

Coláiste Muire



Information
and
Advice
on
Leaving
Certificate
Subject
Choice



While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this document, no responsibility can be taken for any errors or omissions. Students with specific enquiries should always check with their Guidance Counsellor

Matriculation Requirements for entry into any National University of Ireland

Briefly most students do 7 subjects for their Leaving Certificate. The best 6 are taken to calculate points for entry into the various courses at Third Level. There are two different types of requirement for entry into all Universities. The **Matriculation Requirement** and the **Faculty requirement**.

Matriculation Requirements:

In general, entry requirement for Matriculation into University is 6 Leaving Certificate subjects, to include Irish, English, Maths and Third Language. Technical Universities require English or Irish, and Maths. Please note, Foundation Level Maths, Foundation Level Irish and LCVP are not accepted as Matriculation subjects. If a student has an exemption from Irish then the requirement for Irish is waived.

There are significant differences to be taken into account in relation to the Third Language requirement and also the Laboratory Science subject requirement. In general, a Third Language is not required for programmes in Science or Engineering but is required for most other programmes. However, there are some exceptions.

For the Humanities, Arts, Law and Social Science – Maths is not required for Matriculation

For Engineering, Irish, English, Maths and a Laboratory Science subject is generally required.

For Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine, Irish English, Maths, Third Language and Laboratory Science subject is required. (Laboratory Science subject are Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Agricultural Sc.) For a number of programmes in Science/Engineering, Applied Maths, Computer Science, Geography, Technology are accepted in place of Laboratory Science. Please check relevant universities websites.

Faculty Requirement

Faculty requirements usually follow a logical pattern, in general it is best to have some knowledge of the third level course subjects you will be studying but for some courses subjects are also taught ab initio (from the beginning). For example, Chemistry is required for Medicine, Irish is required for Primary School Teaching. You can check the requirements out on the various college websites.

Choosing the right subjects for you!

Your choice of subjects for the Leaving Certificate may have implications when it comes to choosing your specific career area but it should not be viewed as the ordeal it is perceived to be.

Your decision may be simplified by considering the following:

- Beyond the essential core subjects English, Irish and Mathematics the number of courses and jobs which require specific subjects is in fact relatively small.

There are some exceptions

- A third language is required to gain entry to some NUI courses (UCC, UCD, NUI Galway and NUI Maynooth) including teacher training courses affiliated to the NUI.
- A Science degree normally requires one subject from the science or in some cases the applied science group.
- Note that for direct entry into most third level engineering degree courses one needs Higher Level Maths for Level 8.

Things to Consider

To maximise your points :

- Identify the subjects you like best, you will obviously work harder at these
- Identify the subjects you are already good at. It is helpful to choose subjects in which you can get high grades.
- Having the essential subjects for the job/course of your choice by:

- (a) Read through this booklet. List the subjects essential for or recommended for the various careers you have in mind.
- (b) It is very important that you consult individual College Prospecti and your Guidance Counsellor about subject choice if you have a specific career area in mind

