant fall in points demanded to gain entry, UCD still has the second-best-qualified entrants in the republic. Given its high-calibre intake, it is little wonder that the number of

2	Dun Laoghaire IADT	13.7	(9)
3	IT, Tallaght	14.3	(8)
4	IT, Tralee	14.7	(13)
5=	Galway-Mayo IT	14.8	(10)
5=	Letterkenny IT	14.8	(10)
7	Trinity College Dublin	15.2	(8)
8	Athlone IT	15.4	(6)
9	Dundalk IT	15.7	(10)
10	University College Dublin	15.8	(9)

Source: 2006 Sunday Times University Guide

students getting a first or 2:1 has jumped from 46% in 2004 to 66% last year.

The dropout rate is low at about one in seven and UCD also has one of the lowest graduate unemployment rates at 2.7%.

The university is recruiting more non-standard entrants, including mature students and those from socially disadvantaged areas, who now make up 16.8% of the intake. Its six-year-old New Era programme, aimed at greater access for poorer areas, has seen 254 graduates, including nine in medicine.

The campus has 2,650 beds for students. One in five first-years lives in. At €89 to €112 a week, campus rooms can cost much less than private ones.

Student support services, sports facilities and societies are among the country's best. The crèche was renovated last year and another is to open this year. An iconic entrance building, with an art-house cinema, shops and cafes, is also planned and the open spaces are being upgraded.

Open days Undergraduate courses December 8 and 9; March 15 and 16, 2007. January 21 (mature students).

Student view Stephen Carroll, editor of the University Observer: *USP* There's a society or club catering to every taste, two newspapers, a radio station and soon a TV station.

Worst feature Can seem a little impersonal at first.

Location South of Dublin city centre, but easily accessible by bus or bike.

Social scene There are two bars on campus, student clubs and society events almost every night.

Private rents €112 per week.

BEST STUDENT/ STAFF RATIO

**Number of students
per staff member Page**

1 Dublin IT 12.7 (8)



Quick on the uptake: graduate Derval O'Rourke of University College Dublin, the Sunday Times Irish University of the Year, won gold for Ireland in the 60m hurdles at the 2006 world indoor athletics championships in Moscow