



# UCD SCIENCE

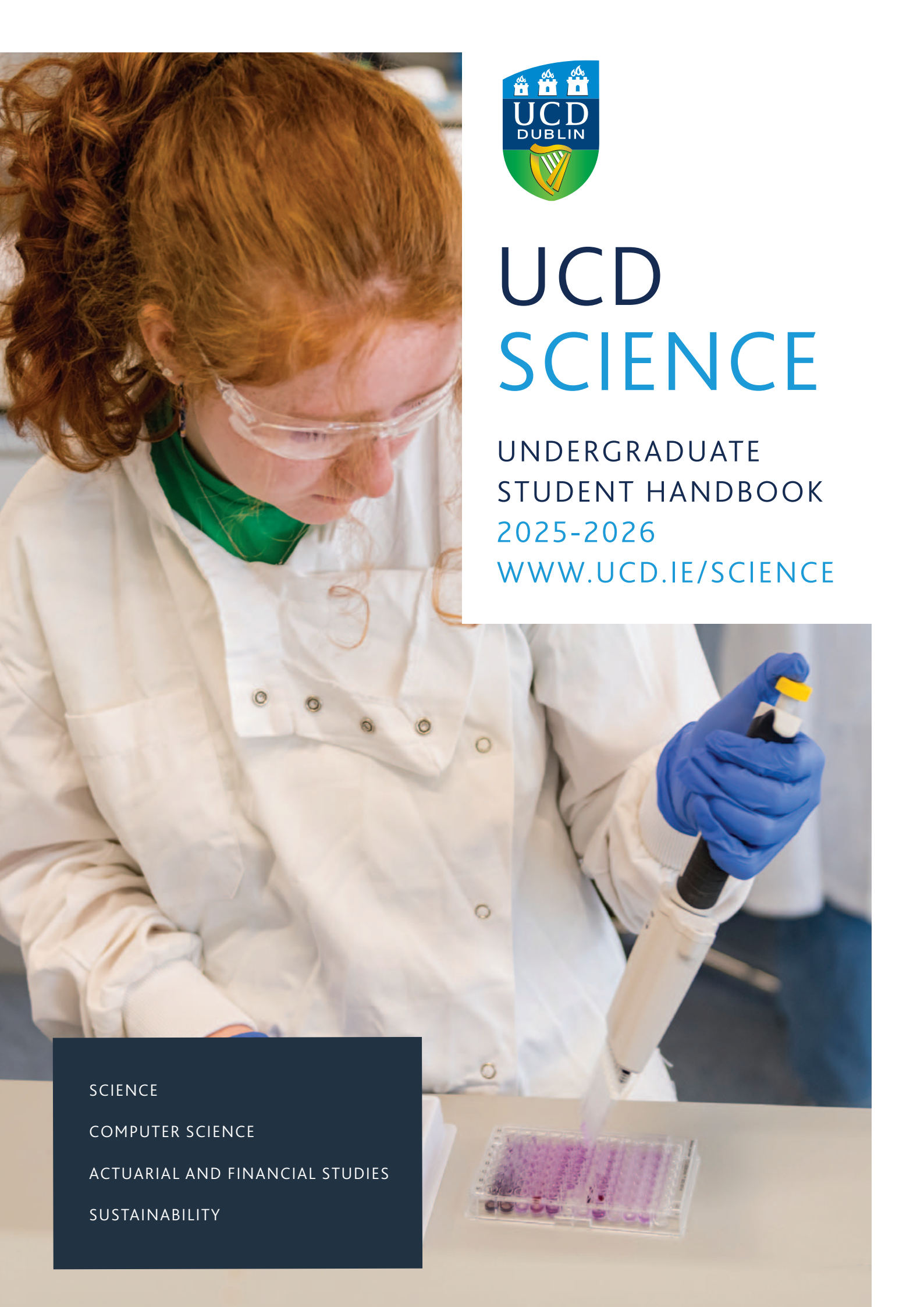
UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENT HANDBOOK  
2025-2026  
[WWW.UCD.IE/SCIENCE](http://WWW.UCD.IE/SCIENCE)

SCIENCE

COMPUTER SCIENCE

ACTUARIAL AND FINANCIAL STUDIES

SUSTAINABILITY



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# WELCOME TO UNIVERSITY LIFE

The UCD College of Science Office extends a warm welcome to all our students for the academic year 2025-2026.



The Associate Dean and staff in the College of Science Office are available to assist students with any problems they encounter, whether academic or personal. We aim to provide you with a high-quality service, giving you the best student experience possible.

There are many supports available to you to help you as you embark on your university career. Later in this guide, we will outline the support services which are available to students.

It is important to remember, the value of your University experience depends upon the effort and

commitment that you make. You are here to be educated as a professional in whatever scientific discipline you choose to study. Your lecturers in Science will direct your academic programme, but it is up to you to make the most of the variety of opportunities that University will present. We wish you every success in your endeavours. We look forward to meeting you during your time in UCD and we hope that your experience will be a positive one.

Remember, if you have any questions or encounter issues along the way, please ask for our help and we will be happy to assist you.

# COLLEGE OF SCIENCE OFFICE

## Who We Are

The College of Science Office is staffed by a dedicated team who will support you throughout your time in UCD. The College Office provides a range of supports which are outlined in the next section. The office is the main point of contact for current undergraduate students and our aim is to provide a professional and efficient service to students.

As you navigate your programme and encounter new systems and regulations, we are here to help you. Please ask us any questions you might have.

## College Office Team

**Associate Professor Patrick Orr**  
Associate Dean of Science  
[asdean.science@ucd.ie](mailto:asdean.science@ucd.ie)

**Jamie Wells**  
College Office Director  
[jamie.wells@ucd.ie](mailto:jamie.wells@ucd.ie)

**Paula Fogarty**  
Programme and  
Operations Manager  
[paula.fogarty@ucd.ie](mailto:paula.fogarty@ucd.ie)

**Rachel McEvoy**  
Internship Manager  
[rachel.mcevoy@ucd.ie](mailto:rachel.mcevoy@ucd.ie)

**Paul Murphy**  
Internship Manager  
[p.murphy@ucd.ie](mailto:p.murphy@ucd.ie)

**Kirsten Southard**  
Senior Programme Manager,  
International Students and  
Exchange Programmes  
[kirsten.southard@ucd.ie](mailto:kirsten.southard@ucd.ie)

**Jeilbonn Kenny**  
Programme Manager  
[jeilbonn.kenny@ucd.ie](mailto:jeilbonn.kenny@ucd.ie)

**Dave Kissane,**  
Admin Team Lead  
[dave.kissane@ucd.ie](mailto:dave.kissane@ucd.ie)

**Averil Clarke**  
Senior Programme Administrator  
(International Students)  
[averil.clarke@ucd.ie](mailto:averil.clarke@ucd.ie)

**Aiveen McPartlin**  
Senior Programme Administrator  
(Undergraduate Programmes)  
[aiveen.mcpartlin@ucd.ie](mailto:aiveen.mcpartlin@ucd.ie)

**Niall Holohan**  
Senior Programme Administrator  
(Undergraduate Programmes)  
[niall.holohan@ucd.ie](mailto:niall.holohan@ucd.ie)

**Louise Powderly**  
Senior Programme Administrator  
(Undergraduate Programmes)  
[louise.powderly@ucd.ie](mailto:louise.powderly@ucd.ie)

**Sustainability Programme**  
**Paolo Virtuani**  
Programme Manager,  
BSc Sustainability  
[paolo.virtuani@ucd.ie](mailto:paolo.virtuani@ucd.ie)