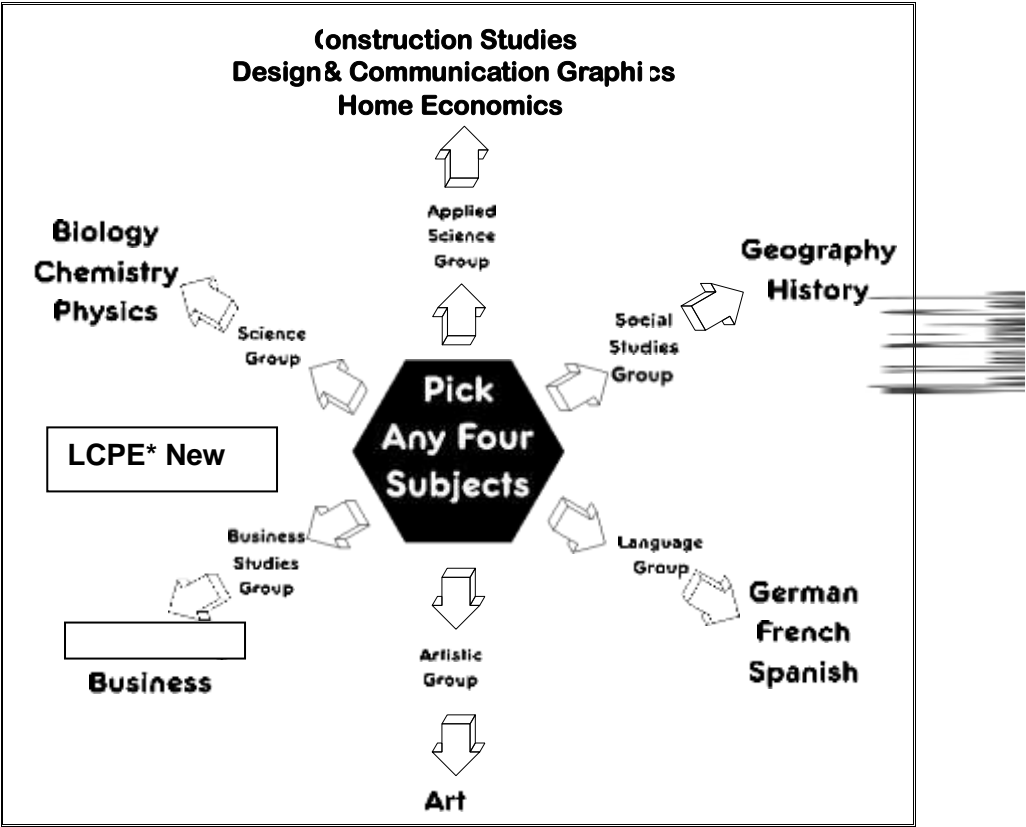
**IF
YOU ARE
UNSURE OF YOUR
CHOICE OF CAREER
AREA CHOOSE
ONE SUBJECT
FROM FIVE
OF THE GROUPS
ON PAGE 2.**

ALLEAVING CERTIFICATE STUDENTS

take a core group of subject which are



Irish, English, Maths,
Physical Education (PE),
SPHE, Religion.

