Comparability of International Qualifications

Qualifications obtained from countries outside the Republic of Ireland must be deemed comparable to and meet the equivalent level for entry to the degree programme applied for. The University will only recognise qualifications that are awarded by suitably quality-assured organisations. UCD uses a variety of International Qualifications databases in its assessment of qualifications.

For standard EU second level qualifications UCD uses the Agreed Entry Requirements Criteria which is jointly prepared by Admissions Officers in the Universities in Ireland. The document is reviewed annually before applications open for the following year. Changes during the admissions cycle will only be considered where there is evidence of a major change in the examination system which was not available when the document was prepared.

Numerus Clausus

In the case of high demand programmes, a numerus clausus may operate i.e. if there is a significant imbalance in the proportions of eligible applicants for a course between Leaving Certificate and other EU qualifications, places are offered to eligible applicants from each examination system group on the basis of ranking within their group.

Home schooled students

UCD will accept applications from home-educated students. However, in the interests of fairness to all applicants it must be possible for UCD to objectively assess their academic background.

This means that they must present a recognised qualification, such as ICCE or A-level and GCSE. If applicants are studying in the US system, they must have an official High School transcript together with SAT I scores. For more competitive courses SAT II will be required and for very competitive courses AP scores are also required.

It is regretted that applicants who do not have documented prior learning cannot be considered for admission to UCD in competition with other school-leavers. For some courses, there are alternative routes available such as UCD Open Learning or a 1 year QQI-FET course.

April 2025