UNIVERSITY ACCESS COURSES FOR MATURE STUDENTS

2018-19

University for All

Age-friendly University
Global Network

PART-TIME PROGRAMME

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Access is the start of a new journey, giving you the skills and therefore the confidence to pursue your dream to further education.

- Former Access Student

Welcome to our Access Learning Programme

My name is Thomond Coogan and I am delighted to welcome you to Ireland's longest established Access programme!

UCD welcomes mature students and is delighted to provide foundation courses to get you started. UCD Access & Lifelong Learning is a leader in the field of lifelong learning and in supporting mature students in their return to learning, and preparation for university. We aim to provide a supportive setting, where you will you feel comfortable in approaching members of the Access team for guidance and direction. Our goal is to introduce you to many happy years of learning in UCD.

📞 **353 1 716 7123** @ **all@ucd.ie** 👆 **www.ucd.ie/all/study/accesscourses**

Thomond Coogan,
Mature Years
Access Programme
Co-ordinator

Contents

Welcome from College of Social Science and Law...

I am delighted to welcome you to Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Law, and to UCD. Congratulations on your decision to take this programme. It will offer you the opportunity to develop the skills you need to thrive in a university environment and also introduce you to a range of fascinating subjects. UCD is the leading centre for education and research in Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Law in Ireland and our beautiful and vibrant campus is an exciting place to study. We are proud of our excellent teachers and the collaborative and supportive environment on campus.

Our aim is to support you as you take this first step as a university student and to encourage you to use it as a springboard into one of our degrees.

You will be following in the footsteps of others who have come from this Access programme and gone on to achieve amazing things both in UCD and beyond. Who knows where it will lead you?

Associate Dean of Social Science
Sara O'Sullivan

Access your Potential and Access your Future.

- Former Access Student

INTRODUCTION

Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law is the oldest access course in Ireland and is designed to prepare mature learners for successful study at university.

Students who achieve a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.6 or more are guaranteed entry to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Law, at UCD. The access course is a Special Purpose Level 6 Award.

Our programme is student centred and will offer you support and guidance throughout your Access year. You will experience a range of teaching approaches including group work, case studies, reviews and in-class discussions in supportive large and small group settings. A variety of assessment methods are used including reflective journals, presentations, essays and exams to help you discover your learning style.

During your Access year you will have the opportunity to sample lectures and make informed choices about your CAO application and next steps.

PROGRESSION

Students who achieve a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.6 or more will be guaranteed a place on the following degree programmes in UCD.

- BA Arts Two Subjects (CAO code DN520) or
- BA Humanities (CAO code DN530)
- BSc Social Sciences (CAO code DN700) or
- BSocSc Social Policy and Sociology (CAO code DN750)
- BCL Law (CAO code DN600)

In addition to meeting the required standard on the course you must be eligible to apply on grounds of mature years and make an application through the CAO.

FROM AGE 22 TO 102!

