

Coláiste na Mi



3rd Year/TY Subject Choice and Programme Information Booklet



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Students,

You are about to make a very important decision namely; Leaving Cert. Subject Choice. You will be asked to select a number of subjects for your Leaving Certificate. Compulsory subjects are; English, Maths, Irish (Unless exempt). PE/I.T & Religion are compulsory but non exam.

To make a good decision it is essential to have good information. Here at Coláiste na Mi, to help you make the best decision regarding ‘Subject Choice’, the following has been arranged.

- Information Session for parents and 3rd year/TY students on Subject Choice
- Class Presentations on Subject/Programme Choice
- Individual teachers will give information on their subjects and Subject Choice Booklet
- Follow up information on request from individual teachers and Guidance Counsellor. (Advice Clinic)

I would also recommend that you:

- Study this booklet
- Consult subject textbooks and past papers
- Talk to students who have or are presently studying the subjects which interest you
- Discuss Subject Choice with your teachers, parents/guardians.
- Consider implications of subject choice for third level options using www.careersportal.ie

Choose your ‘**package**’ of subjects to satisfy your interests and keep as many career options open as possible. Keep the following guidelines in mind;

- Ensure that you have the essential subjects for your course (check essential subject chart on the Careers Portal website for matriculation and course requirements)
- Select your remaining subjects to maximise your results. Look back over previous school reports to see what subjects you did well in.
- Check college prospectuses and Careers Portal (www.careersportal.ie), UCAS (www.ucas.com) or CAO (www.cao.ie)

By getting as much accurate and up to date information as possible you will make a good subject choice decision. If you require any further assistance, make an appointment to see us.

Good Luck!

Inion Shore

Choosing a Career

Some people know at an early stage what they would like to be – a teacher, an engineer, a salesperson, a carpenter – but many have no definite ideas about the kind of work they would like to do. Young people, in choosing a career, need information on entrance requirements, opportunities available and awareness of their own qualities, skills and potential.

Good decisions are based on good information. Towards the end of Third Year/Transition Year, most young people face the big decision of choosing school subjects for the Leaving Certificate.

Points about Choosing a Career

In choosing a career you must take into consideration a number of factors including:

- Employment opportunities available
- What you would like to do
- Your talents and attainments
- General intelligence, physique and talent

Changes to the Common Points Scale

- The HEIs developed a new common points scale, aiming to minimise the need for random selection and catering also for applicants presenting sittings of the Leaving Certificate from years prior to the introduction of the new grading scale in 2017.

Higher Level Grade	Points	Ordinary Level Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0

Alignment between higher and lower levels were guided by SEC & ERC.

Bonus points for Higher Level Maths.

25 bonus points will continue to be awarded in 2020 for higher level mathematics, at grades H6 and above.

Foundation level Maths.

Points for foundation level maths will be awarded by certain institutions only (I.T's), for the purpose of admission to higher education. Applicants should refer to the literature available for each college. Be careful here. The majority of courses will require you to achieve an O6 in ordinary level maths.

2017 +	Points
F1	20
F2	12

Points for H7

- HEIs considered the level of achievement represented by H7 and it was decided that points would be awarded for this grade.
- It was noted that accepting an OD3/O6 (for entry requirements and points) but rejecting a H7 grade was not reflecting the level of achievement represented by a HE/H7.
- In addition, it is hoped that this will encourage the take-up of higher level curricula in senior cycle and reduce the risk in taking higher level examinations.
- The points awarded to a pre-2017 HE is less (i.e. 33 points) to reflect the different scale of HE (25 < 40 %) to H7 (30 < 40 %)

New CAO Points System: 2017

Higher			Ordinary		
Grade	(% awarded)	Points	Grade	(% awarded)	Points
H1	: 90-100	100	O1	: 90-100	56
H2	: 80-89	88	O2	: 80-89	46
H3	: 70-79	77	O3	: 70-79	37
H4	: 60-69	66	O4	: 60-69	28
H5	: 50-59	56	O5	: 50-59	20
H6	: 40-49	46	O6	: 40-49	12
		(+25: H.MATHS ††)			
H7	: 30-39	37	O7	: 30-39	0
H8	: 0-29	0	O8	: 0-29	0

Application procedures and entry requirements for 3rd Level Colleges

Information

Application for almost all full-time undergraduate courses (Honours Degree, Ordinary Degree and Higher Certificate courses) in the Universities and Institutes of Technology in the Republic of Ireland is made through the Central Applications Office (CAO).

