



University College Dublin

An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath

Summary Entry Requirements (for 2026 entry)

How do I apply?

Generally, if you are eligible for EU fees, you should apply via the Central Applications Office (CAO) for admission to undergraduate courses in UCD. It is best to apply online at www.cao.ie. The CAO handbook, which gives details of application procedures and closing dates, is available on the CAO website. www.cao.ie

If you are not eligible for EU fees (see below) or you are a transfer applicant (post-year 1), you must apply directly to the University. Please see www.ucd.ie/admissions for details.

When must my results be with CAO?

All documentation and exam results which you are presenting for assessment for entry to UCD must be with CAO no later than the dates below:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • HEAR/DARE supporting documents | 10 th March 2026 |
| • Irish Leaving Certificate 2026 | result issue date |
| • UK A-level 2026 | result issue date |
| • Other exams (including previous Leaving Cert/A-level) | 12 days before round 1 (approx. 1 st August 2026) |
| • Other applicants (e.g. QQI-FET/Mature/Transfers): | See relevant UCD website overleaf. |

UCD will not make offers after the third week of the trimester. Where results are received later than this due to circumstances beyond the applicant's control, a deferred offer may be issued.

How do I know my fee status?

- Were you born outside the EU/EEA?
- Have you, or your parents, lived outside the EU/EEA for 3 of the last 5 years?
- Are you a non-EU/EEA National?
- Have you previously attended a third-level institution (in Ireland or elsewhere)?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may not be eligible for "free" fees or EU Fees. You must visit www.ucd.ie/fees for information on the fees and undertake a fee assessment.

If you are deemed to be a non-EU candidate for fees purposes, you should apply directly to UCD at www.ucd.ie/global.

General Regulations

Are there age limits?

Students must normally be 17 years of age by 15 January following entry: i.e. for entry in 2026, date of birth must be on or before 15 January 2010. There is no upper limit.

How are applications assessed?

Admission to all courses is competitive (i.e. there are more applicants than places) and, other than Access routes (e.g. mature years or QQI FET), is based on the Leaving Certificate points system or equivalent. In the case of Medicine, the HPAT-Ireland results are taken in combination with the school-leaving results.

Do any courses require health screening?

If you are admitted to any of the following courses, you will be required on admission to pass a health screening and vaccine process and from time to time thereafter, in accordance with the health policy of the College of Health and Agricultural Sciences.

- Biomedical, Health and Life Sciences (DN440)
- Human Nutrition (DN262)
- Medicine (DN400 and DN401)
- Physiotherapy (DN420)
- Radiography (DN410 and DN411)
- Nursing (DN450-453)

There is a cost associated with these tests.

<https://www.ucd.ie/stuhealth/healthcarestudents/>

Is any other screening required?

You will be required to satisfactorily complete vetting in accordance with our Student Vetting Policy if you are admitted to some courses. Currently these are:

- Human Nutrition (DN262)
- Medicine (DN400 and DN401)
- Nursing (DN450-453)
- Physiotherapy (DN420)
- Radiography (DN410 and DN411)

Depending on placement:

- Sport, Health & Exercise Science (DN425)
- Sport & Exercise Management (DN430)

If you have lived outside Ireland for more than 6 months since the age of 18, you must provide Police Certificates for those countries. If a relevant offence is disclosed by the relevant vetting body, you may not be permitted to continue.

I am taking other EU examinations. How will I be assessed?

UCD has agreed methods for converting all other recognised EU/EEA qualifications to a points equivalent. Please see our website for details. EU applicants presenting non-EU qualifications should contact Admissions for advice.

Irish Leaving Certificate

What are the minimum entry requirements (matriculation)?

To be eligible to compete, you must present at least six recognised subjects (including all those necessary for the course, see overleaf) and you must obtain a minimum of Grade H5 in two subjects and a minimum of Grade O6/H7 in the remaining four subjects.