Anyone aged 22 or more on 1st of January 2018 may apply for this Access course. This means that you will meet the age requirement of being at least 23 on 1st of January, when starting your degree. There is no upper age limit.
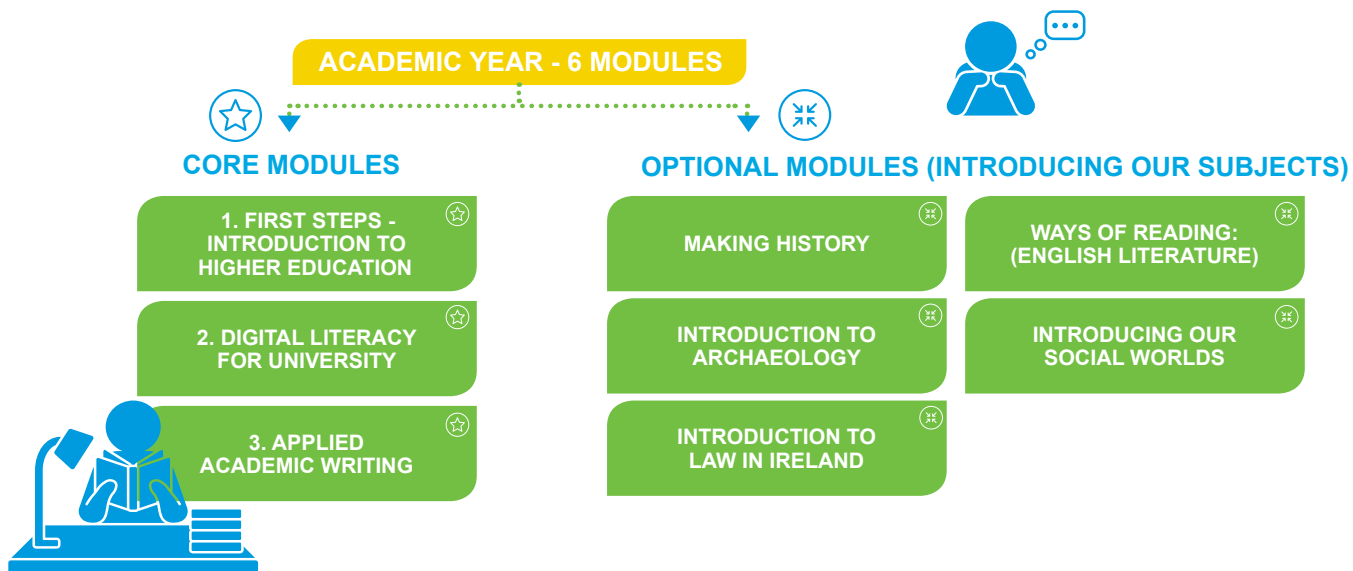
COURSE FEE

€850

GUIDANCE

Before applying for Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Science & Law, please take the time to read the material on our website: **https://www.ucd.ie/all/study/access**

If you've any further queries, please get in touch:
E: Thomond.Coogan@ucd.ie or T:353 (1) 716 7584

COURSE CHOICE AND TIMETABLE

You will take 6 modules over the academic year, with modules available mornings or evenings: 2 cores and one option in semester 1 and 1 core and two options in semester 2.

FROM AGE 22+

ACADEMIC YEAR - 6 MODULES

CORE MODULES

1. FIRST STEPS - INTRODUCTION TO HIGHER EDUCATION

2. DIGITAL LITERACY FOR UNIVERSITY

3. APPLIED ACADEMIC WRITING

OPTIONAL MODULES (INTRODUCING OUR SUBJECTS)

MAKING HISTORY

WAYS OF READING: (ENGLISH LITERATURE)

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

INTRODUCING OUR SOCIAL WORLDS

INTRODUCTION TO LAW IN IRELAND
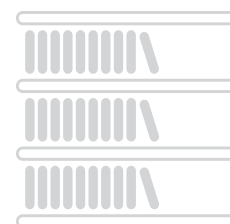
REQUIRED MODULES

These three core modules are compulsory for all students
- First Steps-Introduction to Higher Education
- Digital Literacy for University
- Applied Academic Writing

OPTIONAL MODULES (INTRODUCING OUR SUBJECTS)

Students must complete three modules. Choose from the following:
- Introduction to Archaeology
- Introducing our Social Worlds
- Making History
- Introduction to Law in Ireland
- Ways of Reading:English Literature

TIMETABLE 2018-19

SEMESTER 1		SEMESTER 2	
Tues 10.00-12.00	First Steps Intro to Higher Education	Tues 10.00-11.00	Applied Academic Writing
Tues 12.00-13.00	Digital Literacy for University	Tues 11.00-13.00	Introduction to Archaeology
Wed 10.00-12.00	First Steps Intro to Higher Education	Wed 10.00-11.00	Applied Academic Writing
Wed 12.00-13.00	Digital Literacy for University	Wed 11.00-13.00	Ways of Reading: English Literature
Thurs 11.00-13.00	Making History	Thurs 11.00-13.00	Introduction to Law in Ireland tbc
			OR
Fri 11.00-13.00	Introduction to Archaeology	Fri 11.00-13.00	Introduction to Law in Ireland tbc
Tues 18.00-19.00	Digital Literacy for University	Tues 18.00-19.00	Applied Academic Writing
Tues 19.00-21.00	First Steps –Intro to Higher Education	Tues 19.00-21.00	Making History
Thurs 18.00-20.00	Ways of Reading: English Literature	Thurs 18.00-20.00	Introducing our Social Worlds tbc

