A student progresses through an undergraduate programme in stages. For full-time undergraduate students, a 60-credit stage will normally be completed in one academic year.

Academic Terms

- **BSc** Bachelor of Science
- **BAFS** Bachelor of Actuarial and Financial Studies

**Degree Subject**
Examples of degree subject areas are Microbiology, Physics with Astronomy & Space Science or Chemistry. In Science, your degree will eventually be in one of 27 different subjects.

**Entry Requirements**
The minimum standard in order to be eligible for consideration for admission.

**Common Entry**
A common entry programme has a single entry point for multiple potential degree options.

**Stage**
A student progresses through an undergraduate programme in stages. For full-time undergraduate students, a 60-credit stage will normally be completed in one academic year.

- **Major**
  A main area of study. A major will show what subject area your degree is in, such as Zoology.

- **Trimester**
The academic year in UCD is divided into Trimesters (Autumn, Spring, Summer). Undergraduate degree teaching takes place in the Autumn Trimester (September to December) and the Spring Trimester (January to May). This is normally 15 weeks of student activity: 12 weeks of teaching and learning, one week of revision and two weeks of revision and assessment.

- **Grade Point Average (GPA)**
  Each grade has a number associated with it, called a grade point. When you have completed all the modules of a Stage, all your grade points are averaged to get a Grade Point Average, or GPA, for that Stage.

- **Stream**
  Science in UCD has 3 streams. The streams available are Biological, Biomedical & Biomolecular Sciences (BBB), Chemistry & Chemical Sciences (CCS) and Mathematical, Physical & Geological Sciences (MPG). Streams are used to categorise the 27 different subjects available as degree options in the common entry programme. By meeting the requirements of a particular stream in first year, the subjects within that stream remain available to choose in second year.

Information on Classes

- **Module**
  A self-contained unit of teaching and learning, which is usually studied over one Trimester. Undergraduate modules are normally 5 credits. A standard 5-credit UCD module represents 100-125 hours of student effort including time spent in class, studying and assessment. Modules in UCD are divided into core, option and elective modules.

- **Core Module**
  A compulsory module that you must do as part of your programme. You will usually be pre-registered to these modules.

- **Option Module**
  A module that is part of your programme but is not compulsory. You will be given a list of option modules to choose from when you register online.

- **Elective Module**
  As well as Core and Option modules, you can study Elective modules that either deepen your knowledge in your chosen programme or allow you to explore subjects outside of your area of study. For example, a student in Computer Science could take a Business or Language module.

- **Timetable**
  Each student will have their own personalised timetable based on their individual module selection. The timetable will be filled with a variety of class types such as lectures, practicals, tutorials etc. An average first year timetable will have 30 hours of class time per week including lectures, practicals and tutorials. Sample timetables for first year are available on the UCD Science website at www.ucd.ie/science/.

Practicals

Practical (or laboratory) classes involve carrying out selected experiments, examining scientific material and getting hands-on experience of practical subjects. They generally take place in the afternoons and are of two-to-three hours duration.

- **Tutorials**
  Tutorials generally take place in a classroom with a smaller group size than lectures. They provide an opportunity to explore and apply the concepts, skills and competencies in a manner that is not usually possible in larger classroom environments.

Credit

This is a standard way of representing the amount of student effort, the achievement of learning outcomes and educational activity associated with a module. UCD utilises the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The ECTS was developed to facilitate educational mobility for students and inter-institutional cooperation amongst higher education institutions within the European Union.

Student Life

- **Orientation**
  To help you settle into life at UCD, orientation events are organised for new students prior to the start of term. This includes important academic advice as well as extra-curricular activities to help you settle into life at UCD.

- **Societies**
  Student societies are a great way to explore your interests or develop new ones. UCD currently has over 70 active societies so there really is something for everyone, from fun events to guest speakers, plays to debates and comedy nights. An example is the UCD Science Society (SciSoc). SciSoc is one of UCD's biggest societies and it is responsible for a range of events such as the annual “Cycle to Galway”, Science Day festival, the Science Ball and many more.

- **Peer Mentor**
  Peer Mentors are students in Stage 2 or 3 who very generously give of their time to help welcome and support Stage 1 students. Students are introduced to their Peer Mentor during Orientation.

- **Clubs**
  UCD sports clubs are at the centre of student sport. Clubs provide a range of opportunities to train, play and compete in sport, no matter your passion, ability or level.