

TU Dublin Career Development Centre

LOVE YOUR CAREER



PRESENTER: Dave Kilmartin

DATE: 9th February 11:00 – 11:30am

WORKSHOP TITLE: Changing Direction
-
Postgraduate Conversion courses

Objectives



- At the end of this session, you will identify:
 - Wide range of conversion programmes
 - Entry requirements for these courses
 - Issues for you to consider at your stage

Today's Perspective

- Introduce a broad brush approach to conversion courses
- Demonstrate the breadth of courses available
- Limited detail – as requirements constantly changing

What is a postgraduate “conversion” course?

- Taught postgraduate courses that allow graduates to ‘**convert**’ to a new discipline
- Most subject areas, but high concentration in **business, arts and computing**
- Science and Engineering: usually need a primary degree in a related discipline
- 1-2 years duration

What are your goals?

- Career objectives / plans
- Employment prospects
- Interest in the academic area / academia
- Professional requirement- exemptions
- Change to a new area

Key issues to think about...

- Sufficient motivation
- Academic ability, suitability and your needs
- Time and money

Benefits for Students

Conversion courses can:

- Provide a means of keeping “options open” at degree stage
- Provide a “second chance”/ “back door” to chosen career
- Facilitates career shift
- Provides a high level of mobility to graduates of any discipline
- Can reduce pressure – buy you time in difficult times

Postgraduate Conversion Courses

- Strong career focus
- High employment rates – sector dependant
- Provides sought after relevant skills & knowledge
- Some courses are linked directly to skills requirements for growth in current economic climate

Fees and maintenance

FEES

CAN RANGE FROM 2-30K PER YEAR

Grant information

- <https://susi.ie/postgraduate-student/> - based on thresholds

Tax relief

- <http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/leaflets/it31.html>

Student Finance

- <https://hea.ie/funding-governance-performance/funding/student-finance/>

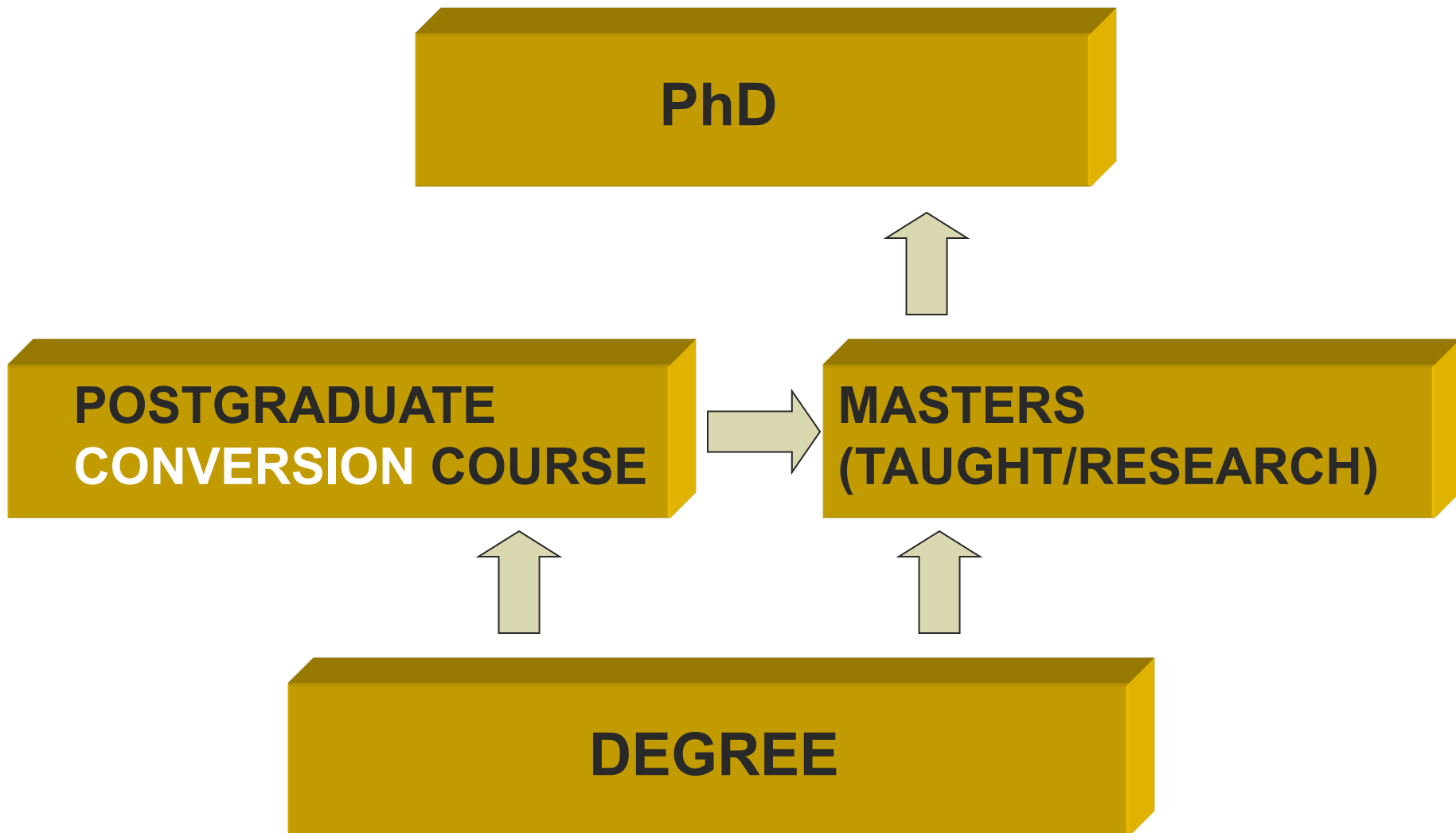
Springboard:

- <https://springboardcourses.ie/eligibility>
- One-year full-time and two-year part-time ICT Skills Conversion courses are open to recent graduates. However, to participate in an NFQ Level 9 (Post-Graduate) course, 2020 graduates will be required to pay 10% of the course fee

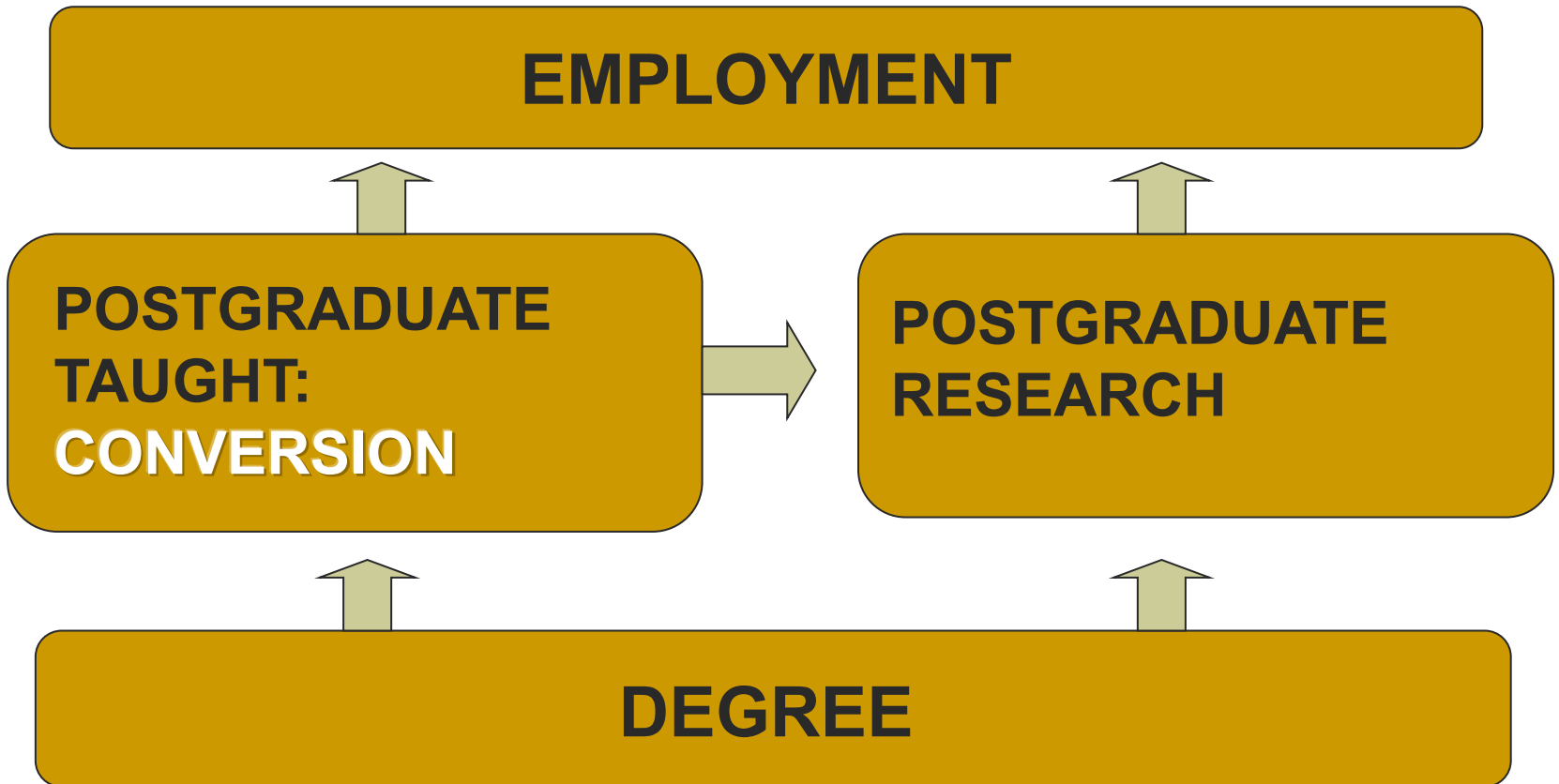
Applications

- Generally open from March/April – July **(check with course provider) (teaching is earlier)*