    Study Skills   Optional modules (introducing our subjects)

Course Duration: Semester 1 – 12 Weeks Semester 2 – 12 Weeks		
Belfield Campus	**Semester 1 2018-19**	**Semester 2 2018-19**
Term Dates	Tuesday 11 Sept – Friday 30 Nov	Tuesday 22 Jan – Friday 26 Apr
Field Work/ Study Period	Monday 29 Oct – Sunday 4th Nov	Monday 11 March – Sunday 24 March
Revision	Saturday 1 Dec – Sunday 9 Dec	Saturday 27 Apr – Sunday 5 May
Exam period	Monday 10 Dec - Friday 21 Dec	Tuesday 7 May – Saturday 18 May

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no formal educational entry requirements to the access course. What we need to know about you is your life experience and any formal or informal learning you have undertaken. Give us as much information as you think relevant. Evidence of recent prior learning is significant in an application. You will be invited to attend an informal interview, and, at that time, you will be assessed on a sample of written work. Your written piece will form the basis of a conversation where we can explore how the course meets your needs and expectations. The interviews are an opportunity for you to meet us to discuss your study plans, as well as allowing us to advise on whether the access course will be suited to you. Interviews are typically scheduled during June, July, and August by arrangement.

UCD COTHROM NA FÉINNE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Each year, UCD awards Cothrom na Féinne Scholarships to students from low income households, students with physical or sensory disabilities, students from the Traveller Community, and those with Refugee, Asylum Seeker, Leave to Remain status.

Remember – You must be over the age of 22 on 1st January 2018 to apply.

Cothrom na Féinne Scholars demonstrate clear motivation to pursue higher education, despite educational barriers faced, and act as leaders in Access & Lifelong Learning.
If you are registered as unemployed and/or in-receipt of one of the following payments: Job-seekers Benefit, Job-seekers Allowance, Disability Allowance, Illness Benefit, or One-Parent Family Allowance you may qualify for our Scholarship Programme. If you qualify for the Scholarship, your fee will be reduced to €425. It will be necessary to produce evidence of income.

For more information about scholarship opportunities see here: **http://www.ucd.ie/all/supportsscholarshipsfinancialsupports** for information about our Access Scholarships.

HOW TO APPLY

Application is online and continues until the end of August 2018.

See our website: **https://www.ucd.ie/all/study/access**

ORIENTATION

Access students will be invited to attend Welcome and Orientation days. This will be an opportunity to find out more about your course, meet fellow students, and become familiar with the Belfield campus and with UCD systems. A Library tour and tour of the campus, along with an introduction to services, including IT, will be included in the orientation.

CONTACT

Thomond Coogan: Access Programme Co-ordinator and Student Support & Guidance.
T: 353 1 716 7584 or E: Thomond.Coogan@ucd.ie

Welcome from College of Science

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to UCD Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture. Our goal is to introduce you to many happy years of learning. UCD is a university of international reputation, celebrated for the quality and value of our research and scholarship, dedication to excellence in teaching and for providing an outstanding learning environment for our students.

We are constantly adapting what and how we teach to better equip you for the many opportunities and challenges you will encounter.

We are proud of our Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture course and of the students who have preceded you and have gone on to forge fulfilling and productive careers. This year sees the introduction of two new progression routes - Computer Science and Medicine. We look forward to supporting you on your learning journey. While it may seem daunting as you begin, you need only look at the success of those who have taken this programme before you. They had the same fears and worries as you may have, but have gone on to shine, as no doubt you will. As we say in UCD, ad astra - aim for the stars!