The CAO provides an application pack with a handbook that lists all of the courses on offer and gives information on how to apply. The closing date for applications from Irish and other European Union nationals is normally 1st February each year.

A student must also have the particular academic entry requirements needed for the course he/she wants to take.

When choosing your Leaving Certificate subjects it is vitally important that you are aware of the fact that you do need certain subjects in order to apply for particular 3rd level college courses. Below is a brief description of these Subject Entry Requirements and a brief guide to the Leaving Certificate Points System.

Entry Requirements for 3rd Level Colleges – Very Important

There are two sets of entry requirements which must be met before a student can apply for places in 3rd level colleges (ie. before points can be considered). These are:

Minimum Entry Requirements

There are particular subjects and specific numbers of Higher level / Ordinary level required to apply to an individual college or university. The following are the requirements of the main colleges in the CAO system; full details of the Minimum Entry Requirements of any particular college you are interested in should be researched in Qualifax and the college's prospectus.

Key
H3 = Higher Paper Grade 3 O4 = Ordinary Paper Grade 4
NUI = National University of Ireland UCC = University College Cork, UCD = University College Dublin, NUIG = National University of Ireland, Galway, NUIM : Maynooth University.

NUI Universities are UCD, UCC, NUIG, and NUIM.

The NUI linked colleges are Royal College of Surgeons, Shannon College of hotel management, NCAD, Institute of Public Administration, St Angela's, Sligo and The Burren College of Art.

Important: **A Third Language** is essential to gain entry to a number of courses in the NUI universities. (There are individual course exceptions eg. Some Bbs. And BSc)

NOTE

You can be granted an exemption from Irish, and then present Irish as a subject for Matriculation to fulfil the 3rd language requirement;

If you were born outside the ROI [26 Counties]

Or

If you were born in the ROI [26 Counties] but,

- Your primary education up to the age of 11 years was outside the ROI; or
- You resided outside the ROI during the last 3 years of your post-primary education; or
- Your primary and/or post- primary education took place for at least 3 years outside the ROI,

Institutes of Technology

In the Institutes of Technology, Certificate, Ordinary Degree and Honours Degree courses are available leading to a range of excellent career opportunities. A student with a Higher Certificate can progress to an Ordinary Degree or an Honours Degree.

Specific Course Requirements

In addition to the minimum entry requirements mentioned above, certain additional subjects may be required to gain entry to specific courses in a college.

Examples of such Specific Course Requirements include:

- Primary Teaching Courses (ROI): 2019+ is H4 in Irish (Higher Grade 4)
- Engineering Degree Courses in any University: H4 in Maths
 - (Some Universities have a special Maths entrance exam)
- Veterinary Medicine: H5 in Chemistry
- Many Science, Medical and Paramedical Courses: H5 or O6/H7 in 1 or 2 Science subjects
- Cadetships in the Defence Forces: O6/H7 in a third Language

Details of the specific requirements for courses can be found in the relevant 3rd level college literature or on the website at www.qualifax.ie

It is only after both of the above sets of requirements have been met that you are deemed qualified to submit your 'Points' for a particular course. If you don't have the right subjects to meet the above requirements for a course then you cannot apply for the course.

Changes to Minimum Entry Requirements for **Primary Teacher Training Programmes**

In addition to the **points** required for entry to programmes of primary initial teacher education, the Department of Education and Skills specifies minimum entry requirements in the core subjects: Maths, English and Irish. These Changes set higher minimum entry standards to programmes of primary initial teacher education. The changes are as follows:

Subject	2018		2019 & 2020	
Irish	Grade	%	Grade	%
	H5	50<60	H4	60<70
English	O5	50<60	O4	60<70
	or		or	
	H7	30<40	H7	30<40
Maths	O6	40<50	O4	60<70
	or		or	
	H7	30<40	H7	30<40

UK: Northern Ireland and Great Britain (UCAS application)

The University of Ulster (Magee, Coleraine, Belfast and Jordanstown) and Queen's University, Belfast usually require five or six higher level subjects at Leaving Certificate level for entry to their Honours Degree Courses.

A third language is not needed for these colleges unless the language is a component of the degree you wish to study. Many of the science and health related courses demand two science subjects.

Students must pay fees to study HND's and Honours Degree courses in Northern Ireland, England Scotland and Wales.

At present (2018)

- There are no fees for EU students in Scotland. (This may change for Sept 2019)
- In Northern Ireland, an honours degree costs approx. £3750 per year
- In England, an honours degree costs approximately £8,500 per year
- Universities in Wales offer Irish students a reduced fee of approx. £3,500 per year.