## Recruitment and Outreach

**Dr Orla Donoghue**  
Science Outreach Manager  
[orla.donoghue@ucd.ie](mailto:orla.donoghue@ucd.ie)

**Gary Dunne**  
Student Recruitment and  
Marketing Manager  
[gary.dunne@ucd.ie](mailto:gary.dunne@ucd.ie)

**Danielle Nolan**  
Student Recruitment and Marketing  
Manager  
[danielle.nolan@ucd.ie](mailto:danielle.nolan@ucd.ie)

## College Principal's Office

**Professor Jeremy Simpson**  
College Principal and  
Dean of Science  
[principal.science@ucd.ie](mailto:principal.science@ucd.ie)

**Sonya Mahmood**  
PA to College Principal  
[sonya.mahmood@ucd.ie](mailto:sonya.mahmood@ucd.ie)

**Carole Doyle**  
Programme Manager  
[carole.doyle@ucd.ie](mailto:carole.doyle@ucd.ie)



## Where We Are

The College of Science Office is located in Room E1.09 in the O'Brien Centre for Science (Building 67 on the Campus Map). This is on the first floor of Science East (next to the lifts on the first floor).

The office is open from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday during term time. It is open from 10am to 12pm and from 2pm to 4pm, Monday to Friday outside of term time.

## What We Do

The College Office can provide advice to students on the following topics:

- Prospective Student enquiries
- Registration Queries
- Changing Subjects/Majors
- Adding or dropping modules

- Information on Erasmus and Exchange programmes
- Information on Internships and placements
- Advice on taking a Leave of Absence
- Advice on withdrawing from the programme
- Advice on transferring programmes
- Advice on periods of absence due to illness/personal circumstances (Extenuating Circumstances)
- Advice on workloads and academic plans
- Progression queries
- GPA queries

Information on the range of topics which we advise on is also available from the [College Office website](#).

You are welcome to come to the College Office to discuss any queries or concerns you might have in relation to these topics or alternatively, you can submit your query to [our Connector Form](#).



# THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL OFFICES IN THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

There are seven Schools in the College of Science. In addition, the subject **Physiology** is offered in the Science programme. Physiology is based in the School of Medicine. Schools are the academic units which provide teaching and research across all Science programmes. The subjects which are delivered by Schools in the College of Science are broken down as follows:

School	Subjects	Contact Details
School of Biology and Environmental Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cell and Molecular Biology</li> <li>Environmental Biology</li> <li>Plant Biology</li> <li>Zoology</li> </ul>	helen.mccarthy@ucd.ie <b>Location</b> Room E3.37, Third Floor, Science Centre East
School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biochemistry &amp; Molecular Biology</li> <li>Genetics</li> <li>Microbiology</li> <li>Neuroscience</li> <li>Pharmacology</li> </ul>	undergrad.sbbs@ucd.ie <b>Location</b> Room H1.38, First Floor, Science Centre Hub
School of Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chemistry</li> <li>Chemistry with Environmental &amp; Sustainable Chemistry</li> <li>Chemistry with Biophysical Chemistry</li> <li>Medicinal Chemistry &amp; Chemical Biology</li> </ul>	chemistry@ucd.ie <b>Location</b> Room S1.10, First Floor, Science Centre South
School of Computer Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer Science</li> <li>Computer Science with Data Science</li> </ul>	bscadmin.cs@ucd.ie <b>Location</b> Room A0.01, Ground Floor, School of Computer Science Building
School of Earth Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geology</li> </ul>	earthsciences@ucd.ie <b>Location</b> Science Centre West
School of Mathematics and Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applied &amp; Computational Mathematics</li> <li>Financial Mathematics</li> <li>Mathematics</li> <li>Statistics</li> <li>Mathematics, Science and Education</li> </ul>	mathematicsandstatistics@ucd.ie <b>Location</b> Room S3.04, Third Floor, Science Centre South
School of Physics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physics</li> <li>Physics with Astronomy &amp; Space Science</li> <li>Theoretical Physics</li> </ul>	physics@ucd.ie <b>Location</b> Room A109, Beech Hill
School of Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physiology</li> </ul>	physiology@ucd.ie

## The School Offices can assist students with the following queries:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Registration issues</li><li>■ Registration to practical classes and to tutorials</li><li>■ Queries about and registration to repeats and resits</li><li>■ Late Submission of Coursework applications</li><li>■ IX grade queries (<a href="#">see section on Completing Incomplete or Withdrawn Modules (pg 24)</a>).</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Timetable queries</li><li>■ Module-specific queries</li><li>■ Summer bursary/Internship queries</li><li>■ Stage 4 Project Queries</li><li>■ Conferring queries</li><li>■ Transcript queries</li></ul> |
|--|---|

# STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

## Student Advisers

UCD Student Advisers offer a confidential service, focused on student welfare and well-being. Student Advisers can offer information, advice and support to students on a range of issues from simple requests for information, to supporting students who are dealing with more challenging matters including, for example (but not limited to): transition issues, financial issues, motivation, anxiety, health, relationship issues, family issues, loss, worries about a friend, interpersonal and social concerns. Student Advisers can offer

practical help, emotional support and/or referrals to more specialist advice from academic or administrative staff or other professional support services within the University, depending on what students feel they want support with. Student Advisers can also support students to navigate UCD policies designed to assist students. Student Advisers are available to meet students on campus, or online via zoom, during core working hours (10am-4pm) Monday through Friday.

## The Student Advisers for Science are:

**Dani Foy**, Room E0.54, Ground Floor, O'Brien Centre for Science, [E: dani.foy@ucd.ie](mailto:dani.foy@ucd.ie) | T: (01) 716 2362

**Áine Murphy**, E0.54, Ground Floor, O'Brien Centre for Science, [E: aine.murphy@ucd.ie](mailto:aine.murphy@ucd.ie) | T: (01) 716 2381

Further information can be found on the [Student Advisers website](#).

## Student Supports

There are a wide range of supports outlined on the [UCD Student Supports](#) website including information and contact details for UCD Student Health Services, UCD Counselling Services and UCD Academic Supports.

## Disability Support Services

All students with a disability or significant ongoing illness in UCD have the opportunity to receive relevant reasonable accommodations or supports. To receive these supports, students are invited to complete a short meeting called Needs Assessment with UCD Access & Lifelong Learning. Further information is available from the [Disability Support website](#).

**Temporary Exam Supports** are intended for students who have an injury or temporary condition, with documentation dated within 4 weeks of the application for Temporary Exam Support. This applies to in-person end-of-trimester exams.

Further information is available from the [UCD Access and Lifelong Learning website](#).

## Academic Support Centres

### Computer Science Support Centre

The Computer Science Support Centre is a free service offering extra help to any students taking Computer Science modules, who are worried or having problems with computer programming. This is in addition to the normal tutorials. The Centre is staffed by a team of helpful senior tutors and is located on the first floor of the School of Computer Science Building (Building 18 on the Campus Map). The Centre provides a friendly, relaxed environment where students can drop-in to discuss their difficulties and receive one-to-one support throughout the year. Contact [cssc@ucd.ie](mailto:cssc@ucd.ie) for further information.

in service offering extra help to students who are taking Mathematics or Statistics modules. This is in addition to the normal tutorials.

The Centre is staffed by a team of helpful senior tutors who provide a friendly, relaxed environment where students can drop-in to discuss their difficulties and receive one-to-one support throughout the year.