**Joe Carthy,
College Principal**
College of Science

Always an outsider looking on in terror of having such a vast lack of knowledge. Now I am on the inside and it feels great.

- Former Access Student

Diploma in Access to Science, Engineering and Agriculture

Special Purpose Level 6 Award

INTRODUCTION

This course is designed to prepare adults, who may not have the formal qualifications, for successful study at university, particularly in the areas of Science, Engineering, Agriculture or Health & Safety.

This year we are delighted to announce progression routes into both Computer Science and Medicine.

OUR AIM IS TO:

- Facilitate you in finding a degree course that best suits your aptitude and interest
- Give you the confidence and skills necessary to plan and organise study for your particular needs
- Provide you with analytical skills to fully understand the material presented in all subject modules
- Equip you with the skills and confidence to take on a degree course in Agricultural Science, Engineering/Architecture or Science.

*WE GUARANTEE ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING NOMINATED DEGREE COURSES AT UCD:

- Bachelor of Science:
  (CAO Code DN200/DN201)
- Bachelor of Engineering:
  (CAO Code DN150)*
- Bachelor of Agriculture:
  (CAO Code DN250)(DN252)(DN253)
  (DN261)(DN271)(DN272)
- Medicine:
  (CAO Code DN400)*

In addition to meeting the required standard on the course you must be eligible to apply on grounds of mature years and make an application through the CAO.

AGE REQUIREMENT

Anyone aged 22 or more on 1st of January 2018 may apply for an Access course to start in September 2018. This means that you will meet the age requirement, of being at least 23 on 1st of January, when starting your degree. There is no upper age limit.

*Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture

GPA of 3.08* or more
=
Guaranteed
Entry to degree programmes in UCD

*Entry to Engineering is also contingent on obtaining an A- or higher in each of the mathematics modules

*Entry to Medicine is also contingent on obtaining a minimum grade of A- in the module Introduction to Chemistry, Physics & Biology. Applicants will be required to submit a learning journal and obtain a minimum HPAT Ireland score of 150.
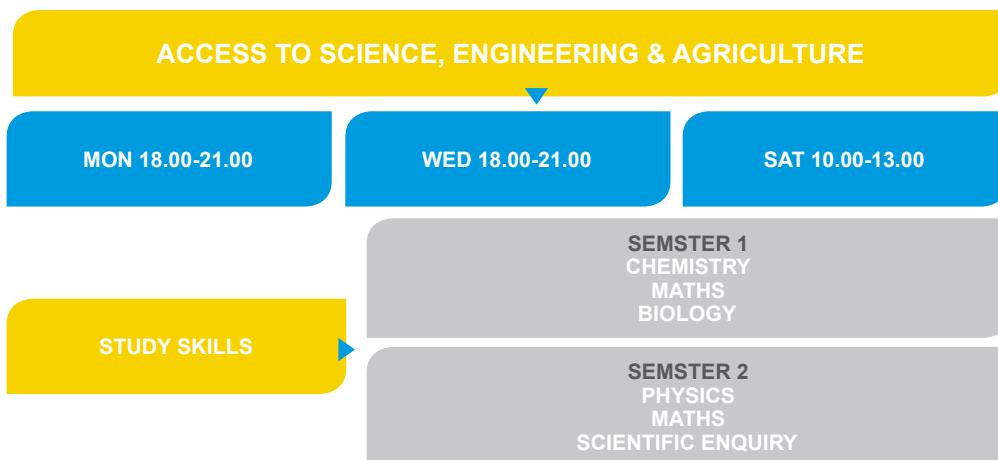
Two places will be offered per year and will be allocated on a competitive basis.