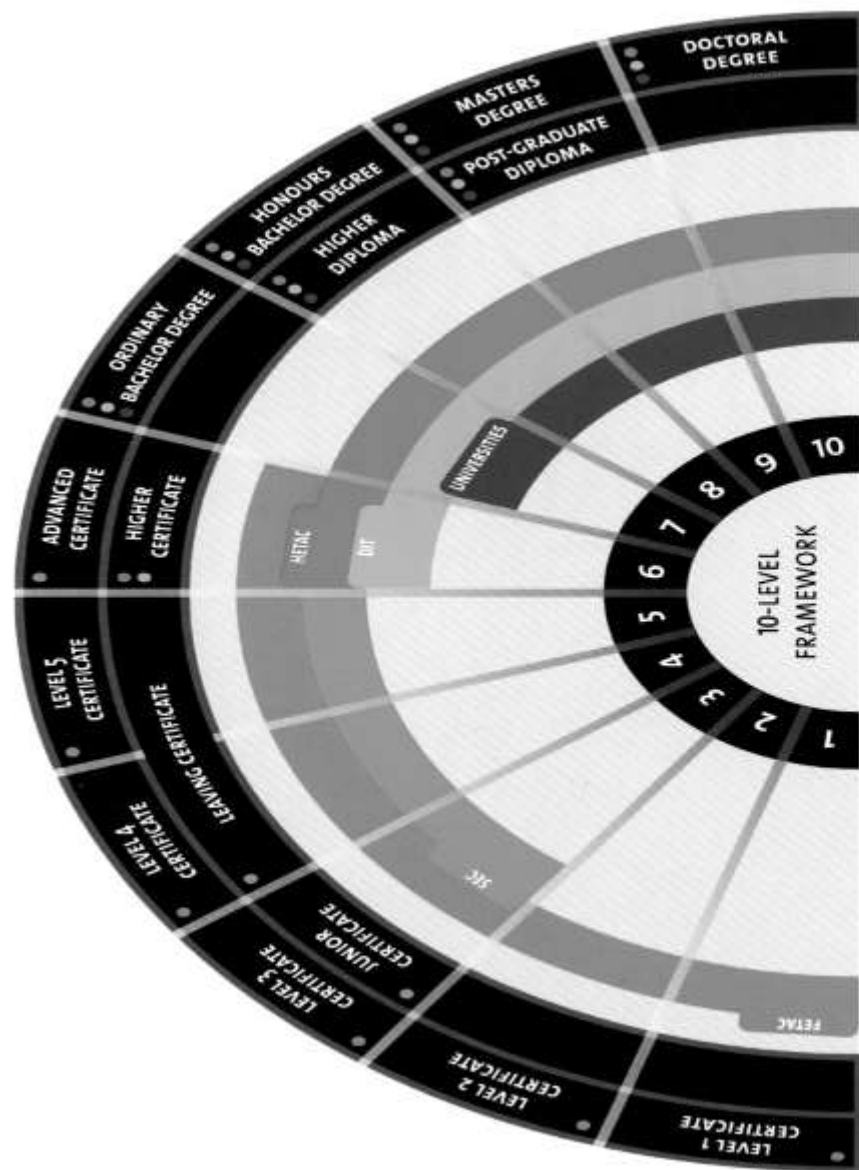


Students at Coláiste Muire also have the opportunity of taking an additional Leaving Certificate subject LCVP

The Points Scale

- In Leaving Certificate, students are awarded “points” for each individual grade they achieve.
- 25 Bonus Points will be awarded for H1 – H6 in Maths.

Higher	%	Points	Ordinary	%	Points
H1	90 – 100%	100	O1	90 – 100%	56
H2	80 – 90%	88	O2	80 – 90%	46
H3	70 – 80%	77	O3	70 – 80%	37
H4	60 – 70%	66	O4	60 – 70%	28
H5	50 – 60%	56	O5	50 – 60%	20
H6	40 – 50%	46	O6	40 – 50%	12
H7	30 – 40%	37	O7	30 – 40%	0
H8	0 – 30%	0	O8		0



Geography

Geography is one of the most interesting, intellectually challenging and relevant subjects for understanding the nature of the world today and the processes of change which are operating in both physical and human landscapes. It gives a broad view of the relationship between the environment, technology and society. It is about the earth and how we live in it.

Geography makes an important contribution towards enabling young people to function more effectively as members of society and this is the intention of the Leaving Certificate syllabus. It helps the student to develop an understanding of the physical, social and economic processes which change this environment.

N.B. Geography fulfils one of the Science subject requirements for Science and Pharmacy courses in TCD.

The syllabus is structured around a number of key geographical concepts.

The main areas are:

Physical

Social, Economic

Regional

Written 90% assessment test

10% CBA Project

Ordnance Survey Maps and

Aerial Photograph Analysis

Geography is useful for careers in:

Civil Engineering

Surveying

Earth Science

Town Planning

Architecture

Marine Careers

Meteorology

Civil Service

Airline Pilots

Environmental Studies

Tourism

Climate Change

Pollution

The study of history is indispensable to a person developing understanding of the human condition and human motivation. In encountering the past experiences of his/her own community, the history student gains valuable insights into the roots of his/her own identity and inherited traditions.

In the new syllabus students study 2 topics relating to Irish history and 2 relating to Europe and the wider world from 1815-1993. There is a strong emphasis on enquiry, evidence, exploration and the links between them.

Each student will complete a research study which is presubmitted and will account for 20% of the total marks. The individual topics will be chosen by the student and foster independent learning and research skills.

Present 5th year students have used the words rewarding and enlightening to describe the new history course - high praise indeed!

HISTORY



Daniel O'Connell



Czar Nicholas II



Parnell



Karl Marx

History is useful for careers in:
Law, Journalism, Tourism,
Politics, Teaching, Civil Service,
Broadcasting.

Students who like reading, analysing and have some interest in world affairs would benefit greatly from the study of History.

Leaving Certificate Physical Education

Course outline:



- Physical Activity Project (PAP) – 20% (completed prior to Christmas of 6th year)

Each student picks which sport/activity they would like to carry out their project in with consultation with their teacher. The project is usually carried out over an 8–10-week period on the student's main sport/activity.

In Leaving Certificate Physical Education, there are six physical activity areas:

1. Adventure activities
2. Artistic and aesthetic activities
3. Athletics
4. Aquatics
5. Games
6. Personal Exercise and Fitness

- Performance Assessment – 30% (completed prior to Easter of 6th year)

Student's must choose a **DIFFERENT** physical activity area for this project. For instance, if they choose 'Athletics' for their Physical Activity Project they cannot do it again for their Performance Assessment. Students must create a video of 7/8 minutes for this project and are required to demonstrate the range of skills, techniques and/or compositional elements outlined for the physical activity in Physical Activity Areas in LCPE.