### UCD Writing Centre

The [UCD Writing Centre](#) provides free one-to-one tuition and a range of workshops on all aspects of the writing process. You can book an appointment and access a range of support material through the Centre's website.

Some of your assignments may be essay-based and you may find the workshops useful for writing skills required for university learning.

### Mathematics Support Centre

Mathematics and Statistics are relevant to all areas of Science. [The Mathematics Support Centre](#) is a free drop-



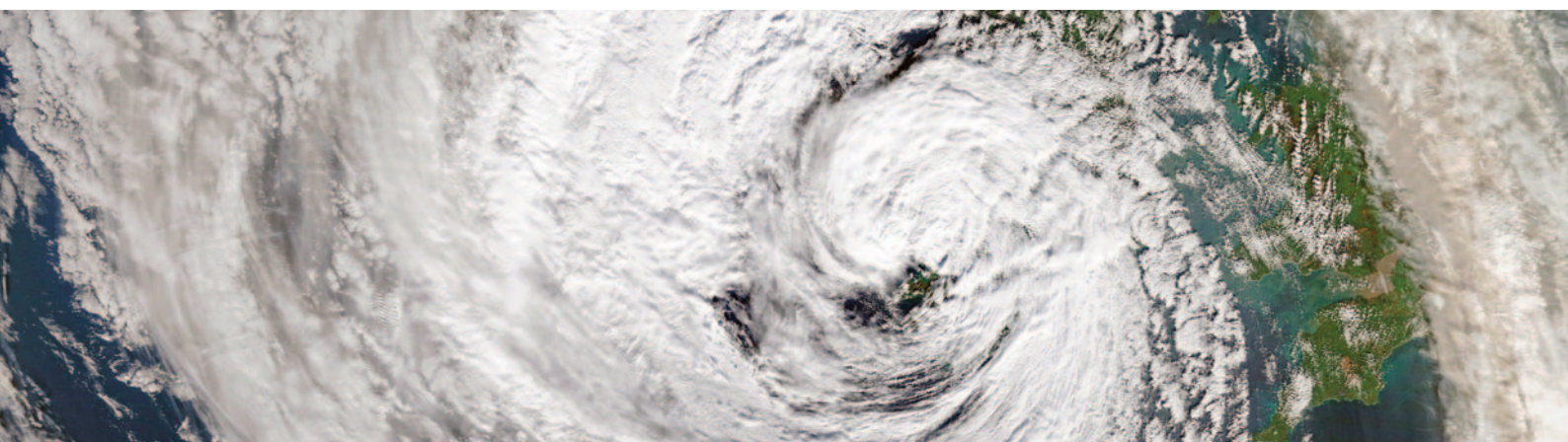


## Student Desk

The Student Desk is based in the Tierney Building (Building 74 on the Campus Map) and provides administrative support to students in the following areas:

Service	
<b>Fees and Grants</b>	Including queries about fee payment; SUSI-related queries; EU/Non-EU Fee Assessment; Refunds
<b>Official Documents</b>	Including Certificates of Attendance; Academic Statement; Academic Transcript; Diploma Supplement
<b>Form Stamping</b>	Including Social Welfare forms and Medical Card applications
<b>Education Verification</b>	For Third Parties (e.g. other HEIs or employers) who require verification of your academic record
<b>Conferrings</b>	Provide clarification on conferring schedules. This information can also be found on the Conferring Unit's website: <a href="https://www.ucd.ie/confer/schedule/">https://www.ucd.ie/confer/schedule/</a>
<b>General Registration Queries</b>	Including information on fee holds; clarification on your registration status; guidance on SISWeb; technical issues related to SISWeb

Further information is available from the [Student Desk website](#).



# JOINING THE UCD SCIENCE COMMUNITY

## Societies

Joining a society is a great way to get involved and provides you with an opportunity to meet other Science students, as well as students from across the campus. Whether you want to meet like-minded students, dip your toe into performance or a sport that you've always wanted to try, the Student Societies provide lots of choice and cater to all interests.

## Science Society

The UCD Science Society is responsible for some of the largest events on campus and welcomes Science degree students and Science enthusiasts alike. As well as Science Day, the Science Society is one of the largest student-run charities in the country, raising funds for Children's Medical & Research Foundation, Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin.

You can email [science.society@ucd.ie](mailto:science.society@ucd.ie) for more information.

Below is a sample of some of the other campus societies which students registered to programmes across the College of Science might be interested in joining but there are many more to choose from. Information is available from the [Student Societies' website](#).

- Actuarial and Financial Studies Society
- Biological Society
- Chemical Society
- Mathematical Society
- Microbiology Society
- Pharm/Tox Society
- Physics

Information on the Sports and Recreation facilities available on campus are available from the [UCD Sport website](#).



## UCD Peer Mentors

*'It's so rewarding to just be that person someone feels comfortable coming to with the little questions that plague you your first semester. All they need from you is you! Be yourself, and just someone at their level in the same boat so to speak to give gentle nudges in the right direction there and again. For a small amount of time you can make a huge difference in someone's life!'*

Peer Mentor Senior Leader

Peer Mentors are Science students in a later year (normally Stage 2 or 3) who generously give their time to help welcome and support Stage 1 students. Peer Mentors share their knowledge, insights, and experience of coming to university to help new students transition to college life more easily. As well as providing guidance, advice, and support to their mentees about their programme and being a student, peer mentors help their mentees to connect with classmates, learn about what UCD has to offer socially, and signpost to available supports. The continued success of our Peer Mentoring programme is largely thanks to the energy, enthusiasm and commitment of our Peer Mentors every year. Peer Mentors benefit from generously volunteering their time by meeting new people, expanding their involvement in UCD life, developing leadership, communication and organisational skills, enhancing their CV, and boosting their confidence.

### Becoming a Peer Mentor

Recruitment for Peer Mentors normally happens in the Spring Trimester. Applicants apply online, through SISWeb.

- Go to SISWeb
- Select Programme Services
- Select My Peer Mentor Applications.

Peer Mentors receive comprehensive training before starting the role.

Further information is available from the [Peer Mentoring website](#).

## Volunteering

Volunteering provides an opportunity for you to contribute to your local community, to get some real-life experience and to develop and demonstrate your skills, knowledge and adaptability. It is a pathway to personal and professional development and employers often ask about volunteering at interview. Volunteering is also a great way to get to know more people from different backgrounds. Volunteering brings a valuable opportunity to experience something totally different and maybe even to learn something new about yourself. If you are interested, view opportunities on the following links:

[UCD in the Community](#)

[UCD Student Volunteer](#)

## Student Leaders

The College of Science has been running a Student Leader programme since 2013/14 where current students have the opportunity to work at events aimed at Prospective Students such as Open Days, Open Evenings etc. This is a great opportunity to meet students from other degree subjects or from different years while also gaining new skills for your CV. Typically students work on average 3-4 events across the academic year. There will also be an opportunity to write content for us such as blogs or other online work. If you are interested in finding out more about the programme, please email Gary Dunne at [gary.dunne@ucd.ie](mailto:gary.dunne@ucd.ie).

# GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PROGRAMME

## Key Terms Used on Your Degree Programme

The term 'programme' refers to the course of study you are pursuing in UCD. When you come to register to your programme, you will meet new terms and concepts, some of which are particular to the programmes in Science. Below is a list of some of the terms which we hope will help to guide your registration.