For all courses Irish and English are required. (Candidates born outside Ireland or educated outside Ireland for significant periods and candidates with certain disabilities may be entitled to claim an NUI Irish exemption. See www.nui.ie for details)

What subjects are recognised?

All subjects of the Leaving Certificate – Higher and Ordinary level – are recognised, except as follows:

- 1 The subject 'Mathematics Ordinary Alternative/Foundation Level' will be accepted for matriculation registration purposes. However, points will not be awarded for this subject, and it cannot be used as a substitute for the subject 'Mathematics' in courses for which 'Mathematics' is an entry requirement.
- 2 The subjects 'Gaeilge – Bonnleibhéal' (Irish-Foundation Level) will not be accepted for matriculation registration purposes or points.
- 3 The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is not an acceptable qualification for matriculation purposes but it may be included as a subject for points.

Are there any combinations of subjects not permitted?

- 1 The subject 'Physics and Chemistry' may not be presented with either 'Physics' or 'Chemistry'.
- 2 'Agricultural Economics' may not be presented with 'Economics'.
- 3 'Classical Studies' may not be presented with 'Latin' or 'Greek'.

Applicants presenting Leaving Certificate results which include subjects that are no longer offered should contact www.ucd.ie/askus with regard to acceptability and any exclusions which may apply.

What are the Laboratory Science Subjects?

The following subjects in the Irish Leaving Certificate are recognised laboratory science subjects: Agricultural Science; Biology; Chemistry; Physics and Chemistry (Joint); Physics. See minimum entry requirements link at www.ucd.ie/lc for further details. For some courses, additional subjects are recognised as laboratory science subjects (see website).

What languages meet the third language requirement?

All languages offered in the Irish Leaving Certificate other than Irish and English. It does not have to be a European language.

The points system:

As there are usually more applicants than places available, admission to undergraduate courses is competitive based on a points system.

The examination results of applicants who matriculate and meet Course Entry Requirements are assessed based on points allocated for grades obtained in the Leaving Certificate examination.

Points are awarded as follows:

%	Grade	Points Higher Level	Points Ordinary Level
90-100	1	100	56
80-89	2	88	46
70-79	3	77	37
60-69	4	66	28
50-59	5	56	20
40-49	6	46	12
30-39	7	37	N/A

Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (LCVP) Link Modules	Grade	Points
	Distinction	66
	Merit	46
	Pass	28

Notes:

- 25 additional points will be awarded for a grade H6 or better in Leaving Certificate Mathematics, where that subject is one of the six subjects being counted for points purposes.
- The school-leaving examination performance of applicants is scored on the basis of the applicants' best results in no more than six individual subjects taken in the Leaving Certificate examination of any one year. Where an applicant presents school-leaving examinations in two or more years, the best result in a single sitting will be selected for scoring purposes.
- The one-year scoring restriction does not affect the separate matriculation requirements of the National University of Ireland; i.e. it is still possible to complete matriculation requirements over more than one year, except for Medicine where applicants must meet the minimum entry requirements in the same sitting of the Leaving Certificate that they present for points calculation purposes.

The subjects and combination of subjects not permitted for matriculation also applies when computing an applicant's points score.

Does UCD accept the Applied Leaving Certificate?

No, this examination does not meet matriculation or entry requirements.

QQI-FET applicants

If you have a QQI-FET Level 5 or Level 6 Certificate with distinctions in five modules, you may be eligible to apply on that basis for many of our courses. Please note, entry is competitive and more than five distinctions may be required.

The list of awards acceptable for each course and modules required is available at www.ucd.ie/FET.

A-Level Applicants

To matriculate with A-level and GCSE examinations you must obtain Grade C or better in two subjects at A-level and passes in four other recognised subjects at A-level/GCSE.

At GCSE, grade 4/C or better is regarded as a pass.

You must also meet Course Entry Requirements.

Please note, not all subjects are recognised. You should check the NUI website www.nui.ie for details of A-level subjects which are acceptable and those which will not be considered in combination (i.e. are mutually exclusive).