For application to Universities in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales, students will need to use the UCAS tariff points system.

Institutes of Further and Higher Education

E.g. Dundalk Institute of further Education/Cavan Institute of further education.

Students can study courses from levels 6-7 as well as some level 8 degrees.

Usually six grades at O6/H7 plus points are required but always check the specific course in mind.

Other Training/Courses available in the Republic of Ireland.

Teagasc

Courses in agriculture and horticulture have changed radically. All courses are now nationally accredited and are run in conjunction with the Institutes of Technology. Courses are available in Agriculture, Horticulture, Agribusiness, Agricultural Science, Forestry, Pigs, Horses and Mechanisation.

Apprenticeships

Large organisations such as the E.S.B, Aer Lingus and the Army offer apprenticeships at various times of the year. The purpose is to train students to become skilled craft workers. The training includes on-the-job work experience together with off-the-job courses in Institutes of Technologies and Training Centres.

SOLAS offers Apprenticeship Trades. On completion of an apprenticeship, a FETAC Advanced Certificate is awarded. This Level 6 Certificate has National and International recognition and is a compulsory requirement for craftsperson status. On successful completion of your apprenticeship you are eligible for consideration for entry into related degree programmes provided by the ITs provided you also meet other special entry requirements. Details are available on www.solas.ie

Coláiste na Mí is currently working on an initiative to promote apprenticeships and make the application process smoother for school leavers.

Post Leaving Certificate Courses (PLCs)

These courses are designed to prepare students for the world of work and/or to use them as stepping stones to 3rd level Courses in the IT's. They include; Sport/Leisure, Child Care, Business Studies/Secretarial, Pre-Nursing, Art, Craft and Design, Construction, Technology etc. and are conducted in various colleges

such as D.I.F.E or Dunboyne college in Meath.

There is no central applications body for Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses. Students must apply directly to the individual colleges. Places on PLC courses are not allocated on the basis of points, but applicants must be of Leaving Certificate standard. Most colleges interview candidates to determine their suitability.

Subjects on offer at Leaving Certificate Level in Coláiste na Mí

Core / compulsory Subjects

English

Almost all universities, colleges and employers require a pass in ordinary level English though some will accept Irish instead (eg, the Institutes of Technology and DCU). A H5 in English is essential for a small number of courses such as Journalism, Communications and Speech Therapy.

Useful for: Acting, Advertising, Accountant, Broadcasting, Civil Servant, Librarian, Marketing, Personnel Officer, Politician, Public Relations Officer, Solicitor, Barrister, Speech Therapist, Teacher, Receptionist, Typist, Computer Programmer, Flight Attendant, Printer, Copy Writer, Proof Reader, Sales Representative, Translator, Interpreter, Secretary.

Irish

Irish is required for all faculties in the National University of Ireland (UCC, UCD, NUIG, NUI Maynooth, NCAD) but you can be exempt from it under certain conditions, eg, being born outside the Republic of Ireland or having a specific learning difficulty (dyslexia). Irish satisfies the requirement of a Modern Language for TCD and the language other than English requirement for UL and DCU. Primary teaching requires a H4 in Irish from 2019. It is important to check if you need Irish for any course in which you have an interest and – equally important – the required level.

Useful for: Acting, Administration, Personnel in Irish Voluntary Bodies (eg, Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann), Flight Attendant, Archivist, Army, Civil Service, Broadcasting, Journalist, Local Government, Politics, Printing, Publishing, Teaching, School Secretary, Translation Studies.

Mathematics

Employers tend to expect applicants to have numeric skills and look for at least an O6 in Maths. Likewise many of the Institutes of Technology usually require an O6 for entry to their courses. The universities require an O5 for many of their Science and Business courses reflecting its importance as part of these courses.

An O6 is required for entry to Nursing. Higher level Mathematics is required by relatively few courses. One particular group that require it are Engineering Honours Degree Courses in Universities. They require a H4. For Engineering, Mathematical, Theoretical Physics courses and Actuarial Degrees a H5/H4/H3 is required, again reflecting the crucial role it plays in these disciplines. Foundation level Mathematics is accepted for some courses.