GUIDANCE

Before applying for Access to Science, Engineering and Agriculture please take the time to read the material on our website: **https://www.ucd.ie/all/study/access**

If you've any further queries, please get in touch with:
E: Thomond.Coogan@ucd.ie or T: 01 716 7584

ACCESS TO SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & AGRICULTURE

| MON 18.00-21.00 | WED 18.00-21.00 | SAT 10.00-13.00 |

STUDY SKILLS

SEMSTER 1
CHEMISTRY
MATHS
BIOLOGY

SEMSTER 2
PHYSICS
MATHS
SCIENTIFIC ENQUIRY

TIMETABLE 2018-19

Course Duration: 2 Semesters		
Belfield Campus	**Autumn 2018**	**Spring 2019**
Term Dates	Mon 10 Sept - Wed 28 Nov	Mon 21 Jan - Wed 10 Apr
Exam period	Mon 10 Dec - Fri 21 Dec	Tues 7 May - Sat 18 May

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no formal educational entry requirements to the access course. What we need to know about you is your life experience and any formal or informal learning you have undertaken. Give us as much information as you think relevant. Apply online using prior educational qualifications and life experience to support your application. Evidence of recent prior learning is most relevant in an application, ability in maths, and prior learning in at least one of the Science subjects is important.
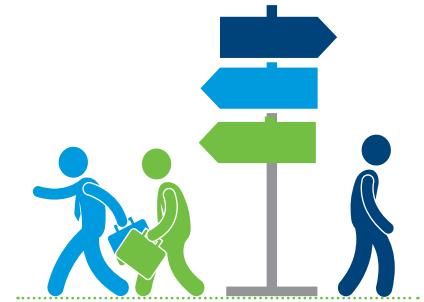
COURSE FEE
€1,800

APPLICATION

1
Step 1: Complete an application
Deadline for this **August 10th, 2018**.

2
Step 2: Pre-entry Hot Topics in Mathematics
Saturday, 18th August: 10:00 - 13:00
Monday, 20th August: 18:00 - 21:00
Wednesday, 22nd August: 18:00 - 21:00
Saturday, 25th August:10:00-13:00

All applicants will be assessed in mathematics at the end of the final workshop.

3
Step 3: Science Lecture
Wednesday, 29th August:18:30
All applicants will be required to submit a written assignment following the lecture. This will be a reflection on a question posed following the lecture and will not require subject expertise.

4
Step 4: Interview
Interviews will take place on **Thursday 30th & Friday 31st August**

Apply online: **https://www.ucd.ie/all/study/access**

Applicants to Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture must be available on the dates outlined in Step 2

Remember: You must be over the age of 22 on 1st January 2018 to apply.

Application for Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture will close at 5pm, on August 10th, 2018.

UCD COTHROM NA FÉINNE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Each year, UCD awards Cothrom na Féinne Scholarships to students from low income households, students with physical or sensory disabilities, students from the Traveller Community, and those with Refugee, Asylum Seeker, Leave to Remain status.

Cothrom na Féinne Scholars demonstrate clear motivation to pursue higher education, despite educational barriers faced, and act as leaders in Access & Lifelong Learning.

If you are registered as unemployed and/or in-receipt of one of the following payments: Job-seekers Benefit, Job-seekers Allowance, Disability Allowance, Illness Benefit, or One-Parent Family Allowance you may qualify for our Scholarship Programme. If you qualify for the Scholarship, your fee will be reduced to €600. It will be necessary to produce evidence of income.

For more information about scholarship opportunities see here: **http://www.ucd.ie/all/supports/ scholarshipsfinancialsupports** for information about our Access Scholarships.

ORIENTATION

Access students will be invited to attend a Welcome and Orientation morning, on Saturday 8th September, 09.00-13.00.

This will be an opportunity to find out more about your course, meet fellow students, and become familiar with the Belfield campus and UCD systems. A campus tour, along with an introduction to services, including IT, will be included in the orientation.

CONTACT

Thomond Coogan: Access Programme Co-ordinator and Student Support & Guidance.

T: 353 1 716 7584 or E: Thomond.Coogan@ucd.ie

This course really has given me the drive and ambition to get out and better myself not just in education but in everything else. Thank you.