For full details of A-level scoring please see the website www.ucd.ie/alevel

Does it matter if I've attended third level before?

You **must** include details of all previous third level attendance when applying. For some courses restrictions apply. www.ucd.ie/transfer. Previous third level attendance may have fees implications www.ucd.ie/fees.

What is my responsibility?

The onus is on the applicant to check entry criteria for the courses for which they are applying. Please note criteria can change from year to year.

As an applicant, it is your responsibility to provide full and accurate information in the application and to notify the University and CAO of any changes or corrections made to the original application. UCD may request verification from the issuing authority of any or all details on documentation presented. If documents are found to have been falsified the awarding body will be notified.

In the light of additional information, which was not available at the time of selection, an offer may be amended or, in exceptional circumstances, withdrawn. We also reserve the right to correct errors where they have been made in the communication of decisions and offers.

See Terms and Conditions of offer at <https://www.ucd.ie/registry/prospectivestudents/admission/policiesandgeneralregulations/termsandconditionsoffer/>

More Questions?

See www.ucd.ie/admissions/faqs-undergraduate/ or contact us at www.ucd.ie/askus

Our policies are available at www.ucd.ie/admissions/policiesandgeneralregulations/

Useful Websites

Important dates for applicants

<https://www.ucd.ie/registry/prospectivestudents/admissions/admissions-keydates/>

Entry requirements

www.ucd.ie/lc

A-level Applicants

www.ucd.ie/alevel

EU/EEA Applicants

www.ucd.ie/eu

Non-EU applicants

www.ucd.ie/global

QQI FET applicants

www.ucd.ie/FET

Mature applicants

www.ucd.ie/maturestudents

DARE and HEAR

www.ucd.ie/lc

Follow HEAR or DARE link as appropriate

Graduate Entry Pathways

www.ucd.ie/grad_entry

Scholarships

www.ucd.ie/scholarships/

Accommodation

www.ucd.ie/residences/

Transfer Applicants

www.ucd.ie/transfer

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

www.ucd.ie/rpl

Vetting Requirements

www.ucd.ie/vetting

Information about fees

www.ucd.ie/fees

Tests for Applicants

HPAT – for applicants to DN400

<https://hpat-ireland.acer.org/>

GAMSAT for applicants to DN301 & DN401

[University admission - Ireland - Graduate Medical School Admissions Test - GAMSAT](#)

NMBI Written Assessment for Mature Applicants to DN450-453

<https://www.nmbi.ie/Careers-in-Nursing-Midwifery/>

Practical Experience

Veterinary Medicine practical experience – for applicants to DN300

http://www.ucd.ie/vet_admission



University College Dublin – Summary Entry Requirements

This table is a summary of entry and matriculation requirements for school-leavers. **Any changes in requirements will be updated @ www.ucd.ie/lc**.
Please note: For some courses particular subjects, while not required, are recommended –see the prospectus for full details

Course details are published in the UCD Undergraduate Prospectus 2026, available online at www.myucd.ie or hard copy on request from <https://myucd.ucd.ie/request/requestInfo.do> For contact details and Frequently Asked Questions, please see www.ucd.ie/admissions

As cut-off points are determined by the school-leaving results of applicants, it is not possible to forecast the points which will be required for entry in 2026