Term	Explanation
<b>Module</b>	A module is a contained unit of teaching and learning which may include lectures, practicals and/or tutorials. A module is normally completed in one teaching term and includes assessments which confirm that you have achieved the learning outcomes outlined in the module descriptor. Each module has a credit value, normally 5 ECTS credits.
<b>Credits</b>	Credit is the value which is given to a module. A 5-credit module will require 100 to 125 hours of work. This includes lectures/seminars, practicals, self-directed study and assessment. The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) provides a framework to clarify the relationship between educational activity and credit value.
<b>Stage</b>	Modular programmes work on the principle of building up credits, and you will progress through your programme in stages as you earn these credits. Each stage normally represents 60 credits. A full-time student will normally complete a 60-credit stage in one academic year. A degree programme will normally include three to four stages.
<b>Core Module</b>	A module that you must do as part of your programme.
<b>Option Module</b>	A module that is part of your programme. You will be given a list of option modules to choose from when you register online.
<b>Elective Module</b>	<p>A module which is not part of your programme and which you may choose to make up the credits for a stage of your programme.</p> <p>Most undergraduate students may select up to 25 credits from elective modules between Stage 1-3 of their programme. These modules can be taken from other disciplines (e.g. a language or business module).</p> <p>Students may take elective modules in a structured manner over the course of their programme which will be included on their UCD Transcript as a Structured Elective. This will show that you have completed a block of 15 credits in a specified, thematic area (e.g. Introduction to Earth Sciences and Global Change).</p> <p>Further information on available Structured Electives is available from the <a href="#">Current Students'</a> webpage:</p>
<b>Conditional Core</b>	These are modules which students must take in Stage 1 of the Science and Sustainability programmes if they have not achieved the grade or completed a subject at Leaving Certificate standard, or equivalent, before the student can proceed to take Level 1 or core modules in that subject area. For example, if a student did not complete Chemistry at Leaving Certificate, or equivalent, level, or did not achieve a grade of H5/02, or equivalent in the Leaving Certificate examination of this subject, then they must register for CHEM00010. Further information is available in the Stage 1 Student Guide for these programmes on the <a href="#">College of Science website</a> .



<b>Programme Core</b>	A module that must be taken in one of two stages of your programme. For example, in Computer Science, MATH10200 'Matrix Algebra' must be taken in Stage 1 or Stage 2. For the Science programme, these programme cores are outlined in Table 2 of the <a href="#">Stage 1 Student Guide for Science</a> .
<b>Component</b>	Module assessments are usually made up of components such as an essay, practical, MCQ or final exam. You complete assessments for each component and the results are combined to give an overall module grade.
<b>Major</b>	While your programme shows what degree you're studying, such as a BSc, your major will show what subject area your degree is in, such as Zoology. In Stage 3 of the Computer Science and Science programmes, students choose their degree major. Students choose their major for the Sustainability programme in Stage 2. Students in the Actuarial and Financial Studies programme remain registered to the same major for the duration of their programme.
<b>Subject</b>	You will often see references to subjects throughout your programme, particularly in the Science programme. Essentially, a subject and major are the same concepts but in Science, you declare your major in Stage 3. In Stage 2, you select a number of subjects (e.g. Cell and Molecular Biology, Neuroscience and Microbiology) to make up your programme credits in Stage 2. The following year, you declare your major from one of these three subjects as long as you have completed all of the core modules and overall, have the credits required to progress to Stage 3.
<b>Module Descriptor</b>	<p>The module descriptor provides key information on the content of a module including the name of the Module Coordinator who is responsible for the module, the learning involved, the way in which the module will be delivered (i.e. lectures/labs/ tutorials), how the module will be assessed and weighted.</p> <p>You can search for modules and view the module descriptor from through <a href="#">Course Catalogue website</a>.</p> <p>Information on how you find a list of module codes is available further in this section of the handbook.</p>
<b>Trimester</b>	The UCD academic year is divided into trimesters. Autumn (Trimester 1) is September to December, Spring (Trimester 2) is January to May and Summer (Trimester 3) is May to August. Undergraduate programmes are normally taught in the Autumn and Spring Trimesters. Within each trimester, you will have 12 weeks of teaching, revision weeks and exams.
<b>Workload</b>	This refers to the number of modules and credits you are registered to in a trimester. It is recommended that students register to 30 credits (usually 6 modules) in each trimester so that they maintain a balanced workload. The maximum number of credits a student can register to in a trimester is 40 credits.

You will find further information on key terms and their meaning on the [Registry Jargon Buster webpage](#).

## Structures Of Your Programme

All undergraduate programmes in the College of Science consist of four stages. Each stage of the programme has a set number of programme modules.

Programme modules refer to both core and option modules. Programme modules would usually convert into 50/55 or 60 programme credits across the different stages of the programme.

The structures for **Science, Computer Science and Sustainability** programmes in the College of Science are as follows:

Stage 1	55 programme credits and 5 elective credits
Stage 2	50 programme credits and 10 elective credits
Stage 3	50 programme credits and 10 elective credits
Stage 4	60 programme credits

The Actuarial and Financial Studies programme is structured as follows:

Stage 1	55 programme credits and 5 elective credits
Stage 2	50 programme credits and 10 elective credits
Stage 3	60 programme credits (including a 30-credit placement module in the Spring Trimester)
Stage 4	55 programme credits and 5 elective credits

Information on accessing programme structures, including information on the modules included in each stage and major of your programme, is available in the section on ***Programme and Module Information***.



## Teaching Term Dates

The Academic Year for undergraduate programmes normally spans the Autumn and Spring Trimester. In general, there is no teaching on undergraduate programmes in the Summer Trimester, but some placement modules (normally taken in Stage 3 of programmes) may continue into the Summer Trimester. Students who wish to pursue Physics subjects in

Stage 2 and who are required to take MATH00010 Introductory Mathematics in the Autumn Trimester must take a Calculus module in the Summer Trimester to meet progression requirements. Further information is available in [the Stage 1 Guide](#). The dates of the teaching terms for returning students for the 2025-2026 academic year are as follows:

### Autumn Term 2025-2026

Teaching Term	Monday 8th September to Friday 28th November	12 weeks
Revision	Saturday 29th November to Friday 5th December	1 week
Exams	Saturday 6th December to Saturday 20th December	2 weeks

### Spring Term 2025-2026

Teaching Term	Monday 19th January to Friday 6th March	7 weeks
Fieldtrip/Study Period	Monday 9th March to Sunday 22nd March	2 weeks
Teaching Term	Monday 23rd March to Friday 24th April	5 weeks
Revision	Saturday 25th April to Friday 1st May	1 week
Exams	Saturday 2nd May to Saturday 16th May	2 weeks

**TIP: Students should ensure that they are available to attend campus throughout these teaching terms and for the entire exam period.**

Students who attend lectures, tutorials and labs, and engage with all module assessments, have a higher record of success. It is really important that you engage with all elements of a module, including attendance.

Exam Timetables are normally published by the end of October for Autumn Trimester exams and by the end of March for the Spring Trimester exams.

The majority of modules include an end of term exam which must be attended in person. You must be available to attend these exams.

## Guide to Programme and Module Information

When you register to your programme and modules in SISWeb (the system you use for registration, paying fees, accessing applications and official documents) you will see the structure for your programme. The structures include the core and option modules for each stream/subject and guidelines on the number of modules you need to take from each section.

Before you register, you might wish to review these structures, along with some module content before you make your choices. The primary resource for information on programmes and modules is the **UCD Current Students website**. To access information about your programme and the modules which you are required to choose in each stage and for each major, please follow the steps below.