Choose your college wisely and you can still do an Arts, Law or Social Science Degree without Maths. However for employment after it is best to have maths. There is a new maths syllabus since 2012. **25 Bonus points will be awarded in the Leaving Certificate for a grade H6 or higher at Leaving Certificate honours level.**

Useful for; Accountancy, Actuary, Air Traffic Controller, Architecture, Astronomy, Banking, Biologist, Clerical Work, Chemist, Civil Servant, Computer Operator, Data Input Operator, Economist, Engineer, Engineering Technician, Geologist, Insurance, Laboratory technician, Maths Teacher, Marketing, Medical Laboratory Technician, Meteorologist, Physicist, Psychologist, Programmer, Quantity Surveyor, Scientist, Sociologist, Statistician, Systems Analyst, Tax Officer, Trades.

Optional Subjects on Offer for Leaving Certificate in Coláiste na Mí

Science Subjects

Not all Science courses available at 3rd level require a Science subject, but you would be well advised to do one if you were at all interested in anything in the Science, Medical, Paramedical, Nursing, Engineering or Technology areas.

Two Science Subjects are required for:

Some Science based courses at Trinity College, eg, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Medicine, Dental Science, Human Genetics (in some cases they require H3/4/5, some will accept Maths, Applied Maths and Geography. The requirements are quite detailed so check the College Prospectus).

Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy in UCC. (HC in Chemistry and either Physics or Biology).

A Science Subject is essential for;

The NUI Universities; UCC, UCD, NUIG and Maynooth. A laboratory Science subject – Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics with Chemistry, or Agricultural Science- (sometimes at H5) is required for entry into the faculties of:

- Science

[For UCD Science, Applied Maths may be used instead of a laboratory science subject]

- Technology
- Nursing
- Veterinary
- Medicine (Chemistry and Biology or Physics)
- Dentistry (Chemistry and Biology or Physics)
- Pharmacy (Chemistry and Biology or Physics)
- Radiography
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Human Nutrition
- Engineering
- Architecture
- Veterinary Medicine
- Agriculture
- All Engineering and Science Courses (UL)
- Industrial Design (UL and NCAD)
- Environmental Health, Food Technology, Health Care Technology, Environmental Resource Management (DIT)
- Home Economics Teaching

1. Biology

Biology is the science of life and living things. It forms a knowledge base for hundreds of careers ranging from oceanography and ecology to medicine and biotechnology. Though not a specific requirement for entry to Nursing, a student interested in this career would be well advised to study Biology. All courses in St Angela's, Sligo, must present a lab science at O6/H7 or higher. Subject requirements for science, medical and paramedical courses in Trinity College are quite complex, so it is essential that you check their current prospectus and www.qualifax.ie

Useful for: Agriculture, Animal Breeder, Animal Nursing, Ambulance Driver, Biochemist, Biologist, Catering, Chiropody, Conservation Work, Dentist, Dietician, Farmer, Food Science, Doctor, Health Inspector, Horticulturist, Laboratory Technician, Marine Biologist, Microbiologist, Nursing,

Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Psychologist, Science Teacher, Speech Therapist, Veterinary Surgeon, Zoologist.

2. Physics

Physics deals with the laws and forces governing natural phenomena and includes heat, light, electricity and magnetism. It is of key importance in technology and **particularly relevant** for those interested in specialising in most branches of engineering. **In most engineering courses, one will find a high physics content**, while some paramedical careers will involve the study of it, eg Radiography, physiotherapy, etc. It is an essential requirement (H2) for Theoretical Physics in (Trinity College). Anyone considering courses or a career in Electronics should be encouraged to do Physics. It is also an advantage to have good skills in algebra.

Useful for: Architecture, Astronomy, Biophysicist, Computer Careers, Dentist, Doctor, Engineer especially electrical and electronic, Marine Radio Operator, Medical Laboratory Technician, Meteorologist, Naval Officer, Nurse, Optician, Pharmacist, Science Teacher, Radiographer, Telecommunications, various Apprenticeships, Pilot, Heating and Ventilation technicians.

3. Chemistry

This subject is a combination of both practical and theoretical learning. The syllabus is 70% pure chemistry and 30% social and applied aspects of chemistry. There is a strong emphasis on the practical element of chemistry – 28 mandatory experiments which students must keep a record of.

Useful for: Nursing, Dentistry, Optician, Medicine, Physiotherapy, Speech Therapist, Pharmacy, Dietetics, Human Nutrition, Chemical Engineering, Pharmacology, Forensics, Food Science, General Science Degree, Laboratory Technician, Teacher. Chemistry is essential for pharmacy, veterinary, medicine, dentistry and dietetics.