CAO Code	Course Title	Course Entry Requirements						Minimum Points		Approx Places 2026
		Irish	English	Other Language	Maths	Laboratory Science Subject	Additional Matric Subjects	2025 Final	2024 Final	
DN100	Architecture	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7		3	555*	544*	57
DN120	Landscape Architecture	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7		3	485	474	28
DN130	City Planning and Environmental Policy	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7		3	481	477	31
DN150	Engineering	O6/H7	O6/H7		H4	H6 ⁽¹⁾	2	577*	568	285
DN200	Science	O6/H7	O6/H7		O2/H6	O2/H6 ⁽¹⁾	2	543	544	420
DN201	Computer Science	O6/H7	O6/H7		O2/H6		3	540	533	105
DN230	Actuarial and Financial Studies	O6/H7	O6/H7		H2		3	613	613*	50
DN240	Sustainability	O6/H7	O6/H7		O2/H6		3	532	531	70
DN250	Agricultural Science	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	431	397	250
DN261	Food Science	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	466	490	47
DN262	Human Nutrition	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	530	532	34
DN300	Veterinary Medicine (Undergraduate Entry) ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	Chemistry H5	1	589*	589*	82
DN301	Veterinary Medicine (Graduate Entry) ^{(3) (4)}	See www.ucd.ie/grad_entry for details								5
DN310	Veterinary Nursing	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	468	481	44
DN400	Medicine (Undergraduate Entry) ^{(3) (5)}	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	1	738	735	125
DN401	Medicine (Graduate Entry) ^{(3) (4)}	See www.ucd.ie/grad_entry for details								77
DN410	Radiography	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	1	544*	554	130
DN411	Diagnostic Radiography (Graduate Entry) ⁽⁴⁾	See www.ucd.ie/grad_entry for details								20
DN420	Physiotherapy ^{(3) (4)}	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	1	578	588	58
DN425	Sport, Health & Exercise Science	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	531	542	55
DN430	Sport and Exercise Management	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	477	478	58
DN440	Biomedical, Health and Life Sciences	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	1	589	593	40
DN450	General Nursing ⁽³⁾	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	444	407	164
DN451	Children's & General Nursing (Integrated) ⁽³⁾	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	507	495	42
DN452	Midwifery ⁽³⁾	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	502	484	27
DN453	Mental Health Nursing ⁽³⁾	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽¹⁾	2	400	367	33

CAO Code	Course Title	Course Entry Requirements					Points (minimum)		Approx No of Places 2026	
		Irish	English	Other Language	Maths	Laboratory Science Subject	Additional Matric Subjects	2025 Final		2024 Final
DN520	BA Joint Honours	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7			3	420	419	380
DN530	Humanities	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7			3	462	460	290
DN541	Modern Languages	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7			3	409	398	30
DN600	Law	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽⁶⁾			3	564	556	125
DN610	Business and Law	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O2/H6		2	566	576	120
DN620	Criminology with Psychology	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7			3	507	519	60
DN650	Commerce	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O2/H6		2	553	545	235
DN660	Commerce International	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 ⁽⁷⁾	O2/H6		2	544	542	97
DN670	Economics and Finance	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	H4		2	625	625	55
DN700	Social Sciences	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7		3	490	468	519
DN710	Economics	O6/H7	O6/H7		H5		3	542	532	50
DN720	Psychology	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7		3	544	553	90
DN750	Social Policy and Sociology	O6/H7	O6/H7		O6/H7		3	432	410	85
DN760	Education	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7			3	420	466	45
Key to required subjects:				* It was not possible to offer all applicants with this score and random selection was used for those on this point.						
O	indicates minimum grade at Ordinary level at Leaving Certificate									
H	indicates minimum grade at Higher level at Leaving Certificate									

Footnotes

- The following subjects are recognised laboratory science subjects:
 - Agricultural Science
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics and Chemistry (Joint)
 - Physics

In addition to the subjects above Geography or Applied Mathematics or Computer Science may be used to meet the Laboratory Science subject requirement for Science (DN200).
- Applicants for 2026 must have at least 60 hours practical experience relevant to animal handling between 1 February 2023 and 7 July 2026 (see www.ucd.ie/vet_admission).
- Applicants who have previously been unsuccessful in a similar course will not normally be eligible.
- Graduate entry pathway exists. Please see www.ucd.ie/grad_entry for details
- Undergraduate entry to medicine for school leavers is based on **both**:
 - meeting the minimum entry requirements for the course in the same sitting of the Irish Leaving Certificate Examination that they present for points calculation purposes. A minimum of 480 points (or equivalent in other EU examinations) is required for consideration.
 - completing the required HPAT-Ireland test. The score from HPAT – Ireland can be used for admission to an undergraduate medicine course commencing in the same year ONLY. For example, results from HPAT – Ireland 2026 can be used for undergraduate medicine courses beginning in 2026 but NOT in 2027.
 - The points for DN400 are adjusted when combined with HPAT – Ireland (see link from DN400 on www.ucd.ie/lc)
 - Please note this is changing for 2027
- If you enter with less than H3 in Leaving Certificate French, you will not be able to take Law with French Law.
- If you enter with less than H4 in Leaving Certificate French, you will not be able to take any French language combination.