Step 1: Go to the

[Course Search section of the Current Students website:](#)



Step 2: Select **Undergraduate Programme List** to find out more about your programme of studies from the Undergraduate Programme Section

*Select Undergraduate Programmes.*





When you choose **Science**, the links to the Actuarial and Financial Studies (BAFS), Computer Science and Science programmes are included in this section. Information on the **Sustainability programme** is further down this page.

### EXAMPLE: Student who wishes to view modules for the subject MICROBIOLOGY:

In this example, the information is for a student who is interested in Microbiology and would like to review the modules which are included in the structure for Stage 2. The same steps apply for all programmes and majors.

- Selected **Science (BHSCI001)** from the undergraduate programme list.
- Select **Programme Information**. This will provide you with a full list of all of the majors in Science.
- Choose Microbiology Stage 2 (Subject/Stream)

Microbiology	
<a href="#">MBS1</a>	Microbiology (Single Major)
<a href="#">MBC2</a>	Microbiology Stage 2 (Subject / Stream)

The next page provides some further information on the subject Microbiology including some examples of career opportunities.

- Choose View All Modules

View All Modules			
Module		Trimester	Credits
Stage 2 Core Modules			
<a href="#">BMOL20060</a>	<a href="#">Biomolecular Lab Skills 1</a>	Autumn	5
<a href="#">BMOL20090</a>	<a href="#">Molecular Genetics and Biotech</a>	Autumn	5
<a href="#">BMOL20110</a>	<a href="#">Biomolecular Sciences</a>	Autumn	5
<a href="#">BMOL20070</a>	<a href="#">Biomolecular Lab Skills 2</a>	Spring	5
<a href="#">MICR20050</a>	<a href="#">Microbiology in Medicine, Biotechnology and the Environment</a>	Spring	5
Stage 2 Options - A) Min 0 of: CHEM20090 is a CORE MODULE for students who wish to progress with any subject in the BBB stream. Students registered to, or who have taken, both CHEM20080 and CHEM20100, are not required to take CHEM20090. Students who are unable to register to CHEM20090 should contact the Science Office.			
<a href="#">CHEM20090</a>	<a href="#">Chemistry for Biology</a>	Autumn	5

Click on the module title or the Module ID to access information about the module content, the assessment strategy for the module, the name of the Module Coordinator and associated staff who will teach on this module.



## Choosing Elective Modules

A common query we receive is 'which Elective module should I choose?' The choice of elective modules is very broad, and it really depends on whether you are interested in taking modules outside of the Science programme in order to expand your learning in another subject (e.g. a language or Food Science module). You might also be interested in completing a Structured Elective. While you can view the modules available in each School through the course search facility as outlined above, not all modules offer Elective places.

When you register in SISWeb, under the Elective tab, you can search by Subject or School to see a list of available modules which may be selected as Electives.

When you come to select your Elective modules during online registration before the start of the academic year, Elective modules are **provisionally** enrolled when you first select your Elective module. During the registration period, a date is allocated for the rollout of Elective module places. You will receive an email to confirm successful registration to these modules.

If you have not been allocated a place in an Elective module which may be heavily subscribed, you will have the opportunity to choose a different Elective module.

**Note: Stage 1 students choose their Elective module (5 credits) before the start of the Spring Trimester. This registration takes place in January.**

## Module Levels

Each module is differentiated by subject area and module level. For example, a Computer Science module which is considered to be at introductory level is designated as COMP1 and is then assigned a unique code to differentiate the module. For example, COMP10010 Introduction to Programming.

The module level indicates the level of learning included in the module and for this reason, most modules taken in Stage 1 are at Level 1 (introductory); in Stage 2, most programme modules are at Level 2 (Intermediate); in Stages 3 and 4, most programme modules are at Level 3 (Degree), though some Stage 4 modules are at Level 4 which is equivalent to Taught Master's level.

It is important to be aware of this when you are choosing Elective modules.

Students can take Elective modules at any level. However, it is recommended that Level 1 or Level 2 modules be taken as Elective modules.



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES AND INTERNSHIPS

## Exchange and Erasmus Opportunities

In Stage 3 of the Science, Computer Science and Sustainability programmes, students have the opportunity to go on an Erasmus or Non-EU Exchange at a partner university. This provides students with an invaluable opportunity to experience Science in a variety of cultural contexts.

Students should have a GPA of 3.0 or above and have 60 credits at Stages 1 and 2 prior to the commencement of the Exchange. Please be aware that this is a competitive process. The higher your GPA, the more opportunities that may be available to you.

## When Can I Apply?

Applications for Exchange are made in the academic year prior to going abroad. Generally, students apply in January of Stage 2 and go out on exchange the following year, in Stage 3.

The most important consideration for an Exchange is ensuring that a potential host institution is an appropriate academic fit for your major. Further information from the section of the College of Science website which is dedicated to [Erasmus and Non-EU exchange information](#). Here, you will see where and when you can go, along with application details. You will need to map a minimum of your core modules that you will miss when on exchange to courses that are offered at the potential exchange institution.

Note that the credits accumulated during an Exchange are Grade Point Neutral in relation to your UCD GPA and do not contribute to the calculation of your final degree GPA. However, if a student is on Exchange for a full

academic year and opts to exit with the 180 credit BSc (General Science) Degree (applicable to Science and Computer Science students), then the degree GPA will be calculated based on Stage 1 and Stage 2 with a 30:70 weighting.

Other international opportunities can be found on the section of the College of Science website which is dedicated to [Erasmus and Exchange information](#).

## Internships

UCD Science students have the opportunity to complete internships. The Science Programme offers a number of modules that enable internships to contribute credits towards your degree, as follows:

### **SCI30080 Professional Placement - Science (5 credits)**

- available in a number of degree programmes. The internship takes place over 6-12 weeks in the summer between Stages 3 and 4. The module is Grade Point Neutral (i.e. does not influence GPA); and the credits contribute to Stage 4. Students are invited to attend an introductory internship briefing in Stage 2 in preparation for the following year's internship application.

### **GEOL30360 Work Placement - Geoscience (5 credits)**

– equivalent to SCI30080 but is an elective module available only to Geology students. Internship normally takes place over 6-10 weeks in the summer between Stages 3 and 4, but may also be possible during trimester 1 or trimester 2. The module is Grade Point Neutral; the credits contribute to Stage 3.

### **BMOL40200 Industry Research Project (25 credits)**

– available in specific biological subjects (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Genetics, Microbiology,



Pharmacology, Neuroscience). The internship research project runs for 6 months, combining the summer after Stage 3 and the Autumn Trimester of Stage 4. Students complete a research project during internships. The module is not Grade Point Neutral; the credits contribute to Stage 4.

**COMP30790 Industry Internship (15 credits)** – available for Computer Science and Data Science students. This is a 5.5 months internship starting mid-March in Stage 3. Early engagement with your internship managers is essential. You will be invited to attend a preparatory information session and a CV workshop in Stage 2 in advance of applications which will start as early as September.

Special registration arrangements are in place for these modules. It is important you engage with the preparatory workshops organized by your Internship Managers taking place in Stage 2 and CV workshops which will take place in September and October of Stage 3.

Formal registration will be overseen by the Internship Managers depending on the timeline of your course. You will not be able to register yourself to an internship module.



See full details on the section of College of Science website dedicated to information on [Internships and Careers](#).

All internships must be arranged in consultation with the College of Science Internship Managers ([scienceinternships@ucd.ie](mailto:scienceinternships@ucd.ie)).

In order to complete an internship, students will first need to successfully apply for one in a competitive process. As such, we cannot guarantee that everyone who seeks an internship will succeed in gaining one. The Internship Managers actively seek opportunities for each programme and advertise them to you via MyCareer (available from the [Careers Network website](#)).