- Generally Hons level 8 degree (2.2/2.1/1.1)
- Application (online) form and letter of motivation outlining your reasons for wanting to apply for that particular course.

Postgraduate Pathways



Postgraduate Routes to Employment



Search for courses

Gradireland now tag conversion courses

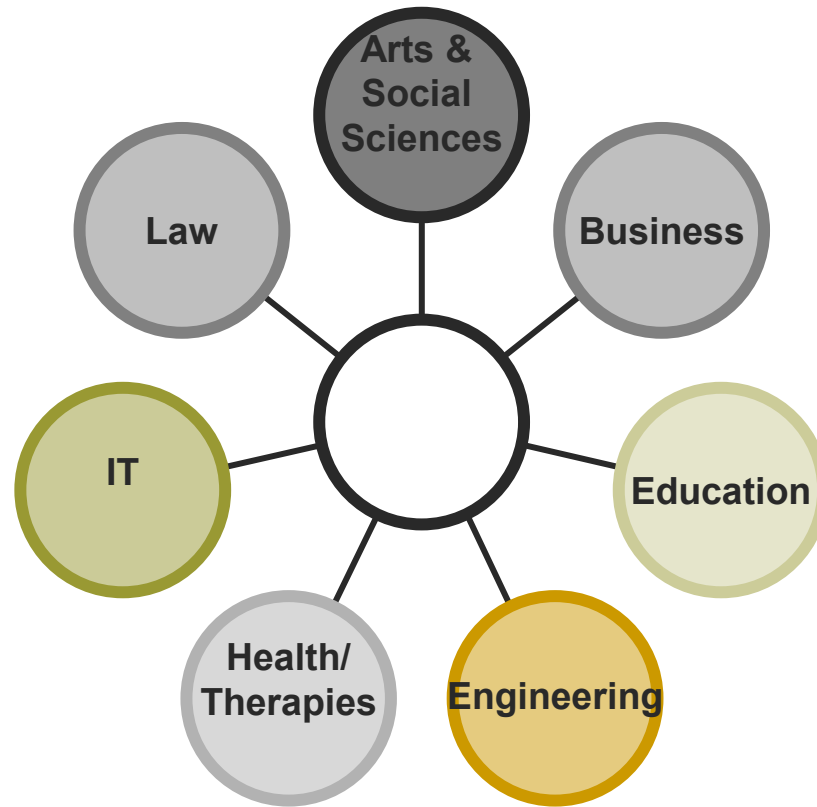
- <https://gradireland.com/postgraduate-courses>