Options within courses Most courses have some options within them. You should read the UCD prospectus for details. For the courses on the following page, an option must be selected at time of application. You can apply for each CAO code only once. The entry requirements and points will be the same regardless of which option you choose.	DN520 Joint Honours Choose 2 subjects from the following list: • Archaeology • Art History • Celtic Civilization • Drama Studies • English • Film Studies • French • Geography • German • Greek • Greek & Roman Civilization • History • Information & Communication • Irish / Gaeilge • Irish Folklore • Irish Studies • Italian • Latin • Linguistics • Mathematics • Music • Philosophy • Portuguese • Sociology • Spanish • Statistics Not all combinations are possible. Please see grid in prospectus and CAO Handbook	DN530 Humanities Choose one of • Classics, Art History and Archaeology • Classics, English and History • Creative and Cultural Industries • English Literature • English with Creative Writing • English, Drama and Film • European Studies • Global Studies • History • History and Politics • The Irish Language and Culture • Irish Studies • Languages, Linguistics and Cultures • Music • Music, Film and Drama	DN700 Social Sciences Choose one of the following three streams: • Computational Social Science • Economics, Mathematics and Statistics • Philosophy, Politics and Economics OR Two of the following subjects • Archaeology • Art History (M) • Celtic Civilization (M) • Chinese (M) • Earth Sciences (M) • Economics • English (M) • French (M) • Geography • German (M) • Greek & Roman Civilization (M) • Greek (M) • History (major and minor) • Information & Communication Studies • Irish (M) • Irish Folklore (M) • Italian (M) • Linguistics (M) • Mathematics • Music (M) • Philosophy • Politics and International Relations • Social Justice • Sociology • Spanish (M) • Statistics Not all combinations are possible. Subjects marked (M) are at Minor level only. See grid in prospectus and CAO Handbook
DN200 Science Choose ONE of • Explore Multiple Streams • Biological, Biomedical & Biomolecular Sciences • Earth & Environmental Sciences • Chemistry (includes Medicinal/ Sustainable) • Mathematics (includes Applied/ Financial/ Statistics & Data Science) • Physics (includes Theoretical) • Astronomy & Space Science) • Science, Mathematics & Education	DN600 Law Choose one of • Law (BCL) • Law with Economics • Law with French Law • Law with History • Law with Irish • Law with Politics • Law with Philosophy • Law with Social Justice	DN541 Modern Languages Choose 2 of the following languages: • French • German • Italian • Portuguese • Spanish	UCD Registry Admissions Tierney Building UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4
DN250 Agricultural Science Choose ONE of • Agricultural Systems Technology • Agri-Environmental Sciences • Animal and Crop Production • Animal Science • Animal Science – Equine • Crop Science • Dairy Business • Food and Agribusiness Management • Food Business with Chinese Studies • Forestry • Horticulture • No preference	 www.ucd.ie/askus	DN660 Commerce International Choose 2 of the following languages: • Chinese • French • German • Italian • Spanish	
DN261 Food Science pick one of two pathways: • Food Science or • Sustainable Food Systems		DN760 Education Choose one of • BEd Education, Gaeilge & Modern Languages • BEd Education & Modern Languages • BEd Education & Gaeilge	
 www.ucd.ie/myucd www.ucd.ie/admissions		 01 716 1608	