- Written Examination – 50% (June Examination)

Topics covered in the written examination include:

Strand One: Learning and improving skill and technique, Physical and psychological demands of performance, Structures, strategies, roles and conventions and Planning for optimum performance.

Strand Two: Promoting physical activity and Ethics and fair play.

In addition, two of the following topics will be prescribed each year:

Physical activity and inclusion

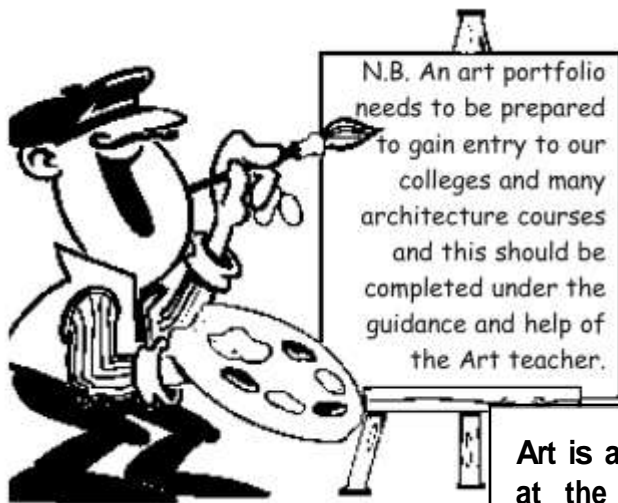
Technology, media and sport

Gender and physical activity

Business and enterprise in physical activity

Students who might enjoy Leaving Certificate Physical Education:

- Students who plan to pursue a career in sport/physical education such as physiotherapy/fitness training or coaching.
- Students who have an interest in looking after their physical and mental health, the course provides lots of detail on how physical activity contributes to our overall wellbeing.
- For students with a talent for a physical activity, the course could be a valuable source of leaving certificate points. However, students will need good attention to detail to work on the required skills for the physical assessment and a willingness to study the classroom sections of the course.



Art

Art is useful for careers in:

Printing
 Publishing
 Architecture
 Advertising
 Fashion
 Photography
 Marketing
 Teaching
 Television and Theatre
 Web Design
 Curating
 Interior Design

Art is a very important subject at the core of developing a student's visual appreciation and awareness, while continuing to improve their creativity and encourage individuality.

It is highly recommended that students have studied art at Junior Cycle as the skills learned are further developed at senior cycle.

As well as the practical component incorporating drawing and craft, there is also a theoretical component in Art History. An interest in art history and a good command of the English language is helpful with the theory element.

German



Germany is one of Ireland most significant partners on mainland Europe, both in terms of trade and investment. But there is still a shortage of Irish people with a fluency in German across a range of professional and clerical positions, including marketing,

accountancy, electronics and software engineering.

The Leaving Certificate German course, (both ordinary and higher) is structured to meet the demands of the Leaving Certificate Examination paper.

Important aspects of the Leaving Certificate course is the development of the students knowledge and accuracy in reading, writing and listening comprehension in German. Students will read German newspapers, passages by German authors, translating, analysing, and giving their opinions on same.

A much greater emphasis has been put on aural(listening) and oral (spoken) German in more recent years. To assist the student in developing fluency in spoken German, they will listen to CDs and answer questions on everyday topics. Students are expected to be able to discuss these topics and others for example family, friends, and their hopes for the future in their Leaving Certificate examination.

Classes are small & student friendly. Individual attention is assured!

PROGRAMMES with German as a major part include:

Batchelor of arts	BA Language & Cultural Studies
B Comm (European) with German	BA Arts & music
BCL Law and German	BA Drama & Theatre Studies
BA European Studies	Software Development With German

As the course is very broad independent learning outside the classroom is encouraged. Students wishing to work in EU would benefit very much by having German as a language.



French

The Leaving Certificate course is organised and taught along thematic lines. It develops phrases, which were introduced at Junior Cycle, such as family, hobbies, school, holidays etc. The Leaving Cert. French syllabus aims to aid the student to be able to use the language in a large variety of possible

situations. Classroom activities seek to expose the student to French in lots of different ways.

French is useful for careers in:

IT
Call Centres (Tele-services)
Tourism, Teaching
Marketing /Business
Journalism
Secretarial Work/Travel Agency

French is essential for:

Law and French (UCC)
Commerce and French(UCC)
European Studies French
Language and Cultural Studies with French

NB: It is essential for all students entering any of the NUI Colleges to meet Matriculation requirements which are Maths, Irish, English, and a continental language in most cases.

