



Helpline Enquiries

Applying to Universities in Ireland

Enquiry

Do you have a basic guide or top tips for applying to Universities in Ireland?

Our reply

We have produced an information sheet on applying to University in Ireland under the Resources section of the FutureSmart Careers website. Your school and students have been provided with a login to this.

Application Process

The Irish application process opens on the 5th November 2019 at 12:00.

Applications are made via the [Central Applications Office](#) and students can do a course search on this website too.

Students apply for up to 10 courses which need to be ranked in order of preference. They are advised to carefully consider the entry points required and equate this to A Level scores. Some Irish Universities and in particular Trinity College are highly competitive and popular courses may only be accessible to students with 4 A Levels.

CAO is different to UCAS and importantly a personal statement is not required. Generally students are not interviewed and offers are not made until after the exam results.

The table below is taken from the CAO website, please see page 76-78 for more details on A Level scores.

Indicative equivalence with Irish Leaving Certificate points

The indicative equivalence will be calculated as follows:

Table 2: Points conversion table

Universities and associated colleges				Institutes of Technology (other than DkIT ⁵)		
Grade	Best 3 A-Levels	4 th Subject		Grade	Best 3 A-Levels	AS Levels (& 4 th A-level where presented)
		A-Level	AS Level			
A*	185	45	31 ⁶	A*	180	60
A	156	38	26	A	150	60
B	131	32	22	B	130	55
C	106	26	18	C	100	40
D	84	20	14	D	65	25
E	63	15	11	E	45	20

Bonus points for maths in 2019

25 additional points will be awarded for a grade E or better in A2 Mathematics. This will apply to only ONE mathematics subject of the following: Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Pure Mathematics, and only where that subject is used as one of the subjects for scoring purposes. NB Mathematics and Pure Mathematics cannot be counted separately for points purposes.

Applying to Medicine

Students will need to take the [Health Professions Admissions Test \(HPAT\)](#). This can only be taken in Ireland and is usually sat on a particular date (This year 22nd February 2020). Some International/non EU students may be exempt, but please refer to HPAT and the University websites.

Fees

There are no tuition fees at state universities in the Republic of Ireland for full-time EU students who are eligible for the [Free Fees Initiative](#).

Under the Free Fees Initiative tuition fees will be paid to your university by Ireland's Higher Education Authority. Note that no decision has yet been made on how UK students will be classed post Brexit. UK students are therefore advised to check their fee status, for the duration of their chosen course, before accepting a place.

All students pay a registration/student services fee annually. These are currently €3,000 a year and may rise by €250 a year for the next few years.

Currently the Trinity College websites states:

Existing enrolled UK students who are currently obtaining EU fees and/or 'Free Fees' will continue to do so for the duration of their current course. Student grant and tuition fee arrangements that are currently in place will continue to apply for those students entering higher education in the 2019/2020 academic year for the duration of their studies. The position will be reviewed in advance of the 2020/2021 academic year.

More information on Trinity College Dublin and Brexit can be found [here](#).

Helpline Team
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