

## Admissions Policy

## Revision History

| Revision | Date | Revision Description DCRT\# | Originator |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 01 | 31 July 2003 | Conversion from OP176; Incorporation of <br> OP105 (Advanced entry policy) | Diarmuid O'Callaghan |
| 02 | 3 September 2004 | Revised to accommodate new award titles, <br> revised FETAC progression arrangements, <br> entry standard to ab-initio ordinary and <br> honours degrees and add-on Honours degree <br> courses, and an admissions review procedure. |  |
| 03 | 21 February 2005 O'Callaghan |  |  |
| 04 | Inclusion of two relevant policy statements <br> from Teaching and learning policy 2MP20 | Diarmuid O'Callaghan |  |
| 02 February 2007 | Revised to accommodate the allocation of <br> points for Leaving Certificate Maths at | AA\&SAM |  |
| Foundation level, as agreed by Academic |  |  |  |
| Council on 4 May 2005 and 28 November |  |  |  |
| 2006; the change in title of the Foundation |  |  |  |
| Certificate; changes in entry requirements for |  |  |  |
| Level 9 and Level 10 programmes, as agreed |  |  |  |
| by Academic Council on 16 February 2006; |  |  |  |
| consolidation of closing dates for applications |  |  |  |
| made directly to the University. |  |  |  |$\quad$.

## Admissions Policy 3AD08 - Index and key points

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## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to identify University policy on admission of students to University courses. Admissions policies are the responsibility of the Governing Body of the University through recommendations from the Academic Council of the University, as determined in section 10 (3) (d) of the Regional Technical Colleges Act 1992, and subsequent legislation.

## Scope

This policy applies to all students applying for admission to academic programmes validated under powers delegated by QQI (formerly HETAC and FETAC) at the University in full-time, part-time and work-based mode.

## Definitions

CAO: Central Applications Office. See www.cao.ie
QQI Quality and Qualifications Ireland (formerly FETAC/HETAC)
NQAI:
National Qualifications Authority of Ireland. See www.nqai.ie
Mature student: A student over 23 years of age on $1^{\text {st }}$ of January of the year of entry on the course (unless otherwise defined).

## Reference

| 2MP20 | Teaching and learning policy and principles |
| :--- | :--- |
| 3AD06 | Exemptions from modules based on prior certified or experiential learning |
| 3AD12 | Academic Programme Fees and Related Charges |
| 4FAD11 | Application for progression with less than 60 credits and/or with a GPA <br> under 2.00 |
| 4FAD12 | Application form for review of admissions decision |
| 4FAD20 | International students - assessment of English language competency |
| 3AD15 | Garda Vetting Procedure for vetting students for placement in environments <br> with children or vulnerable adults |

## Policy

## General

It is University policy that:
a. Fair and consistent admissions procedures are applied.
b. Procedures are applied to support access, transfer and progression opportunities for learners to facilitate educational opportunity.
c. Prior certified and experiential learning is considered as part of the admissions process, when relevant information is submitted to the admissions office.
d. Fees are paid prior to completion of the admissions process and registration on a particular course of study.
e. Admission to courses is subject to space availability.
f. Admission to courses is subject to budgetary constraints imposed by the Department of Education and Skills.
g. The University reserves the right to refuse admission of an individual at any time.
h. The Univeristy reserves the right to alter the name of courses and award to be conferred at any time.
i. The University provides a procedure for all applicants to request a review of any admissions decision.
j. The University reserves the right to refuse admission.
k. The University reserves the right to refuse admission to a student/applicant, withdraw an offer to a student of a place on a specific course, remove a student from a specific course, or delay a student's placement modules on a specific course where an inappropriate return is received following the Garda Vetting process.

1. The University reserves the right to refuse admission to a student/applicant, withdraw an offer to a student of a place on a specific course, remove a student from a specific course, or delay a student's placement modules on a specific course for inappropriate engagement with the Garda Vetting process, and/or where matters come to light which may compromise the health and wellbeing of other campus users, including students,staff, and/or members of the public.

