**University College Dublin**
National University of Ireland, Dublin

# UNIVERSITY ACCESS COURSES

## ACCESS AND LIFELONG LEARNING

# University Access Courses

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.

## ACCESS all areas!

**Have you ever thought of coming to university to study for a degree?**
**We offer *Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law* and *Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture* depending on what degree course you are interested in pursuing.**

### STUDENT FEEDBACK

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

*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.*

# Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law

**CERTIFICATE IN ACCESS TO ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES– SPECIAL PURPOSE LEVEL 6 AWARD**

This course is designed to prepare adults, who may not have formal qualifications, for successful study at university. The course is particularly suited for those who aim to study in the area of the Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences or Law. *Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law* is a part-time programme.  You may choose to study either two mornings or two evenings per week, over two semesters.

*Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law* guarantees entry to the following degree courses at UCD:
- Bachelor of Arts (CAO Code DN500)
- Bachelor of Civil Law (CAO Code DN600)
- Bachelor of Social Science (CAO Code DN550)

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.

Our course aims to:
- Equip you with the skills you need to engage in a full-time degree
- Introduce you to the methods of study, writing and research required for successful participation in higher education
- Prepare you to compete for entry to third level and to make informed choices about further study
- Increase your self-confidence in your capacity to progress and participate in university
- Offer you the opportunity to experience the fulfilment that can be gained from learning in an academic setting

**FROM AGE 22 TO 102!**
If you plan to start university in September 2018, you must be 22 or more while you are on the access programme (by 1st January 2017) There is no upper age limit.



**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: Thomond.Coogan@ucd.ie or Tel: 01 716 7584**

## ACCESS TO ARTS, HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES & LAW

60% or more
=
Guaranteed Entry to specific degree programmes in UCD

# Course Choice and Timetable
## ACCESS TO ARTS, HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES & LAW
# THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DAY AND NIGHT

| BELFIELD (DAY) | |
|---|---|
| STUDY SKILLS | ACADEMIC SUBJECT |
| TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY 10.00 - 1.00 | THURSDAY OR FRIDAY 10.00AM - 12.00 |
| Study Skills | SEMESTER 1 History (Thur) OR Archaelogy (Fri) SEMESTER 2 Literature in English (Thur) OR Law (Fri) |

| BELFIELD (EVENING) | |
|---|---|
| STUDY SKILLS | ACADEMIC SUBJECT |
| TUESDAY 6.30PM - 9.00PM | THURSDAY 7.00PM - 9.00PM |
| Study Skills | SEMESTER 1 History OR Literature in English SEMESTER 2 Politics OR Sociology |

### ACCESS TO ARTS, HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES & LAW (DAY)
**Course Duration: 2 x ten week semesters**

**Course Days: Tuesday or Wednesday (Study Skills) and Thursday or Friday (Academic Subject)**

| BELFIELD CAMPUS | SEMESTER 1 2017-2018 | SEMESTER 2 2017-2018 |
|---|---|---|
| **Term Dates** | 12 September - 24 November | 16 January - 13 April |
| **Semester Break** | 31 October - 2 November | 13 - 15 February No class 27 Mar - 5 April |
| **Provisional Exam Dates** | 7 Dec 2017* | 26 April 2018* |

### ACCESS TO ARTS, HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES & LAW (EVENING)
**Course Duration: 2 x ten week semesters**

**Course Days: Tuesday (Study Skills) and Thursday (Academic Subject)**

| BELFIELD CAMPUS | SEMESTER 1 2017-2018 | SEMESTER 2 2017-2018 |
|---|---|---|
| **Term Dates** | 12 September - 23 November | 16 January - 12 April |
| **Semester Break** | 31 October - 2 November | 13 - 15 February No class 27 Mar - 5 April |
| **Provisional Exam Dates** | 7 Dec 2017* | 26 April 2018* |

# UNIVERSITY ACCESS COURSES

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**
There are no formal educational entry requirements to the access course.  In your online application we need to know about 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 interview and, at that time, you will be asked to write a short statement.  This will then form the basis of a conversation where we can explore how the course meets your needs and expectations. The interviews are informal, and 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 at this time. Interviews are typically scheduled during June, July, and August by arrangement.