4. Third Language (French/Spanish)

In these days of fast international transport and modern communications, knowledge of other languages will always be useful. You do not need a third language for all third level studies but it is a necessity for entry to some courses in the National University of Ireland (UCC, UCD, NUIG, and NUI Maynooth)

unless you are exempt. There are some exceptions like Nursing (all), Engineering, Agriculture and Science. The other universities will accept Irish as a 'language other than English' for entry. However, many colleges have it as a requirement for specific courses such as European Studies, Languages and Marketing. There are opportunities in the areas of telesales and customer support with many companies locating in Ireland because of our ability with languages. French

45% of Leaving Certificate marks are allocated to aural (tape) and oral parts of the exam.

Higher Level	25% oral	20% aural
Ordinary level	20% oral	25% aural
	55% for reading comprehension and writing.	55% for reading comprehension and writing.

A third Language should be considered for courses in the following areas:

- Tourism
- Hotel and Catering Management
- Receptionist
- Marketing/international business
- Aer Lingus
- Army, Air Corps, Navy Cadet
- Speech Therapy
- Some Courses in UCC, UCD, NUIG, NUI Maynooth and the NUI Affiliated Colleges (exceptions as outlined above)

Useful for Flight Attendant, Air Traffic Controller, Archivist, Au Pair, Secretary, Chef, Courier, Hotel Reception, International Marketing, Interpreter, Translator, Pilot, Travel Agency, Journalist, Waiter/Waitress, Importer, Librarian, Department of Foreign Affairs, Teaching.

5. Accounting

Extending beyond the actual marking of records, accounting is concerned with the analysis and interpretation of these records. It is an excellent preparation for

any business related occupation. Though not essential for entry to any business college, accounting would obviously still be a great help to students wishing to pursue any third level business related course.

Useful for: Advertising, accountancy, Auctioneering, Auditing, Banking, book-keeping, clerical work, company secretary, computer systems, business teacher, administration, management, receptionist, insurance, Market Research, Purchasing Officer, Quantity Surveyor, Sales, Taxation Consultant, Marketing, Business Law.

6. Business

Business is concerned with how organisations are formed, financed and run, looking at the services involved such as banking, transport, taxation and semi-state organisations. It provides an excellent foundation for anyone contemplating a business career. Though not an essential subject for any course, it would still be very useful.

Useful for: Industry, Business, Accounting, Banking, Bookkeeping, clerical work, Business Teacher, Administration, Hotel Management, Insurance, Receptionist, Store Management, Stock Broking, Sales, Marketing, Purchasing Officer, Customs and Excise, Taxation, Law.

7. Economics

This subject is a social science that studies wealth and the allocation of scarce resources that have alternative uses. It is a fascinating subject that answers many questions about human behaviour. Microeconomics studies how an individual producer and a consumer make decisions and attempt to solve their economic problems e.g. microeconomics examines how a student spends their income from a part-time job and how a company reduces costs to increase profits. Macroeconomics deals with aggregates (totals) in an economy e.g. the *rate* of employment, the *rate* of inflation, the amount of exports and the *rate* of emigration in an economy.

How will I benefit from studying Economics

- You learn to collect, analyse and interpret information. You will develop your skills as a clear and logical thinker - a major asset.
- You will understand the economic environment in which you live.

- You will understand the media reports on economic issues and have a better grasp of current affairs.
- You will be able to participate more fully as a citizen of Ireland, the EU and the world.
- Should you proceed to Third level you will know that you have studied a subject that is a module in many course (see Ms Mc Cafferty).

Useful for; Business, Banking, Financial Studies, Civil Service, Education, Insurance, Journalism, Stockbroker, Economist, Company Director, Consultancy, Stock Market, Entrepreneur. This list is not exhaustive.

8. Music

The music syllabus covers the areas of performing, composition and listening.

The Leaving Certificate examination has three components

- Practical exam – (performing)
- Aural exam – (listening)
- Written exam – (composing)

Each part is worth 25% and the student can choose where the remaining 25% will come from – performing, composing or listening.

It is not absolutely essential to have studied music at Junior Certificate in order to take it up at 5th Year, however you must be able to play a musical instrument or sing.

Useful for Performing Musician, TV/Radio Industry, DJ, Recording Engineering, Teaching, Music Management, Music Therapy, Music Media, Advertising.

9. Design and Communication Graphics

Design and Communication Graphics develops intellectual qualities of comprehension, analysis and problem solving as well as the skills of drawing and the development of an awareness of design. Although it is not an essential requirement for those wishing to enter architecture or engineering courses, it is generally an essential component of most technical courses.