## Entry to first year of full-time courses

- Application for admission to the first year of full-time courses must be made through the CAO. A list of courses is provided in the CAO handbook,the University prospectus and on the University website.
- Regulations for admission as determined in CAO publications shall apply.


## Leaving Certificate Applicants

- The minimum entry standard for Leaving Certificate graduates progressing to a Higher Certificate (Level 6) course is a grade of O6/H7 in five subjects including Mathematics and either English or Irish.
- The minimum entry standard for Leaving Certificate graduates progressing to an ab-initio Ordinary Degree (Level 7) course is a grade of O6/H7 in five subjects including Mathematics and either English or Irish.
- The minimum entry standard for Leaving Certificate graduates progressing to an ab-initio Honours Degree (Level 8) programme is a pass in six Leaving Certificate subjects with at least two H5 grades and the remainder at least O6/H7 grades. Subjects must include Mathematics and either English or Irish.
- The results of more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate examination may be counted towards meeting the minimum entry standard.
- Specific grades in mathematics at Foundation Level may be acceptable to meet the minimum entry requirements for mathematics in some courses (where mathematics is not considered an essential element of that course). Please refer to specific course details in University publications and website for details as they apply to individual courses. Where results in mathematics at Foundation Level are deemed to be acceptable, it will be considered as a passing subject provided the student achieves at least a grade F2 result. Grades below a F2 will be deemed not to meet the minimum entry requirement.
- A grade H 7 in mathematics may be acceptable to meet the minimum entry requirements for mathematics in some courses (where mathematics is not considered an essential element of that course). Please refer to specific course details on the University website for details as they apply to individual courses. Where a grade H7 in mathematics is deemed to be acceptable, it will be considered as a passing subject towards the minimum entry requirements. $\underline{37}$ points will be awarded for this grade.
- Applicants presenting with a 1992-2016 Leaving Certificate will be awarded 33 points for an E grade at Higher Level.
- Results from the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme (LCAP) or foundation level Irish in the Leaving Certificate do not meet the minimum entry requirements.
- Available places will be offered based on the academic standard attained as determined by CAO points allocated on the basis of the Leaving Certificate (or equivalent) examination. Places will be offered on a competitive basis until all places (with the exception of those reserved as described below) have been filled.
- CAO points will be determined from a maximum of six subjects taken in one individual sitting of the Leaving Certificate examination.
- CAO points will be allocated to subjects as listed on the following table:

| Grade |  | $\%$-age | Higher Level | Ordinary Level |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| H1 | O1 | $90-100$ | 100 | 56 |
| H2 | O2 | $80-89$ | 88 | 46 |
| H3 | O3 | $70-79$ | 77 | 37 |
| H4 | O4 | $60-69$ | 66 | 28 |
| H5 | O5 | $50-59$ | 56 | 20 |
| H6 | O6 | $40-49$ | 46 | 12 |
| H7 | O7 | $30-39$ | 37 | 0 |
| H8 | O8 | $0-29$ | 0 | 0 |

- Applicants presenting with 1992-2016 Leaving Cert results will have their points converted to the revised system and allocated using the below table:

| Old System (Higher) |  |  | New System (Higher) |  |  | Old System (Ordinary) |  |  | New System (Ordinary) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Grade | \%-age | Points | Grade | $\%$-age | Points | Grade | \%-age | Points | Grade | $\%$-age | Points |
| A1 | 90-100 | 100 | H1 | 90-100 | 100 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A2 | 85-89 | 90 | H2 | 80-89 | 88 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B1 | 80-84 | 85 | H2 | 80-89 | 88 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B2 | 75-79 | 80 | H3 | 70-79 | 77 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B3 | 70-74 | 75 | H3 | 70-79 | 77 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C1 | 65-69 | 70 | H4 | 60-69 | 66 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C2 | 60-64 | 65 | H4 | 60-69 | 66 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C3 | 55-59 | 60 | H5 | 50-59 | 56 | A1 | 90-100 | 60 | 01 | 90-100 | 56 |
| D1 | 50-54 | 55 | H5 | 50-59 | 56 | A2 | 85-89 | 50 | 02 | 80-89 | 46 |
| D2 | 45-49 | 50 | H6 | 40-49 | 46 | B1 | 80-84 | 45 | 02 | 80-89 | 46 |
| D3 | 40-44 | 45 | H6 | 40-49 | 46 | B2 | 75-79 | 40 | 03 | 70-79 | 37 |
| E | 25-39 | 0 | H7 | 30-39 | 33* | B3 | 70-74 | 35 | 03 | 70-79 | 37 |
| F | 10-24 | 0 | H8 | 0-29 | 0 | C1 | 65-69 | 30 | 04 | 60-69 | 28 |
| $N G$ | 0-9 | 0 | H8 | 0-29 | 0 | C2 | 60-64 | 25 | 04 | 60-69 | 28 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | C3 | 55-59 | 20 | 05 | 50-59 | 20 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | D1 | 50-54 | 15 | 05 | 50-59 | 20 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | D2 | 45-49 | 10 | O6 | 40-49 | 12 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | D3 | 40-44 | 5 | O6 | 40-49 | 12 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | E | 25-39 | 0 | 07 | 30-39 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | F | 10-24 | 0 | 08 | 0-29 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | $N G$ | 0-9 | 0 | 08 | 0-29 | 0 |

*Note: H7 scores 37 points from 2017. 33 points awarded for E at Higher Level for conversion purposes from 1992-2016 only.
*Note: 25 Bonus Points are added to Higher Level Maths grades from H1 to H6 (A1 to D3)

- Where a grade of F2 or higher is achieved and mathematics at foundation level is acceptable for entry to a specific course, CAO points will be allocated as listed on the following table:

| Mathematics | F1 | F2 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Foundation Level | 20 | 12 |

- A bonus of 25 points will be allocated to students who achieve a grade H 6 or above in mathematics in the Irish Leaving Certificate examination. This means that the maximum cumulative Leaving Certificate points total will increase from 600 to 625 .
- All students presenting H6 or above in mathematics will have 25 points added to their score for mathematics. The six highest subject points scores will then be counted to achieve a cumulative points score, as is normal practice.
- The bonus points will only be relevant in cases where the higher level mathematics subject (including bonus points) is scored as one of the candidate's six best subjects for points purposes. Consequently, if higher level mathematics (cumulative points score) is not among these six subjects, the bonus points will not be included in the total points score.


## QQI (FORMERLY FETAC) LEVEL 5 AND LEVEL 6 (FORMERLY NCVA LEVEL 2 OR 3)

## APPLICANTS

- The minimum entry requirements for graduates of QQI (Level 5 or 6) awards to :
- Higher Certificate Course (NFQ level 6) is a full QQI (Level 5 or 6) award.
- Ab Initio Ordinary Degree Course (NFQ level 7) is a full QQI (Level 5 or 6) award.
- Ab Initio Honours Degree Course (NFQ level 8) is a full QQI (Level 5 or 6) award in a related area and including Distinction grades in at least three components.
For entry to the majority of courses a full award may be accumulated over more than one academic year. In such cases it is the responsibility of the applicant to apply to QQI for a full award.
For entry to some courses certain restrictions may apply as follows:
i. an award achieved in a single sitting may be required; or
ii. specific component awards in mathematics must be included in the QQI award presented for entry; or

Details of whether any of the above restrictions apply will be stiplulated in the course information on the University website and prospectus.

QQI introduced a new awards system known as the Common Awards System, or CAS, in 2013. CAS awards are replacing existing linked QQI/FETAC awards. All QQI/FETAC awards are part of CAS as of 2014.

A new scoring system for QQI/FETAC awards was introduced for entry through the CAO to higher education from 2013. This scoring system applies to all relevant QQI/FETAC level 5 and 6 awards. It applies to all results achieved from 2013.
A full FETAC Level 5 or 6 major award will have a minimum credit value of 120 .
Component awards, or achievement of less than 120 credits, do not constitute a full award.