**Remember – You must be over the age of 22 on 1st January 2017 to apply.**

**UCD WIDENING PARTICIPATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME**
Each year, UCD awards Scholarships to students from Widening Participation backgrounds such as HEAR students, mature students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, students with physical or sensory disabilities and students from the Traveller Community. Access and Lifelong Learning Scholars demonstrate clear motivation to pursue higher education, despite educational barriers faced, and demonstrate leadership to others experiencing similar barriers to pursue third level education.

UCD particularly welcomes applications from people who (because of their educational background, disability, Traveller or Refugee status) are currently underrepresented in university.  Please ask about our specific Access Scholarships. 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. Thomond Coogan will be happy to discuss this with you and you are welcome to contact her by e-mail:  Thomond.Coogan@ucd.ie
**FEE: €850**

**HOW TO APPLY TO THE ACCESS COURSE**
Application is online and will close at the end of August. See our website:  https://www.ucd.ie/all/study/access

***Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law Team:***
Maureen Doyle; Theo Ejorh; Jana Fischerova;  Bairbre Fleming; Richard McElligott; Michael Moran; Muireann O'Dwyer; Nicky O'Leary, Rhonda Wynne and Frances Nolan Thomond Coogan: Access Programme Co-ordinator and Student Support & Guidance. Telephone Thomond at 716 7584, or email: Thomond.Coogan@ucd.ie

**STUDENT FEEDBACK**

*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.*

# Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture

**DIPLOMA OF CONTINUING EDUCATION IN ACCESS TO SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND AGRICULTURE SPECIAL PURPOSE LEVEL 6 AWARD**

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.

*Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture* aims 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 in order 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.

*Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture* guarantees access to the following nominated degree courses at UCD:
- Bachelor of Science (DN200)
- Bachelor of Engineering (DN140; DN150)
- Bachelor of Agriculture (DN250; DN252; DN253; DN261) (DN271)(DN272)

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**

If you plan to start university in September 2018, you must be 22 or more while you are on the access programme (by 1st January 2017) There is no upper age limit

**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: Thomond.Coogan@ucd.ie or Tel: 01 716 7584**

## ACCESS TO SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & AGRICULTURE

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

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

# UNIVERSITY ACCESS COURSES

# Course Choice and Timetable
## ACCESS TO SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & AGRICULTURE

| DIPLOMA OF CONTINUING EDUCATION IN ACCESS TO SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND AGRICULTURE<br>Course Duration: 2 semesters | | |
|---|---|---|
| BELFIELD CAMPUS<br>Course Days: Monday, Wednesday & Saturday | | |
| BELFIELD CAMPUS | AUTUMN 2017 | SPRING 2018 |
| Term Dates | 11 September - 22 November | 22 January - 11 April |
| Provisional Exam Dates | 7 December 2017* | 26 April 2018* |

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no formal educational entry requirements to the access course. In your application we need to know about 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.**

Applicants to Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture must be available on the following dates:

1. Pre-entry Hot Topics in Mathematics: 21, 23, 24th August 6pm – 9pm and 26th August 10am – 1pm At the end of these workshops all applicants will be given a test in mathematics.

2. Lecture – followed by written piece: 28th August 6.30pm – 8.30pm
3. Interviews on 29th and 30th August (date and time to be allocated closer to the date)