Students who will be on exchange during Stage 3, should make sure they maintain contact with their Internship Managers while they are away to maximize their chances of successfully securing an internship.

If a student embarks on an internship during the summer between Stages 3 and 4 and fails to progress to Stage 4 or opts to graduate with a 180-credit degree, they will be unable to register for the module in Stage 4; the module would not contribute credits, attract a fee or appear on a transcript. Nevertheless, the experience would be beneficial and could still be listed on a CV.

Note that if your chosen degree subject does not include a credit-bearing internship module, but you would nevertheless like to complete an internship, please contact the College of Science Internship Managers.

Further information is available from the section of the College of Science website dedicated to [careers and internships](#).



# ASSESSMENT, GRADING AND PROGRAMME PROGRESSION

## Assessment

Each module includes an assessment strategy and usually has more than one type of assessment which provides you with the opportunity to demonstrate that you have acquired the learning outcomes associated with a module. The assessment of a module may include continuous assessment (e.g. participation in group work; in-course assignments), lab reports, MCQs and end of term examinations. Each assessment is weighted and is a percentage of the overall final grade.

Information on the assessment strategy for modules can be found in the module descriptor which you can access by using the steps outlined in the *Getting To Know Your*

*Programme (Science Programme Jargon)* [section of this handbook \(pg. 12-13\)](#) under 'Module Descriptor'.

Most end of term examinations are in-person exams which are held in designated exam centres at the end of each teaching term.

The focus of assessment is to ensure students have achieved the learning outcomes which are outlined in the module descriptor and information on assessment strategies should be explicit, transparent, targeted towards students, up-to-date, readily available, and emphasized at the outset of a module to guide student learning.

## Grade Scales and Grade Points

The grade scale applied on the completion of a module is as follows:

Grade	Grade Point	Description
A+	4.2	Excellent
A	4.0	
A-	3.8	
B+	3.6	Very Good
B	3.4	
B-	3.2	
C+	3.0	Good
C	2.8	
C-	2.6	
D+	2.4	Acceptable
D	2.2	
D-	2.0	
FM+, FM, FM-	0.0	Fail
NM	0.0	No Grade. Work submitted did not merit a grade
ABS	0.0	No work submitted by student or the student was absent.

Where module outcomes cannot be assessed at this level of detail (e.g., work placement/internship modules such as SCI30080, BAFS30150, COMP30790; Innovation Academy modules), the

results may be returned as pass/fail and the associated passing grade is grade neutral (i.e., has no associated grade point value).

The grading scale is as follows:

Grade	Grade Point	Description
DS	Neutral	Passed with Distinction
P	Neutral	Pass
F	0.0	Fail
NM	0.0	No grade – work submitted did not merit a grade
ABS	0.0	No work was submitted by the student or student was absent from assessment

### Remediation of Failed Modules

Where students fail a module, they have some options in terms of approaching the remediation (completion) of the module on a second attempt.

### Resit Assessment

A resit assessment offers students a second and separate opportunity to demonstrate that they have achieved the major learning outcomes associated with a module. Reattendance is not required. A resit assessment is a simple pass-fail instrument and usually involves the

minimum assessment required to determine whether the student has satisfactorily achieved the major learning outcomes associated with a module. The resit assessment is normally offered in the next teaching term after the first attempt of a module and where the opportunity to repeat is not available. For example, if a student fails a module which they first attempted in the Spring Trimester, the resit assessment will be offered in the following Autumn Trimester. There is only one resit assessment associated with each module. The grade scale associated with resit assessments is as follows:

Grade	Grade Point	Description
P (R)	2.0	Passing module grade for resit assessment
F (R)	0.0	Fail for resit assessment
NM (R)	0.0	No grade – work submitted did not merit a grade for Remediation Attempt
ABS (R)	0.0	No work was submitted by the student or the student was absent from assessment of Remediation Attempt

## Repeating a module

A repeat is the student's opportunity for a second attempt at the module through reattendance when the module is next offered. For example, if a student fails a module which they first attempted in the Spring Trimester, and they choose not to take the resit assessment offered in the following Autumn Trimester, or are absent for that period, the student must repeat and reattend the module when it is next offered and this would normally be in the following Spring Trimester. This means that the student would have to attend and repeat all components associated with a module. If a student misses the resit assessment in the teaching term immediately after they first attempted the module, they must repeat the module. The grade scale which is used for repeat attempts of a module is as follows:

Grade	Grade Point
A+ (R)	3.6
A (R)	3.4
A- (R)	3.2
B+ (R)	3.0
B (R)	2.8
B- (R)	2.6
C+ (R)	2.4
C (R)	2.2
C- (R)	2.0
D+ (R)	2.0
D (R)	2.0
D- (R)	2.0
FM+(R), FM (R), FM-(R)	0.0
NM (R)	0.0
ABS (R)	0.0



## Completing Incomplete or Withdrawn Modules

If a student is unable to complete an assessment(s) due to illness or another serious, unforeseen event (see [Student Related Policies section \(pg 28\)](#) of this Handbook for further information on the Extenuating Circumstances

policy) there are some actions available to the Governing Board of a programme which will allow the student to complete the impacted module(s) without financial or academic penalty. In some instances, an incomplete grade or 'withdrawn' status is applied to the module where circumstances have impacted a student's performance.

Grade	Grade Point	Description
IX	Neutral	<p>Incomplete (extenuating circumstances): returned either (a) on the recommendation of a School and approved by the Programme Examination Board, or (b) on the recommendation of the Programme Examination Board, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ a student has been unable to satisfactorily complete a component (or components) of assessment; and</li> <li>■ The student provides medical or other certification supporting the position that they had an incapacitating illness or circumstance which prevented them from so doing.</li> </ul> <p>The student must complete the component (or components) of assessment or complete some equivalent assessment(s) set by the School, within two trimesters of the initial attempt.</p> <p>On receipt of an IX grade, students should contact the Module coordinator to confirm the component(s) of assessment which they are required to complete and the date for the assessment.</p>
WN	Neutral	<p>WN can be returned to address two situations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. where a student withdraws before the end of week 12 of a trimester, or before the last day of teaching in a trimester, whichever comes sooner. No credit is awarded, and a subsequent attempt at that module is treated as a first attempt.</li> <li>2. where a student has not engaged fully with their studies due to extenuating circumstances and where they have missed a significant proportion of the teaching and assessment associated with a module(s), the Governing Board may recommend WN. The student is then required to reattend the module without fee or academic penalty</li> </ol>

Further information on Module Grades is also available from [the Exams Section of the Current Students' website](#).



## GPA Calculation

When you have completed all the modules of a Stage, your grade points are averaged to get a Grade Point Average, or GPA, for that Stage.

Your degree GPA is calculated when you have completed the credits required for your degree programme (usually 240 credits) and you have completed the programme modules required for your major.

The final degree GPA is based on performance in both the final and penultimate stages of the programme.

For a four-stage programme, this means that your final Degree GPA will be calculated on Stages 3 and 4, and for a three-stage programme (BSc General Science degree), the means that your final Degree GPA will be calculated on Stages 2 and 3. The award will be weighted by a factor of 7 for the final stage and by a factor of 3 for your penultimate stage.

Further information is available from the [College of Science website](#).



Please see below a sample of how the Degree GPA is calculated.