Each FETAC Level 5 and level 6 component is scored as follows. Each component is given a score based on the credit value of the component and the weighting of the grade achieved. Most component awards have a credit value of 15 (the possible component credit values are 5, 10, 15, 20 and 30).

The following weightings will apply to the grades achieved:

- Pass 1
- Merit 2
- Distinction 3

To calculate a component score, the credit value of the component is multiplied by the weighting for the grade achieved. All of the component scores are added up to a cumulative credit value of 120 . When adding up these scores begin with distinctions then merits, then passes. Finally, the total is multiplied by 13 and divided by 12 to give the overall score to a maximum of 390 points.
(This means that effectively the weighting of a component will be approximately Pass = 1.083, Merit=2.167, Distinction=3.250). See below table:


Some applicants will combine components achieved prior to the introduction of CAS with others which are part of CAS. Level 5 and 6 (NCVA) Certificates, i.e. major awards, achieved before the introduction of CAS are also scored according to the system outlined above.

All QQI/FETAC level 5 and level 6 awards will be scored using the best 120 credits to deliver a maximum of 390 points.

This adjustment is required to accommodate the new LC scoring system and to maintain the previously established relativity between QQI/FETAC scoring system and the pre 2017 Leaving Certificate scoring system.

All QQI/FETAC Level 5 and Level 6 awards will be scored using the best 120 credits to deliver a maximum of 390 points regardless of whether they were achieved before or after the introduction of CAS.

- A general specific requirement for mathematics or a language will not apply. Notwithstanding the minimum entry requirements listed above, specific Higher Certificate and ab-initio Ordinary Degree courses may have specific pre-requisite QQI/FETAC module or QQI/FETAC course requirements. Such pre-requisite requirements are listed in the University prospectuses. In the case of entry to Honours degree courses, relevant cognate courses and specific pre-requisite module requirements, where relevant, are specifically listed in the University prospectuses.
- In some courses, a specific module such as a mathematics or language module is a mandatory component of the QQI/FETAC award being presented. This requirement may be waived if the applicant has evidence of equivalent achievement from other examinations (such as previous Leaving Certificate award). It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence directly to the admissions officer of the University.


## APPLICANTS WITH QUALIFICATIONS FROM OUTSIDE THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND OR UK

For applicants presenting school leaving qualifications other than Irish Leaving Certifcate and QQI/FETAC Level $5 / 6$ examinations, the University is involved in a central evaluation process to provide a central scoring system. Such applicants should obtain a letter from QQI (http://www.qqi.ie/Articles/Pages/Qualifications-Recognition.aspx) comparing their foreign qualification with an Irish qualification. Once scored they compete for places together with all other applicants.

Such applicants who have been offered places will be required to satisfy all the normal legal requirements (as laid down by the Department of Justice and Equality and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) to gain access to education in Ireland, before acceptance and registration requirements can be completed.

## SUPPLEMENTARY ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS

- A number of places will be reserved annually for applicants from categories specifically identified within the mission of the University. These places will be filled outside those offered based on the competitive Leaving Certificate and QQI/FETAC points, but applicants must initially apply for these places through the CAO. Specifically places will be reserved for:
a) Mature students,
b) Students without Leaving Certificate or equivalent qualifications who can meet the entry requirements in other ways,
c) Students with special needs,
d) Students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds (via the REACH Scheme), and
e) Apprentices who have successfully completed Phase 6 (at pass or merit level) in a recognised SOLAS National Craft Certificate apprenticeship programme provided they meet minimum Leaving Certificate requirements (or equivalent) in mathematics and either English or Irish
f) Students applying for Sports Management and Coaching who display particular sporting prowess.
- The number of places offered in any particular category will be determined in response to overall targets as determined by the Governing Body of the Unversity. Current targets for admission of categories of student are as follows:
- 

|  | \% of All <br> students | \% of Non- <br> standard <br> students |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Leaving Certificate (LC) admissions | $\mathbf{6 0 \%}$ |  |
| Admissions to support University mission | $\mathbf{4 0 \%}$ |  |
| of which | $12.5 \%$ | $33 \%$ |
| - FETAC level 5 and 6 | $15 \%$ | $50 \%$ |
| - Mature students | $3.5 \%$ | $12 \%$ |
| -Students from socio-economically disadvantaged <br> background | $1.5 \%$ | $5 \%$ |
| - Students with special circumstances |  |  |
| - |  |  |