**Remember – You must be over the age of 22 on 1st January 2017 to apply.**

UCD particularly welcomes applications from people who (because of their educational background, disability, Traveller or Refugee status) are currently underrepresented in university. Please ask about our specific Access Scholarships. 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. Thomond Coogan will be happy to discuss this with you and you are welcome to contact her by e-mail: Thomond.Coogan@ucd.ie
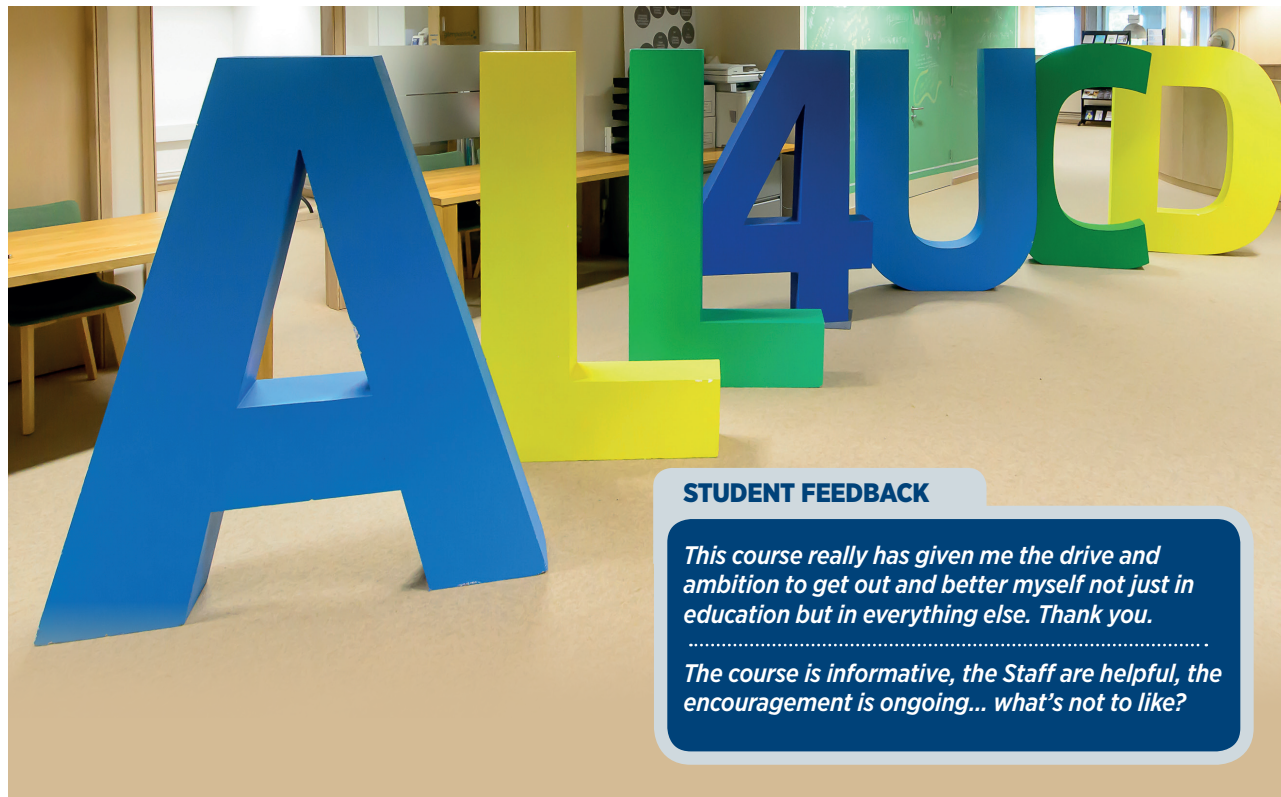
**FEE: €1,850**

**HOW TO APPLY TO THE ACCESS COURSE**
Apply on line, see our website:
https://www.ucd.ie/all/study/access
**Please note: Application for Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture will close at 5pm, on 15th August 2017.**

***Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture & Team:***
Professor Tom Bolger; Anthony Brown; Joanna Kacprzyk
Thomond Coogan: Access Programme Co-ordinator and Student Support & Guidance. Telephone Thomond at 716 7584, or email: Thomond.Coogan@ucd.ie.



### STUDENT FEEDBACK

*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.*

*The course is informative, the Staff are helpful, the encouragement is ongoing... what's not to like?*

# Information on University Access Courses

## 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 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

## ORIENTATION

Access students will be invited to attend an Orientation session.

Students will also get a chance to meet the Access and Lifelong Learning staff and meet with fellow students. A tour of the campus and an IT Services induction 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.

## MORE INFORMATION

Access students will receive a student handbook before the course begins, this will be updated throughout the year and an online copy will always be available.