The Leaving Certificate examination in French consists of three components:

- Oral Examination
- Aural Examination
- Written examination (Reading and Writing)

It should be noted that the revised syllabus (1998) contains a strong emphasis on the acquisition of oral and aural skills at Senior Cycle. Students need to find opportunities to listen to/speak and read French outside of the classroom situation. Student autonomy in language acquisition is encouraged and expected by the Department.



Spanish is useful for careers in:
Commerce with Spanish
European Studies Spanish
Telesales, Journalism, Industry
Computing

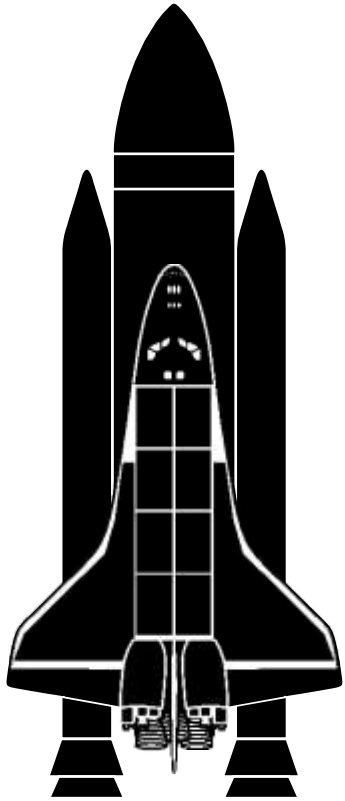
- It is also worth noting that as Spanish is not as widely taught as French and German in Irish schools, the points for various business courses with Spanish are significantly lower than for those with French or German.
- Many Irish choose to holiday in Spain and increasingly people are travelling to south and central America where Spanish is spoken in over 20 countries. A knowledge of Spanish can really enhance the tourist's experience of their holidays.
- Results in Leaving Certificate Spanish are uniformly high and many student go on to study the subject at University or use it in the working life.

Spanish

The Leaving Certificate Spanish course develops further many of the aims, themes, and grammar points of the Junior Cycle syllabus. At the end of their secondary school life, students are expected to have developed a communicative competence in Spanish, be able to understand authentic language resources (e.g. newspaper articles, literary extracts etc.), and have developed a high level of cultural awareness as regards Spain and the rest of the Spanish-speaking world. There are three components to the Leaving Certificate Examination;

- Oral (worth 25% at HL, 20% at OL)
- Aural (worth 20% at HL, 25% at OL)
- Written (worth 55% at both levels)

Obviously, there is a strong emphasis on the acquisition of oral and aural skills and students are encouraged and advised to seek out as many opportunities as possible where they can help to develop these essential skills.



Physics

Physics is a laboratory science and is concerned with the study of everyday things in our world: radios, clocks, pendulums, nuclear reactors, space travel to mention but a few.

The applications of Physics are found in every aspect of modern living, optics, engineering, architecture, design, graphics, medicine, communications and computers.

Physics is essential for careers in all engineering courses and higher level maths is a requirement at Level 8, pass maths for Level 7.

Physics is useful for careers in:
Electronics, Engineering
Architecture, Physiotherapy
Radiography, Medicine
Dentistry, Computing
Veterinary Science, Electrician,
Pilot, Heating and Ventilation
Technician, Instrumentation.

The Leaving Certificate Course involves the study of energy in its various forms, light, electricity, sound etc. and the ways of measuring energy.

There are now no more mandatory experiments. Students will have a project worth 40% to submit in Leaving Cert. The students will get the brief in early 5th year.

Design & Communications Graphics



Course Outline

Assessment of the new course is via

- **A Written Exam** (worth 60% of total assessment) examined in one paper of 3-hour duration. Students are expected to answer:

- 1) • 3 of 4 short questions in section A of the paper & 2 of 3 long questions in section B, all questions are taken from the Core Syllabus of Plane & Descriptive Geometry
- 2) • 2 of 5 questions from an Applied Graphics Syllabus (section C of paper)

The syllabus content is outlined below.

Plane & Descriptive Geometry

Projection Systems

Plane Geometry

Conic Sections

Descriptive Geometry Intersections

Developments of Surfaces

Applied Graphics

Dynamic Mechanisms

Structural Forms

Geologic Geometry

Surface Geometry

Assemblies

} Core

} Options

- **Project Work** (worth 40% of total assessment) of approximately 40 hours duration submitted on USB and as hardcopy to the Department of Education in January of Leaving Cert year. The project will focus on modes of design communication with emphasis on Elements of design.