STAGE	MODULE	GRADE	GRADE	CREDITS POINT (GP)	WEIGHTED ED GPA CREDITS	QUALITY POINTS (GP X CREDITS)	WEIGHTED QUALITY POINTS (QUALITY POINTS X WEIGHT)
3	A	A	4.00	5	15	20	60
3	B	A+	4.20	5	15	21	63
3	C	A-	3.80	5	15	19	57
3	D	A-	3.80	5	15	19	57
3	E	C+	3.00	5	15	15	45
3	F	A	4.00	5	15	20	60
3	G	B+	3.60	5	15	18	54
3	H	C+	3.00	5	15	15	45
3	I	A	4.00	5	15	20	60
3	J	B	3.40	5	15	17	51
3	K	A	4.00	5	15	20	60
3	L	B+	3.60	5	15	18	54
4	M	B+	3.60	5	35	18	126
4	N	A	4.00	5	35	20	140
4	O	A+	4.20	5	35	21	147
4	P	B+	3.60	5	35	18	126
4	Q	C+	3.00	5	35	15	105
4	R	A-	3.80	5	35	19	133
4	S	B+	3.60	5	35	18	126
4	T	A+	4.20	5	35	21	147
4	U	A-	3.80	5	35	19	133
4	V	B	3.40	15	105	51	357

Total sum of weighted quality points = 2206

Total sum of weighted GPA credits = 600

AWARD GPA      Total sum of weighted quality points (2206) ÷  
    Total sum of weighted GPA credits (600) = 3.68

## Progression and Completing the Degree Programme

Students can progress to the next stage of their programme carrying up to 10 credits from previous stages of the programme. You must complete these outstanding credits when you progress as you are required to complete 60 credits for each stage of the programme.

Students who are carrying 15 credits or more from previous stages of their programme are categorized as 'Not Progressed' and cannot be advanced to the next stage of their programme. These students will need to contact the College Office for advice on registration and remediation.

## Progression to Stage 4 Science, Computer Science and Actuarial and Financial Studies

In order to progress to Stage 4 of programmes in Science, Computer Science and Actuarial and Financial Studies, **students must have completed their programme requirements for Stage 3 and have achieved a minimum Stage GPA of 2.48.**

Students who complete Stage 3 with a GPA of 2.47 or lower will graduate with a BSc (General Science) degree. Students with a Stage 3 GPA of 2.47 or lower will be contacted by the College Office after the appropriate Programme Examination Board meeting to confirm that they will be put forward for the Level 8 BSc (General Science) degree award.

## Exit Awards

### BSc (General Science) Degree and BSc (Hons) Degree

Students on the Science, Computer Science and Actuarial and Financial Studies programmes may choose to exit their degree programme on the completion of 180 credits and will

be awarded a Level 8 Honours BSc General Science degree. Students who choose this degree will not be eligible to return to complete Stage 4 of the degree programme at a later date. Students who complete 240 credits will be awarded a Level 8 Honours degree in the major which they have qualified for on completion of Stages 1-4 of their degree programme.

## University Certificates and Diplomas

Science, Computer Science and BAFS students who withdraw from the programme and who have completed 30 credits are eligible for the award of **University Certificate in Science.**

Sustainability students who withdraw from the programme and who have completed 30 credits (with 20 credits at UCD Level 1 or above) are eligible for the award of **University Certificate in Sustainability.**

Science, Computer Science and BAFS students who withdraw from the programme and who have completed 60 credits are eligible for the award of a **University Diploma in Science.**

Computer Science students who withdraw from the programme and who have completed 90 credits (with at least 75 credits from programme modules; 60 credits at Level 1 and 25 credits at Level 2 or higher) are eligible for the award of a **University Diploma in Computer Science.**

Sustainability students who withdraw from the programme and who have completed 60 credits (with 45 credits at UCD Level 1 or above) are eligible for the award of **University Diploma in Sustainability.**

Please contact the **College of Science Office** for further details.

# STUDENT-RELATED POLICIES

UCD has a set of regulations (Academic Regulations) which govern our programmes, including rules around student workload, progression, assessment and grading. Each programme has a Governing Board (Programme Board) which ensures that these regulations are adhered to when designing curriculum, reviewing student registration and performance and when it is asked to consider options available to students.

There are also a set of University Policies which relate to students and which aim to support students throughout their time in their registered programme. The policies which are most frequently applied to students are outlined below.

If you need further guidance on these policies, please do come and speak with us in the College Office.

## Extenuating Circumstances Policy

In the context of the UCD Policy, Extenuating Circumstances are described as serious, unforeseen events which may prevent you from meeting the requirements of your programme.

If you are unable to complete assignments or attend classes/exams due to these circumstances, you can submit an application for Extenuating Circumstances. These applications are reviewed, in confidence, by a committee and the appropriate action will be recommended.

The committee may request that your Module Coordinators take these circumstances into account when reviewing your performance in the module; that you be awarded an IX so that you are given more time to complete the module; that you are withdrawn

from the module and provided with the opportunity to repeat this module when it next offered without fee or academic penalty ([please see the Assessment and Grading section for further information on IX/WN grades](#)).

Students who have experienced a serious, unforeseen event, or who face personal challenges during their time in UCD should contact the Student Advisors ([see p. 7 for their contact details](#)) or the College Office for advice on submitting an application for Extenuating Circumstances.

Further information can be found on the [College Office website](#).

## Late Submission of Coursework

Coursework which is assigned to a module should be submitted by the deadline which is notified to students by the Module Coordinator.

It is recognized that, on occasion and due to circumstances beyond your control, it is not always possible to meet these deadlines.

Should an event occur which is beyond your control, and which will result you in missing these set deadlines, please contact the Module Coordinator or the relevant School Office ([see pg. 6 for contact details](#)) for advice on how to apply for Late Submission of Coursework. Your application will be reviewed and a new deadline set in accordance with the policy guidelines.

An extension of more than 10 working days cannot be applied under this procedure. For more complex cases, and where an extension of more than 10 working days is required, students should refer to the Extenuating Circumstances policy.



The link to the Late Submission of Coursework Policy can be accessed from the Extenuating Circumstances section of the [College of Science website](#) and staff in the School Offices can also assist you with the Late Submission of Coursework application process.

## Recognition of Prior Learning

If you have completed learning at another Higher Education Institution or through another UCD programme prior to commencing your programme in the College of Science, you may be eligible for Recognition of Prior Learning. This means that you may receive accreditation for this learning and credits will be applied to your current programme of study.

For learning completed in UCD which is considered equivalent to modules you are required to take in your current programme, your prior learning can be applied as 'Specific Credit' which means that the grades will be applied and included in your GPA calculation.

This prior learning may also be mapped in lieu of Elective credits in your current programme.

Modules which were completed at another Higher Education Institution which are approved as Recognition of Prior Learning will be awarded as 'Non-specific Credit' and the number of credits applied are grade neutral.

This means that these credits will not be included in your GPA calculation.

Further information on the Recognition of Prior Learning Policy is available from the [College Office website](#) under the section on Registration Queries.

## Leave of Absence

Students who need to take an extended period of time away from their programme for personal, medical or academic reasons can apply for a Leave of Absence. Before applying for a Leave of Absence, please discuss this with the College Office or with a Student Adviser. The following should be noted when considering applying for a Leave of Absence:

- The maximum period of leave which a Governing Board would normally facilitate is one academic year. In exceptional circumstances, a Board may consider a longer period of leave but where a student is unsure about their date for returning to the programme, the Board would normally recommend that the student withdraws from the programme and applies for readmission when they are ready to return to the programme.
- The option to withdraw and apply for readmission at a later point only applies to students who have completed Stage 1 of their programme.
- During the period of approved leave, students' participation in the programme is suspended and students cannot remediate failed modules or address incomplete modules during this period.
- Students in the first trimester of Stage 1 of their programme, and students in the first trimester of a programme into which they have just transferred, are not eligible to apply for a Leave of Absence.