**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/**

### STUDENT FEEDBACK

*Just to say that I really 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.*

# UNIVERSITY ACCESS COURSES

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q What is an Access course?**

**A**. These are specially designed course 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 available: *Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law* and *Access to Science, Engineering and Agriculture*

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

**A**. An access course may suit you if:
- You are a mature student
- You do not meet existing entry requirements to university
- You would like to 'test the water' and see what you make of the university environment
- You want to build study skills and confidence before taking the step into a degree
- 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:
- Equip students with the skills that they will need to engage in an undergraduate course
- Introduce students to the methods of study, writing and research required for successful participation in higher education
- Prepare students to compete for entry to university and to make informed choices about further study
- Increase students' self-confidence in their ability to advance in university
- Offer students the opportunity to experience the fulfilment that can be gained from learning in an academic setting

**Q How do I apply for an Access course?**

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

**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.

**Q What is the course fee?**

**A**. There are two different courses. The Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Science and Law course is €850. The Access to Science, Engineering and Agriculture fee is €1800. However, you may qualify for an Access & Lifelong Learning 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 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 will need to produce evidence of income.

**Q** **Who is Access to Science, Engineering and Agriculture 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 and Health & Safety

Access to Science, Engineering and Agriculture aims to:

- Support students in finding the third level course that best suits their aptitude and interest
- Give students the confidence and skills necessary to plan and organise study for their particular needs
- Provide students with analytical skills in order to fully understand the material presented in all subject modules
- 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** **Who can apply for a place on an Access course?**

**A**. Anyone aged 22 or more on 1st of January 2017 may apply for an Access course to start in September 2017. 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** **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 supports.

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

**A**. It is desirable though not essential. Applicants 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 either morning or evening and require that students attend on two mornings/evenings per week, depending on their choice. *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 the programme. The modules in *Access to Science, Engineering & Agriculture* do not change.

**Q** **Attendance - what if I can't make 80% of course for reasons of illness, family situation, etc.?**

**A**. This is a part-time course and you need to commit to attending all classes and tutorials.  However, it is impossible to anticipate issues that might arise during your course. If the need arises, talk to your course co-ordinator and every effort will be made to facilitate your unanticipated commitments.

# SAVE THE DATE

**ACCESS TO ARTS, HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCE & LAW**

**ACCESS TO SCIENCE**

| AUGUST | AUGUST | AUGUST | AUGUST |
|---|---|---|---|
| **21/23/24** | **26** | **28** | **29/30** |
| SCIENCE HOT TOPICS 6.00-9.00PM | SCIENCE HOT TOPICS 10.00-1.00PM | LECTURE 6.30-8.30PM | INTERVIEW DATES |
| ACCESS TO SCIENCE | ACCESS TO SCIENCE | ACCESS TO SCIENCE | ACCESS TO SCIENCE |

| SEPTEMBER | SEPTEMBER | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER |
|---|---|---|---|
| **5** | **11** | **12** | **30** |
| ORIENTATION | ORIENTATION | CLASS STARTS | MID-TERM BREAK |
| ACCESS TO ARTS | ACCESS TO SCIENCE | ACCESS TO ARTS | ACCESS TO ARTS |

| DECEMBER | JANUARY | JANUARY | FEBRUARY |
|---|---|---|---|
| **7** | **16** | **22** | **13-15** |
| EXAM (PROVISIONAL) | SEMESTER II COMMENCES | SEMESTER II COMMENCES | MID-TERM BREAK |
| ACCESS TO ARTS | ACCESS TO ARTS | ACCESS TO SCIENCE | ACCESS TO ARTS |

| MARCH | APRIL | APRIL | APRIL |
|---|---|---|---|
| **12-25** | **13** | **16** | **26** |
| STUDY PERIOD | TERM ENDS | TERM ENDS | SEMESTER II EXAMS (PROVISIONAL) |
| ACCESS TO SCIENCE | ACCESS TO ARTS | ACCESS TO SCIENCE | ACCESS TO ARTS |

UCD DUBLIN