Communication graphics

Use of information and communication technologies in design.

Some examples of modes of communication are a computer parametric modelling package, use of digital media, freehand drawing etc. The terminal exam focuses on the understanding of geometry through graphics using problem solving and lateral thought whilst the assignment develops creative and individual design strategies.

Careers

Skills and abilities developed through Design & Communications Graphics are beneficial to many careers and courses particularly in the field of engineering, architecture, design and technology, manufacturing/production technology, industrial/interior design etc.



Home Economics

(Social & Scientific)

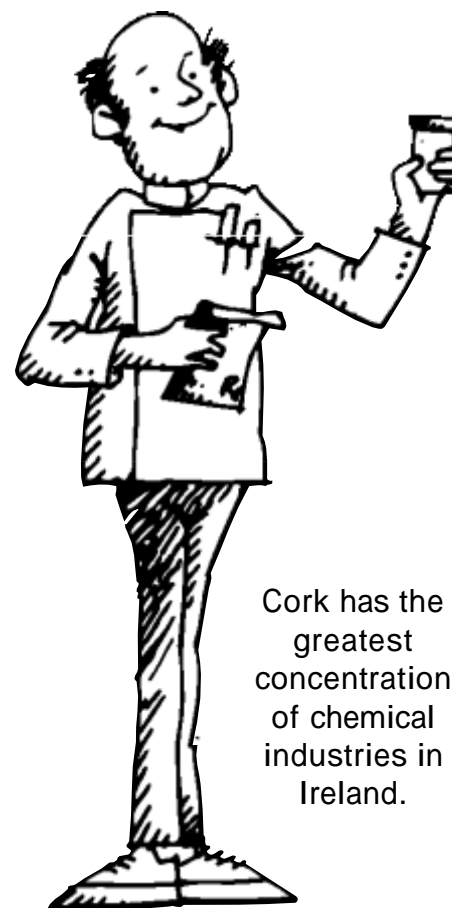
Home Economics is useful for careers in:

Nutrition
Dietetics
Nursing
Teaching
Food Science
Child Care
Hotel and Catering
Science
Social Science
Food Business Management

Both St Angela's college Sligo and MTU Cork offer Home Economics teacher training and courses in Food Business Management

Home Economics (Social and Scientific) covers topics such as food constituents, microbiology, food preservation, consumerism and social issues, the family and the home. The course is divided into three sections:

- **Food/Nutrition:**
There is an in-depth study of food, chemistry, food preservation, microbiology and physiology. During 5th year students will do a lot of practical work that relates to the food area and will complete a Food Studies Journal which is typed and submitted and which will be worth 20% of the Leaving Cert Exam.
- **Home:**
Everything to do with a modern household - from building/buying a house, interior design and finance, but to mention a few.
- **Society:**
This is an introduction to basic Sociology. It includes the study of relationships, attitudes, behavioural problems/patterns, social groupings and social problems.



Cork has the greatest concentration of chemical industries in Ireland.

Chemistry for careers in:
Chemical Engineering, Pharmacy, Science, Civil Engineering, Med. Lab Science, Medicine, Food Process Engineering, Nursing, Health Care Services, Food Process Engineering, Material Science.

Chemistry

Chemistry is the science of solids, liquids and gases and what they do when they react with each other and how these reactions can be used for the benefit of society. It helps us to understand the world we live in and is a very exciting subject. Medicine, Pharmacology, Engineering Agriculture, Food Technology and Electronics depend on the knowledge that chemistry provides.

Chemistry is Essential for:

Medicine (UCC) - In UCC course H3 in chemistry plus H3 in either Physics or Biology is required. Dentistry (UCC). Human Nutrition (DIT) Med Lab Science (DIT). Veterinary Medicine UCD all require Higher C in Chemistry.

A new Leaving Cert specification will be introduced for 5th year students in 2025. This is comprised of a written exam (60%) and a project (40%). The project based on a common brief, will be given to students in term 2 of 5th year and submitted in 6th year. It will be graded at the level that the student sits the final written examination. The theory component of the new syllabus has been adapted to include advancement in chemistry in society, for example, the inclusion of the study of lithium-ion batteries as used in EVs.