- Former Access Student

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INFORMATION
# & FAQs

COMMUTING TO UCD

UCD is serviced by many bus routes and a shuttle bus service from the DART and to the LUAS. For more information, see **ucdestates.ie/commuting**. As an Access student, you can apply for a UCD parking permit. While the permit will not guarantee you a parking space, you will be able to park in the designated staff and student parking areas. For a nominal fee, students can apply for a permit on a semester by semester basis. Alternatively, there are also pay per hour parking spaces and premium parking spaces available on campus. For more information **www.ucd.ie/students/parking**

WELCOME DAYS AND ORIENTATION

Access students will be invited to attend Welcome and Orientation days.

This will be an opportunity to find out more about your course, meet fellow students, and become familiar with the Belfield campus and with UCD systems. A Library tour and tour of the campus, along with an introduction to services, including IT, will be included in the orientation.
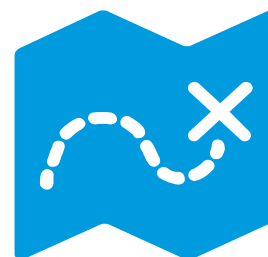
CONFIRMING YOUR ACCEPTANCE AND REGISTRATION

Once you have been offered a place formally, by email, your registration will be provisional until you confirm it online. Once you have paid the first semester instalment of your fees you will receive an email. Please read this email carefully as it will:
- confirm your student number,
- tell you how to confirm your registration by logging into the UCD system (UCD Connect)
- give you information on how to upload your photo and get your student card

It's important to confirm your registration; otherwise you can't get your student card, see your timetable or access your exam results.

UCD CONNECT / UCD EMAIL ADDRESS

Once you are fully registered as an Access student, you will be provided with a UCD Connect account, which provides access to a wide range of University services and information including a UCD email account. Accessed via the Internet, UCD Connect is always available whether you're on or off campus. In order to access UCD Connect: launch a web browser, go to **www.ucd.ie** and select UCD Connect (top right corner).

As a UCD student, you will also have access to your own ucdconnect email address.

The information provided in this programme is correct at the time of going to press, but the Access programmes are continuously developing, and the University reserves the right to make changes before or after student's admission. As much notice as possible will be given of such changes, but interested applicants should check: https://www.ucd.ie/all/study/access

Just to say that I really have had a life changing experience so far, the course has opened up a new horizon for me in both how I think about and approach third level study.

- Former Access Student

Q   What are Access courses?

A   These are specially designed courses to help adult learners prepare for university. Sometimes called Return to Learning, or Foundation courses, University Access courses equip mature students with the skills and confidence required to take the next step to selected degree courses. The UCD access courses guarantee entry to a number of degree programmes in UCD once course assessment criteria are met.

Q   What types of Access courses are offered?

A   There are two types of Access courses, namely:
Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law *and*
Access to Science, Engineering and Agriculture (Medicine)

Q   How do I know if an access course is for me?

A   An access course may suit you if:
o   You are a mature student
o   You do not meet existing entry requirements to university
o   You would like to 'test the water' and see what you make of the university environment
o   You want to build study skills and confidence before taking the step into a degree
o   You already qualify for university but are not ready to commit just yet

Q   Who is Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law aimed at?

A   This course is designed to prepare adults, who may not have formal qualifications, for successful study at university. The course is suitable for those who aim to study in the area of the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences or Law. The course aims to:
o   Equip students with the skills that they will need to engage in an undergraduate course
o   Introduce students to the methods of study, writing and research required for successful participation in higher education
o   Prepare students to compete for entry to university and to make informed choices about further study
o   Increase students' self-confidence in their ability to advance in university
o   Offer students the opportunity to experience the fulfilment that can be gained from learning in an academic setting

Q What is the course fee for Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law?

A €850. However, you may qualify for a Cothrom na Féinne Scholarship, and this would either reduce your fee by half, or offer you a free place. Students who are registered as unemployed and/or in-receipt of one of the following payments: Job-seekers Benefit, Job-seekers Allowance or One-Parent Family Allowance or Disability Benefit may qualify for a Mature Years Access Scholarship. To apply for the scholarship or reduced course fees you will need to produce evidence of income.

Q Who is Access to Science, Engineering and Agriculture (Medicine) aimed at?