**Applications for a Leave of Absence can be submitted through SISWeb.**

- Select **Programme Services**
- **My Leave of Absence/Withdrawal Requests.**
- Select **Apply for a Leave of Absence**

You will be contacted by a member of staff in the College of Science Office if further information is required to support your application.

Once a decision has been made in relation to your application, you will see this in **My Leave of Absence/Withdrawal Requests**. An email will be sent to you on behalf of the Governing Board and your record will be updated with this decision within a few days.

Further information, including information on a retrospective application, is available from the [College Office website](#) under the section on Registration Queries.

### Withdrawing from a Programme

Students who decide to withdraw from their programme are strongly advised to speak with a Student Adviser or a member of staff in the College Office before they finalise their decision. During the first teaching term (Autumn) students can withdraw up until the end of Week 8 and this will not impact fees when they apply to another degree programme. Applications submitted after this date will have fee implications.

For the Spring Trimester, students can withdraw up until the 31st January to ensure that they do incur further fees for that academic year.

To withdraw from the programme, you can submit a notification of withdrawal through SISWeb:

- Select Programme Services
- My Leave of Absence/Withdrawal Requests.
- Select Withdraw from My Programme

You will receive an email upon submission of your withdrawal request and another email once the changes to your record have been processed. Once you receive confirmation for your withdrawal, please return your UCD Student Card (UCARD) to your College of Science Office.

Further information on Recognition of Prior Learning, Leave of Absence and Withdrawals is available from the [College of Science Office](#).



# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

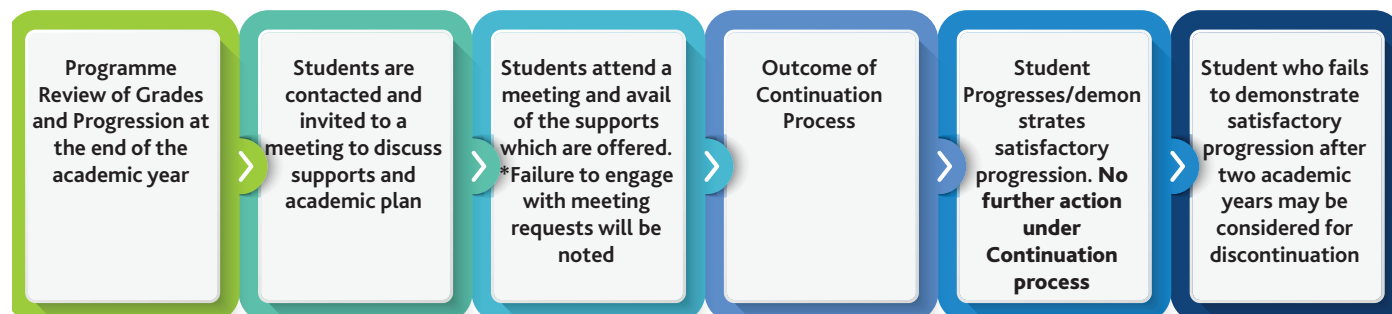
## Continuation – Academic Progress

Students' academic performance is monitored by the Governing Board. The Governing Board sets out additional standards for acceptable academic performance. Following the Spring Trimester examination period, students who fail to progress (earn 45 credits or less) in the current stage of their programme will be identified under the **Continuation – Academic Progress Policy** and will be invited to a meeting to discuss the challenges you faced during that trimester and will look at options in terms of supports

which can be provided, going forward. The purpose of these meetings under the Continuation – Academic Progress policy is to support students and to help them to successfully progress through their degree programme.

Students who fail to engage with this process, and who fail to make progress from the current stage of their programme after two academic years of continued registration, may be recommended for discontinuation by the Governing Board.

## Outline of the Continuation Review Process



## Fitness to Continue in Study

The University has a duty of care to ensure that students are fit to continue to study during their time at UCD. The Fitness to Continue in Study Policy is intended to support students in circumstances where their wellbeing or behaviour is impairing their ability to study and is at risk of adversely affecting those around them.

A student may be unable to continue with their study where:

- their health, behaviour or action pose a risk to their own health, safety or wellbeing, or that of others
- their health, behaviour or action pose a risk of, or is adversely affecting the working, learning or living experience of others or the day-to-day activities of the University or a Placement Provider
- the support needs of the student fall outside the scope of the support which the University can provide.

## Fitness to Practise

Some UCD programmes require students to undertake learning in professional settings, involving working with patients, clients or other service users.

Students undertaking the Mathematics, Science and Education programmes are expected to acknowledge in writing that they have read and understood the Fitness to Practise statement and email a signed copy of the statement, which will be issued to students before they commence their work placement to the Programme Director.

UCD defines Student Fitness to Practise as students having the skills, knowledge, health and character necessary to undertake and complete a programme with professional practice, experiential learning or clinical work safely and effectively, fulfilling their responsibilities with their scope of practice in their chosen field.

Information on the Continuation – Academic Progress Policy, the Fitness to Continue in Study Policy and procedures and the Fitness to Practise Policy and procedures is available from the [UCD Student Engagement, Conduct, Complaints and Appeals website](#).

# STUDENT CONDUCT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

As a member of the UCD community, it is important that you are respectful in your interactions with others and that you uphold high standards of personal responsibility and academic integrity which is expected of all students.

The University's Student Code of Conduct and Dignity and Respect policies sets out a standard of behaviours expected of all students.

The University is committed to the promotion of an environment for work and study which upholds the



dignity and respect of all of its members, and which supports the right to study and/or work in an environment which is free from bullying, sexual harassment or sexual violence.

It is important that you become familiar with the standards outlined in these documents to ensure a fair

and positive learning and working environment for everyone at UCD.

These documents, along with information on Academic Integrity policies, are available from the [UCD Student, Engagement, Conduct, Complaints and Appeals website](#).

## FINAL TIPS AND ADVICE

<b>Attendance</b>	Lack of attendance at lectures, has been identified in several studies as a significant risk factor for having below average scores in Science courses. Based on published data, students who attend >75% of lectures generally achieve significantly higher grades.
<b>Part-time Employment</b>	While we appreciate that students may need to work to help finance their studies, part-time employment can interfere with your attendance and academic performance. It is strongly advised not to undertake any part-time employment during the Revision Week prior to exams and during the examination period as this may contribute to any stress you might experience during this time.
<b>Get Involved</b>	<p>Getting involved with a society, a club or volunteering to take part in College events or a worthy cause is a great way to enhance your university experience. As well as the personal reward, the College of Science acknowledges the contribution of students to the Science community at a College of Science Awards event which is held in the Spring Trimester each year.</p> <p>The <b>UCD Advantage Award</b> also recognises the skills, knowledge and experience that you have gained through participation in co-curricular activity on and off campus. More information is available from the <a href="#">Career Network website</a>.</p>
<b>Ask for Help!</b>	Our opening hours for drop in queries are 10am-4pm Monday to Friday during term time. Outside of term, our opening hours are from 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm. Even if we don't have the answer, we can point you in the right direction.





College of Science Office  
E1.09, O'Brien Centre for Science  
Belfield  
Dublin 4  
01 716 2120  
[www.ucd.ie/science](http://www.ucd.ie/science)

[www.ucd.ie/askscience](http://www.ucd.ie/askscience)