Qualifax

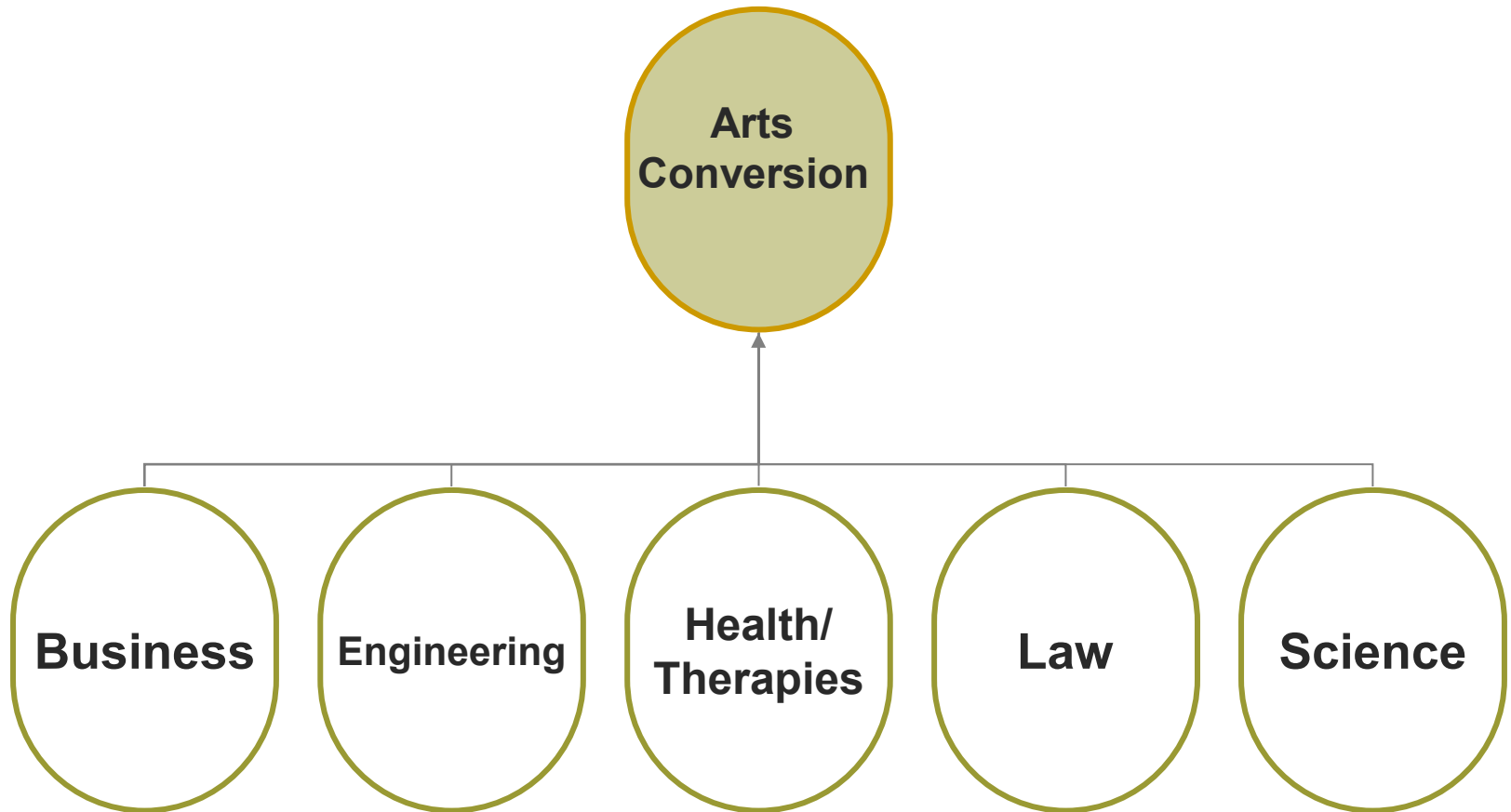
- https://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=20
- TU Dublin <https://www.tudublin.ie/study/find-a-course/search-results/?courseType=Postgraduate>
- <https://www.dit.ie/studyatdit/postgraduate/conversion/>

NOTE: LIST ABOVE ARE NOT EXHAUSTIVE – IMPORTANT TO CHECK COLLEGE WEBSITES

The Seven Categories of Conversion Programmes



Pathways to the Arts...



Arts: Options...