- Note: Highlighted targets to be reviewed prior to ratification by Academic Council
- Mature applicants will be allocated scores based on an assessment of documentation provided (all mature students will be contacted individually and given detailed information on the type of documentation required by the University for this assessment process).
- Mature students may choose to compete solely on Leaving Certificate or QQI/FETAC points. Such applicants must meet the minimum entry requirements for the courses for which they have applied.
- Applicants presenting results from Leaving Certificate examinations from 1985 1991 will be allocated points as listed in the following table:

| 1985 to 1991 <br> LC Grade | New Points Awarded <br> Higher Level | New Points Awarded <br> Ordinary Level |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A | $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{5 6}$ |
| $\mathbf{B}$ | $\mathbf{7 7}$ | $\mathbf{3 7}$ |
| C | $\mathbf{6 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 8}$ |
| D | $\mathbf{4 6}$ | $\mathbf{1 2}$ |
| $\mathbf{E}$ | $\mathbf{3 3}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ |
| F | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ |
| NG | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ |

- Applicants from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds may apply to the REACH Scheme by submitting an application directly to ITB in addition to their CAO application. Eligible applicants may avail of reduced-points entry, subject to the availability of places.
- Applicants with disabilities/special needs should tick the "Medical" box on their CAO application and submit supporting documentation directly to the CAO. Eligible applicants may avail of rediced-points entry, subject to the availability of places.


## OTHER APPLICANTS

- A number of places may be filled for specific categories of students to support specific cultural and other University interests. Students taking these places will not normally be resident in Ireland prior to admission (will be recruited as international students on study visa in Ireland) and will be recruited through an agent of the University using the agreed admission process. They will be required to pay tuition fees as published in the University Fee Policy document 3AD12. These students are offered places above the normal quota of places for the University and will not affect the intake of students through the CAO system. They may be admitted to first year or gain advanced entry to subsequent years depending on their entrance qualifications presented as well as to postgraduate courses. The following categories of students may be considered:

| - Non-EU Nationals* | $-\quad$ Up to 50 places per year |
| :---: | :---: |
| - Industry-sponsored | $-\quad$ Up to 20 places per year |

In the case of Non-EU Nationals, a restriction will be placed on the number of students entering a particular class and a restriction will be placed on the number of students presenting from individual countries.

Such students will be admitted following application to the University on an individual basis following provision of evidence of achieving the entry criteria agreed with the agent including:

- Minimum agreed academic standard
- Minimum competence in English
- Essential pre-requisite modules


## COMPETENCE IN ENGLISH

- Competency in written and spoken English is necessary in order to be accepted and to complete registration on any course. Applicants who do not have Leaving Certificate English must provide evidence of equivalent competence through other school leaving or matriculation examinations, or by reference from employer (form 4FAD20 is completed in these circumstances) or achievement of a
minimum standard in recognised tests of English. (Achievement of the minimum standard in such recognised tests of English satisfies the English minimum entry standard, but is not used to compute points). The minimum standard in recognised tests of English is as follows:

| General or Academic English | Title of Award | Level Required |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Academic | IELTS <br> (International English Language Testing System) | 6 |
| Academic | ETAPP <br> (English Test for Academic and Professional Purposes) | C1 |
| Academic | TOEFL <br> (Test of English as a Foreign Language) | PBT 550 <br> CBT 213 |
| Academic | British Council <br> UCLES / IDP <br> (University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate / <br> International Development Programme of Australian Universities) | 6 |
| Academic | JMB University Entrance test in English (Overseas) <br> (Joint Matriculation Board of the Universities of Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield and Birmingham) | Pass |
| Academic | AEB <br> (Associated Examining Board) | C |
| Academic | OEB -English as a Foreign Language (Higher Paper) (Oxford Examining Body) | Pass |
| General | TIE <br> (Test of Interactive English, Ireland) | C1 |
| General | Council of Europe | C1 |
| General | Trinity College (UK) <br> (Integrated Skills in English Examination) | $\begin{aligned} & 10 \\ & \text { ISE - Level III } \end{aligned}$ |
| General | TOEIC <br> (Test of English for International Communication) | 750 |
| General | London Tests of English (Edexcel) Pearson Language Assessment | Level 4 |
| General | Cambridge ESOL <br> (English for Speakers of Other Languages) CAE (Certificate in Advanced English) <br> CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English) | Grade C <br> Grade C |
| General | Pitman UK | Level 5 <br> (Advanced) |
| General | ARELS/Oxford UK <br> (Association of Recognised English Language Services) | Higher - Good |

## OTHER

- Admission on the basis of other equivalent minimum levels of knowledge, skill and competence will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Additional requirements in individual subjects above the minimum entry requirements may be specified for specific courses as documented in the CAO handbook and University prospectus.


## Entry to add-on courses

- Application for admission to add-on Ordinary Degree (Level 7) courses will be considered from graduates of a relevant Higher Certificate (Level 6) course at pass level with a GPA of 2.0 or above.
- Application for admission to add-on Honours Degree (Level 8) courses will be considered from graduates of a relevant Ordinary Degree (Level 7) course at pass level with a GPA of 2.0 or above.
- Determination of relevance of courses for progression purposes will be the responsibility of the Academic Council of the University through its Admissions Sub-committee.
- Places will be allocated in the first instance to qualified applicants who have completed prior courses of study in the University. Where the number of places available is limited relative to eligible applicants, places will be allocated in order of merit. Any remaining places will be allocated among all other qualified applicants based on an order of merit determined by results achieved in previous relevant courses of study.


## Entry to part-time courses

- Application is made directly to the University.
- The minimum entry standard for applicants to part time courses or modules is a grade $\mathrm{O} 6 / \mathrm{H} 7$ in the Leaving Certificate examination in five subjects including mathematics and either English or Irish.
- Specific grades in mathematics at foundation level may be acceptable to meet the minimum entry requirements for mathematics in some courses (where mathematics is not considered an essential element of that course). Please refer to specific course details in University publications for details as they apply to individual courses. Where results in mathematics at foundation level are deemed to be acceptable, it will be considered as a passing subject provided the student achieves at least a grade F2 result. Grades below a F2 will be deemed not to meet the minimum entry requirement.
- The results of more than one sitting of the leaving certificate examination may be counted towards meeting the minimum entry standard.
- Mature applicants may be admitted without meeting these formal entry requirements.
- Applicants progressing from QQI/FETAC level 5 and level 6 courses can be considered for entry.
- Applicants with a qualification outside the Republic of Ireland or the UK, are requested to obtain a letter from QQI :
(http://www.qqi.ie/Articles/Pages/Qualifications-Recognition.aspx) comparing their foreign qualification with an Irish qualification.


## Entry to accredited work-based courses

- Application for admission to work-based courses is as described for first year of courses above, but application is made directly to the University.
- Application for admission to specific work-based courses may be restricted to applicants currently employed in specific occupations as described in the prospectus for the relevant course. Where students are admitted through this facility of relevant current work, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the University (Admissions Office) of material changes to that work arrangement.

Progression to second and subsequent years of full-time, part-time or work-based courses

- Entry to second and subsequent years of all programmes is by successful completion of the previous year of the course. In certain circumstances, students may apply to progress from a non-award year of a course without all required credits having been accumulated. Form 4FAD11 is used for this purpose.
- Application is made directly to the University.