Course Content

Core : Plane and Description Geometry

Communication of Design and Computer Graphics (CAD)

Optional: Applied Graphics (Select two of the following)

Dynamic Mechanism

Structural Forms

Geologic Geometry

Surface Geometry

Assemblies

Leaving Certificate exam

There are two levels, ordinary and higher. The exam is composed of one written paper (60%) and one project assignment (40%)

Useful for: All Engineering Careers, Architecture, Army and Air Corps apprenticeships, CAD, Cartographer, Construction Studies/ Trades, Engineering Trades, Fitter, Industrial Designer, Motor Mechanic, Structural Design, Draughtsperson.

10. History

History embraces the world of politics, economics, religion and philosophy. It can be a most enjoyable challenge, developing skills such as identifying main issues, critical analysis and the ability to select relevant information. At higher level, it is an advantage to be good at English.

Useful for: Archaeology, Barrister, Broadcasting, Civil Service, Garda, History Teacher Journalism, Librarianship, Local Government, Politics, Researcher, Social work, Solicitor, Tourism, Writer.

11. Geography

Geography is concerned with the interrelationships between human activities and the physical environment. Geography includes the study of population, farming, industry, pollution, statistics, resources, landscapes and communications. For both Pharmacy and Science in TCD it is accepted as one of the HC's in science subjects.

Useful for; Civil Engineering, Construction, Town Planning, Architecture, Meteorology, Surveying, Agriculture, Auctioneering, Archaeology, Horticulture, Forestry, Conservation Work, Statistics, Marine Officer, Geologist, Geography Teacher, Naval Officer, Quantity Surveyor, Tourism and Travel.

A good History or Geography Student shows:

- An interest in the world as it is now and how it came to be so.

- A thirst for knowledge to explain and explore the current situation.
 - An ability to express themselves accurately and to support their arguments with relevant information.
 - An appreciation of historical sources and a geographers understanding of causes.
 - An interest in reading and watching relevant programmes on TV and video.
- Leaving Certificate Exam is made up of a Geographical Investigation – 20% and the Theory Exam – 80%

12. Home Economics (Social and Scientific)

Home Economics covers topics such as food constituents, microbiology, food preservation, consumerism and social issues, the family and the home. Home economics – Social and Scientific combines theory with practice in order to develop understanding and solve problems. It is concerned with the way individuals and families manage their resources to meet physical, emotional intellectual, social and economic needs. It provides a learning foundation for those seeking employment in a wide range of careers, such as the food industry, tourism, clothing and design, and the health and social services.

Useful for; Baking and Confectionery, Beautician, Catering, Chef, Child Care, Consumer Adviser, Demonstrator – food, wines, etc, Dietician, Fashion Designer, Food Science, Hairdressing, Health Inspector, Home Economics teacher, Hotel Management, Nursing, Occupational Therapist, Parenthood, Pre-school Management, Social Worker, Textile Designer, Solicitor, Sales.

Leaving Certificate Exam has two levels – Ordinary and Higher.

13. Art

Art combines drawing, painting, sculpture, craft, design and the History of Art. It will meet the needs of the following students:

- Those who will undertake further studies in Art and Design, eg Graphic Design/Textile Design etc.
- Those who will study subjects or take up careers for which an Art and Design education is relevant, eg Primary School Teaching/Architecture.
- Those who, while having interest in, and aptitude for, the subject, will benefit from the course even though they are not intending to study the subject further.

The Leaving Certificate exam is offered at two levels and has four papers

- Still Life and Imaginative composition,

- Design/Craft Examination
- Life Sketching
- History of Art Exam (Theory)

Three Practical Papers = 63% (250/400)

One Theory Paper = 37%

Useful for; Fashion Designer, Interior Designer, Architecture, Book/Magazine Illustrators, Advertising, Painter, Ceramics, Photography, Graphic Designer, Art Therapist, Teacher.

14. Construction Studies

Construction Studies primarily relates to domestic building. Broader aspects also covered introduce students to the knowledge and skills in construction technology, materials and practices. The course covers the historic development of buildings in addition to other relevant topics such as housing purchase and mortgages. A project to design and manufacture an object is also required to be submitted as part of an assessment for the Leaving Certificate.

Useful for Architecture, Auctioneering, Building and Construction Career, Construction Teacher, Carpenter, Civil and Structural Engineer and Technician, Draughtsperson, Electrician, Fire-fighter, Heating and Ventilation Technician, Housing Management Plasterer, Quantity Surveyor, Site Clerk, Town Planning, Electrician Apprenticeships

The Leaving Certificate examination is offered at two levels and has three components:

Project (25%)

Skills test in Woodwork – a practical exam (25%)

Theory Paper (50%)

17. Physical Education

The purpose of the physical education course is to develop the student's ability to participate in physical education and physical activity.