A This course is designed to prepare adults, who may not have the formal qualifications, for successful study at university, particularly in the areas of Science, Engineering, Agriculture (Medicine) and Health & Safety
Access to Science, Engineering and Agriculture aims to:
o Support students in finding the third level course that best suits their aptitude and interest
o Give students the confidence and skills necessary to plan and organise study for their particular needs
o Provide students with analytical skills in order to fully understand the material presented in all subject modules
o Equip students with the skills and confidence to take on a degree course in Agricultural Science: Engineering/Architecture; Science; Medicine certificate/degree or diploma course in Health and Safety at Work

Q What is the course fee to Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture (Medicine)?

A €1,800. However, you may qualify for a Cothrom na Féinne Scholarship, and this would either reduce your fee to €600, or offer you a free place.   Students who are registered as unemployed and/or in-receipt of one of the following payments: Job-seekers Benefit, Job-seekers Allowance, One-Parent Family Allowance or Disability Benefit may qualify for the Mature Years Access Scholarship. It will be necessary to produce evidence of income.

Q Who can apply for a place on an Access course?

A Anyone aged 22 or more on 1st of January 2018 may apply for this Access course.   For entry to third level programmes applicants must be at least 23 on 1st of January of the proposed year of entry. There is no upper age limit.

Q What are the entry requirements?

A   There are no formal educational entry requirements. Applicants may apply using prior educational qualifications or life experience. Evidence of recent prior learning is most relevant in an application, ability in maths, and prior learning in at least one of the Science subjects is important.

Q Will I be the oldest? Am I too old to learn/start college? Will I feel uncomfortable in class with much younger people?

A   There is no upper age limit. Former students have found that the age-mix helps create an atmosphere which lends itself to sharing information and pooling resources.

Q I never sat the Leaving Cert., am I still eligible?

A   It is desirable though not essential. Applicants to Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law and Access to Science, Engineering and Agriculture are not required to have formal qualifications; they will be given the opportunity to make a personal statement outlining their life experience and abilities.

Q Are the courses full-time or part-time?

A   Part-time. Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law courses are offered in such a way that students may attend either morning or evening. Students register to six modules over the academic year.
Access to Science, Engineering and Agriculture is offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings and on Saturday mornings.

Q What subjects are available? Is there a choice?

A   Subject options may change on the Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law course from one year to the next. No matter what subjects are on offer, bear in mind that the acquiring of learning skills and the process itself are the key objectives of Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law. The modules in Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture (Medicine) do not change.

Q How do I apply for an Access course?

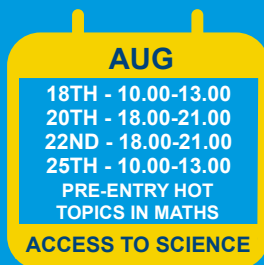A   Application is made directly ONLINE at **http://www.ucd.ie/all/study/access**

This course has prepared me for success in further studying at third level, so I would say that Access is the perfect gateway for a degree.

- Former Access Student

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Save the date

JUL & AUG

INTERVIEW DATES

ACCESS TO AHSSL

AUG

16

ONLINE REGISTRATION

ACCESS TO AHSSL

AUG

18TH - 10.00-13.00
20TH - 18.00-21.00
22ND - 18.00-21.00
25TH - 10.00-13.00
PRE-ENTRY HOT TOPICS IN MATHS

ACCESS TO SCIENCE

AUG

28-29

WELCOME/ ORIENTATION

ACCESS TO AHSSL

AUG

29

PRE-ENTRY LECTURE

ACCESS TO SCIENCE

AUG

30-31

INTERVIEWS

ACCESS TO SCIENCE

SEPT

8

WELCOME/ ORIENTATION

ACCESS TO SCIENCE

SEPT

10

CLASSES BEGIN

ACCESS TO SCIENCE

SEPT

11

CLASSES BEGIN

ACCESS TO AHSSL

DEC

1-9

REVISION

AHSSL: Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law
Access to Science: Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture (Medicine)