## Progression/Entry to postgraduate courses

- Application for admission to Higher Diploma (Level 8) courses will be considered from graduates with an Honours Degree (Level 8) qualification, or a relevant Level 7 qualification.
- Application for admission to Postgraduate Diploma (Level 9), Masters (Level 9) and PhD (Level 10) courses will be considered from graduates of a relevant Honours Degree (Level 8) course, with $2^{\text {nd }}$ class honours or higher award classification (or equivalent, or for awards prior to 2006 a Pass award with a GPA of 2.50 or above).
- Application for admission to specific courses may be restricted to applicants currently employed in specific occupations as described in the prospectus for the relevant course.
- Application is made directly to the University.


## Entry to Apprenticeship programme

- A person entering employment as an apprentice shall meet the requirements as determined in section 3, 4 and 5 of S.I No. 168/1997. Labour Services Act 1987 Apprenticeship Rules.
- Application for admission to the Apprenticeship programme at the University is made in the first instance to SOLAS, with recommendations for entry to phase 4 and 6 of apprenticeship programmes made by SOLAS to the University.


## Advanced entry policy

- The University is prepared to approve arrangements whereby applicants for admission to a course may be exempted from an entire year or more of the course.
- Advanced entry is only offered where entry routes are not available without repeating prior certified learning.
- This provision enables students holding examination results or awards of other bodies to enrol on courses without being required to repeat studies substantially similar in content and standard to those that they have already successfully completed.
- Admission to advanced levels of programmes will only be considered for courses that have similar curricular content to the University course, where prior academic performance of the candidate is considered acceptable and where space is available in classes.
- Application is made through the CAO.


## Eligibility for Exemptions

- Exemptions may be granted from specific individual modules in a particular year of a course based on prior certified or experiential learning. Please refer to procedure 3AD06.
- Exemptions may be granted only to applicants in good academic standing with the institution on the basis of whose examination or awards the application is made.
- In the case of an application for exemptions in respect of examinations taken under the aegis of an institution other than QQI/HETAC, exemptions may be granted only in respect of examinations which the applicant has passed in their entirety; any such exemptions may be granted only on a subject-to-subject basis.
- In the case of an application for exemption/progression, the University reserves the right to seek any relevant information from any institution or person in relation to an applicant's examination result and academic standing. The making of an application by or on behalf of an applicant implies acceptance by the applicant of this right.


## Procedure

- For entry into first year of Higher Certificate (Level 6), ab-inito Ordinary Degree (Level 7) and ab-initio Honours Degree (Level 8) full-time courses, application must be made to the CAO. However, Non-EU nationals should apply through the International Office.
- For entry to add-on Ordinary Degree (Level 7) or Honours Degree (Level 8) courses, application must be made to the CAO.
- For advanced entry to Higher Certificate (Level 6) and ab-inito Ordinary Degree (Level 7) courses in year two or year three, applicants should apply to the CAO.
- Postgraduate courses (Levels 8, 9 or 10), applicants should apply in the first instance to the Admissions Office of the University, using the appropriate form published on the University website. Applications should be made before 1st June for courses starting in September and 1st December for courses starting in January.
- For entry to the University's part-time courses, applicants should apply in the first instance to the Admissions Office of the University, using the appropriate application form published on the University website. Applications should normally be made before $1^{\text {st }}$ June for courses starting in September; relevant closing dates are published on the website each year.
- For entry to the University's work-based courses, applicants should apply in the first instance to the Admissions Office of the University, using the appropriate application form published on the University website. Relevant closing dates are published on the website each year. .
- For the procedure for application for exemptions from modules based on prior certified or experiential learning, refer to procedure 3AD06.


## Reason for Admissions Decisions

- It is University policy to inform all applicants in writing of the outcome of each application for a place on any course offered by the University. This is done on behalf of the University by the CAO for courses where application is made to the CAO.
- Applicants may seek information on the reasons for any admissions decision, or may request a review of a previous admissions decision from the Admissions Office of the University, by completing the relevant form published on the University website (4FAD12).
//ends