The course is suitable for students who have a strong interest in sports, physical fitness or physical activities such as dancing. It develops the student's performance levels, as well as introducing the student to insights into physical activity from the social and life sciences. Students choose from a wide variety

of physical activities and will work to improve their performance in these activities.

Useful for careers in teaching, health and fitness, nutrition, physiotherapy or sports administration along with many more.

Other Programmes/Courses on Offer



TRANSITION YEAR

Transition year is a time to learn more about yourself and develop life skills that will be important for you in the years to come. It is characterised by a combination of traditional classroom work along with activities designed to get you to work (and play) alongside your classmates. It's also a great year to check out what sort of things you are good at, and even check out possible career options.

Transition year can be a fantastic experience if you take part and push yourself to try new things. There are a number of benefits to taking part in TY:

- TY gives students a fantastic opportunity to gain useful **work experience**. Students have one day of work experience throughout the year and are encouraged to try at least three different experiences. This offers students an insight into the real working world.
- As well as work experience, students are encouraged to take up **new skills or hobbies** that are of interest to them. As TY students have quite a lot of flexibility, it is the perfect opportunity to learn something new and develop a new skill.
- Transition Year helps students to build confidence and **mature** into young adults. The extra year gives students a chance to grow up a little, with lots of new and exciting experiences. Schools often encourage TY students to take part in community placements and projects, giving them an opportunity to work with the elderly or disadvantaged in the community.
- **Friendships** blossom during Transition Year. Activities tend to place an emphasis on teamwork and friendship, allowing students to get to know one another even better than before. Trips away and fun activities allow students to meet new friends and build on current friendships.
- TY gives students a year to **relax** a little before diving into the tough Leaving Cert cycle. As well as this, teens have more time to **think about leaving cert subjects** and college choices.

Subjects/Modules on Offer in Coláiste na Mí for Transition Year 2019/2020

Core Modules/Subjects	Subject Sampling		TY Specific Modules
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Irish • Maths • Spanish/French • Art • PE • SPHE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Performance • Computers • Coding • Economics • Business • Accounting • Physics • Chemistry • Biology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Ec • DCG • Construction • Technology • Photography • Drama • Classics • History • Geography • Yoga/Meditation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise • Work Experience • Reflecting

Students also participate in other programmes, courses and initiatives. The following are some examples of such opportunities taken in previous years:

- ❖ Careers skills competition
- ❖ Gaisce award
- ❖ Future leaders G.A.A award
- ❖ First aid and CPR
- ❖ Video making competitions
- ❖ School trips abroad
- ❖ Higher options trip
- ❖ Ploughing championship
- ❖ The Manuela Programme
- ❖ SOAR
- ❖ Money Smarts Programme

Work Experience

Transition Year students participate in work experience for one day a week throughout the year. There are also two block placements during the school assessment weeks. The aim of the Work Experience Programme is to provide Transition Year students with a deeper understanding of the workplace and practical hands-on experience of the world outside school. It is a wonderful opportunity to try new areas, develop new skills, challenge perceptions and make very useful contacts for future endeavours. Students have an opportunity to make a real difference in their community by engaging with local businesses, social enterprises and charity organisations.

Selection Procedure for Admission to Transition Year

- Parents will be introduced to the TY course at the Annual 3rd Year/Transition Year Subject Choice and Course Information night.
- All 3rd year students will be informed about all of their options including TY and what each subject in the Course entails.
- Each interested student will be asked to complete a simple application form which parents must sign.
- Each student will be interviewed by the TY Co-ordinator and if deemed necessary the Principal or Deputy Principal.
- The views of teachers/tutors who have taught students will be sought to see if the TY programme suits the candidates.
- Past records of attendance and involvement with school will be considered.
- A decision will then be reached on which students will be accepted into the Programme and parents will be informed of the decision in May.
- The final decision rests with the Principal in consultation with the Board of Management.

Leaving Certificate Applied

What is LCA?

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two year Leaving Certificate available to students who wish to follow a practical programme with a strong practical and vocational emphasis. It offers the opportunity to prepare for and progress to further education and training. All types of learners can achieve.

Who would benefit most from Leaving Certificate Applied?

- Students who learn by doing
- Students who are motivated by continuous assessment
- Students who want to get work experience to help them with their career choice

Do LCA students receive a Leaving Certificate?