Biology



Biology is the study of life.
This interesting and exciting subject is a laboratory science involving both theory and practical work.

For the consistent student,
results show that high grades are reasonably attainable.
Memory work is important.

NOTE:

To do Medicine/Dentistry in UCC,
two science subjects are required, one of which could be **Biology**. A laboratory science subject is also required for the degree in nursing.
Useful for a career in Beauty & Health, Physiotherapy.

The two year biology syllabus, is a course designed to give students an introduction to all the various aspects of life on planet earth. The course encourages students to make wise choices regarding diet, medicine intake and exercise. It promotes mature attitudes to body issues and urges students to take responsibility for personal health.

The new Leaving Cert Biology Course (starting 2025/2026) covers

- Cellular Biology
- Genetics & Evolution
- Microbiology
- Plant & Animal Biology
- Ecology
- Biotechnology

A new project component, the "Biology in Practice Investigation", an Additional Assessment Component (AAC) will account for 40% of the final grade.

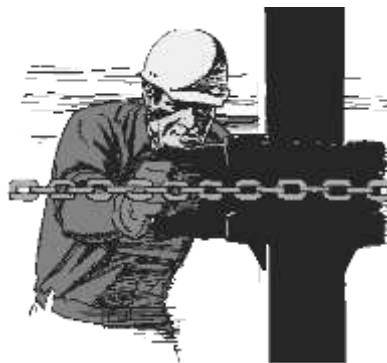
Students will engage in independent research, with 20 hours of class time allocated to complete the project.

The aim is to reduce reliance on final exams and provide a more practical, skills-based assessment.

Biology is useful for careers in:

Environmental Agriculture,
Biological and Chemical Sciences, Beauty Therapy, Nursing, Food Science, Medical Laboratory Science, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Marine Biology, Health and Safety areas, Childcare, Horticulture Earth Science, Biochemical engineering

CONSTRUCTION STUDIES



The course is essentially about the study of buildings and the built environment.

The theoretical part of the course examines all parts of building from the planning stages to the completed building.

The course is studied under the following main headings:

Planning and Design

Drawings and Documents

Site Preliminaries and Foundations

Walls, Partitions

Floors, Roofs

Fireplaces

Windows and Doors

Stairs

Plastering and Painting

Plumbing and Heating

Services

Drainage

Exam Structure

The examination at higher and ordinary levels has three separate components.

Section A Three hour written paper worth 300 marks.

Section B Four hour practical woodwork exam.

Section C Building Project where the student makes a building detail, a scale model of a building or craft piece.

Points to note:

- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Construction Studies has a general interest in buildings and the built environment.
- Each student should have an aptitude and interest for design and practical work.
- Junior Certificate Woodwork and/or Technical Graphics would be desirable subjects to have taken at Junior Certificate though not compulsory.



Business

Business is concerned with how organisations are formed, financed and run. It also looks at the services involved in business such as banking, transport, taxation and semistate bodies. It focuses on the importance of Enterprise and Management skills and concentrates on people in business.

Topics covered will be:
People in Business
Enterprise
Social Responsibility

Business provides an excellent foundation of anyone thinking of a business career though it is not an essential subject for any particular course. It develops in students a critical understanding of the changing business environment and prepares them for participation in adult and working life.

Business is useful for Careers in:
Business,
Banking
Administration
Marketing
Purchasing
Hotel/Retail Trade
Merchandising
Insurance

New Leaving Cert Business specification in September 2025.

- The focus is on Irish and International economics.
- How the business world operates.
- Developing financial and business literacy.

A new feature is the introduction of a project which will be worth 40% of the total marks. Details of what the project entails have not yet been announced.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Program

LCVP

This programme aims to balance the virtues of the traditionally academic Leaving Certificate with the development of skills and qualities which will prove relevant to the lives of students on leaving school. It provides a skill base for further education, the world of work or the business of making a living. It is a very worthwhile programme both for the student personally and academically. The content of LCVP has common ground with the needs of the business community.

Modules:

- Enterprise Education • Preparation for Work • Work Experience



- The LCVP Leaving Certificate examination consists of building up a portfolio which accounts for 60% of overall result.
- A written exam in early May of 6th year will account for another 40% of the overall grade.
- One of the many advantages in taking this subject is that it is recognised by both the Institutes of Technology and Universities, who award 66 points for a distinction, 46 for a merit and 28 for a pass.