Yes. Students who successfully complete the programme will receive a Leaving Certificate from the Department of Education and Science. All credits awarded will be recorded on the Leaving Certificate Applied parchment.

This certificate is awarded at three levels;

Pass	120-139 Credits	60%-69%
Merit	140-169 Credits	70%-84%
Distinction	170-200 Credits	85%-100%

Candidates who acquire less than 120 credits receive a Record of Experience. Students who do not complete the full programme also receive a Record of Experience.

Where is the Leaving Certificate Applied available?

LCA is being offered to young people and adults in range of schools/centres throughout the country.

Upon successful completion of Leaving Certificate applied, can a student continue in further education and training?

Yes. The Leaving Certificate Applied is accepted for most Post-Leaving Certificate Courses (PLC's). Successful completion of PLC courses may allow a student to progress to third level education at an institute of technology.

The LCA is acceptable for access to most apprenticeships.

LCA is also acceptable for entry to the Civil Service.

Can a LCA student proceed to third level education in the Republic of Ireland?

Direct access to third level education through the CAO system is not possible immediately after completing the LCA programme. However, LCA graduates may proceed to post-leaving Certificate courses (PLC's), which are usually of one year's duration. After obtaining a FETAC Level 2 award on a PLC, it is possible for students to progress to third level certificate/degree courses in the Institutes of Technology through the Higher Education Links scheme. Also LYIT have a one year access programme that LCA students can complete and this will allow them to apply for any course in LYIT except Nursing.

Can a LCA student enter a SOLAS apprenticeship course?

SOLAS accepts LCA as a qualification for entry to standards-based

apprenticeships. A full list of apprenticeships courses is available from SOLAS offices nationwide.

Are Employers aware of LCA?

Yes. The LCA programme places particular emphasis on preparation for the world of work and students who complete the programme satisfactorily are recognised by a wide range of employers as being eligible to apply for many career vacancies in their organisations. The Irish Business and Employers' Confederation (IBEC) and the Irish Small and Medium Employers (ISME) have strongly endorsed the LCA as a programme that successfully prepares young people for working life and is well tuned to the future needs of the labour force.

Selection Procedure for Admission to LCA

- Parents will be introduced to the LCA at the Annual 3rd Year/Transition Year Subject Choice and Course Information night.
- All 3rd year students will be informed about all of their options including LCA and what each subject in the Course entails.
- Each interested student will be asked to complete a simple application form which parents must sign.
- Each student will be interviewed by the LCA Co-ordinator and if deemed necessary the Principal or Deputy Principal.
- The views of teachers/tutors who have taught students will be sought to see if the LCA programme suits the candidates.
- Please note, that when appropriate, the school will recommend this programme to students whom they feel would benefit from it.
- A decision will then be reached on which students will be accepted into the Programme and parents will be informed of the decision in May.
- The final decision rests with the Principal in consultation with the Board of Management.

Final Note

Students are asked to select the subjects they are interested in studying.

- It is advised that students select subjects they **like and those they are good at**. Having a **genuine interest** in the subjects you are going to take for Leaving Certificate is very important. It can be difficult at the best of times to motivate yourself to study, but it can be twice as difficult if you are studying subjects which you don't particularly like.
- Beyond the core subjects of English, Irish and Mathematics there are relatively few demands in terms of essential subjects for courses and jobs. If you are considering going to any of the NUI Colleges (UCD, UCC, NUI Maynooth, NUI Galway) **a third language may** be needed. If you are considering medical, paramedical, nursing, science or Engineering Honours Degrees you must have a science subject (two for some courses). All University engineering honours degree courses require a H5 in Maths or special Maths examination.
- When you have made your final decision, you should check to see that you have kept your career options open.
- Please note that Subject Choice should not depend on what your friend has opted for. Neither should it depend on 'rumours' as to what is an 'easy' subject. Remember, "one man's meat is another man's poison"
- If you have already decided on a career area, choose subjects that will be useful to that area. If you have no idea at this stage of your career plans, then it may be wise to keep your options open by choosing a language, a science subject, a business subject and one other.
- The chances are that you will make a reasonable good set of choices, if you approach the matter in a serious way, taking on board the advice offered in this booklet

Good luck

PS The details given in these pages are not intended to be exhaustive; they merely highlight the complexity of subject requirements.

PPS When students have made their selection, the school will identify the subjects with the biggest demand. If a subject does not attract sufficient interest then it may not be possible to offer it.