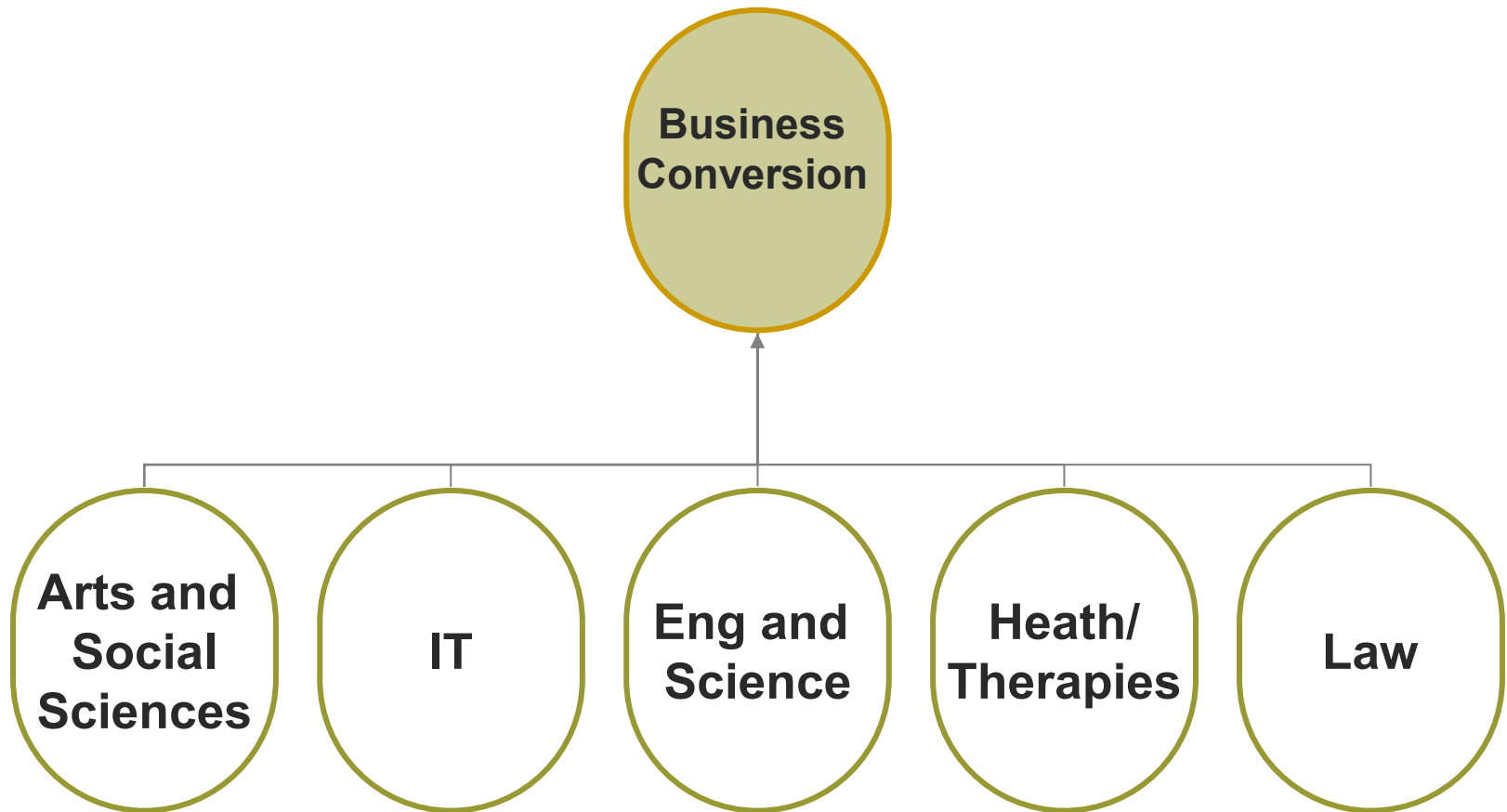
- Journalism/Media/Communications/Public Relations
- E-Learning
- Psychology*
- Social Work/Social Policy
- Librarianship
- Planning and Sustainable Development

*longer route

Arts: Examples...

- Psychology, [UCC](#), [NUIG](#), [UCD](#), [TCD](#)
- Journalism, [DCU](#), [TU Dublin](#)
- Planning and Sustainable Development, [UCC](#), [DIT](#)
- Arts Administration, [UCD](#)
- Literature and Publishing, [NUIG](#)
- Library & Information Studies, [UCD](#)
- Social Policy [UCC](#), [UCD](#)
- Public Relations, Public Affairs, [TU Dublin](#)

Pathways into Business...



Business: Options

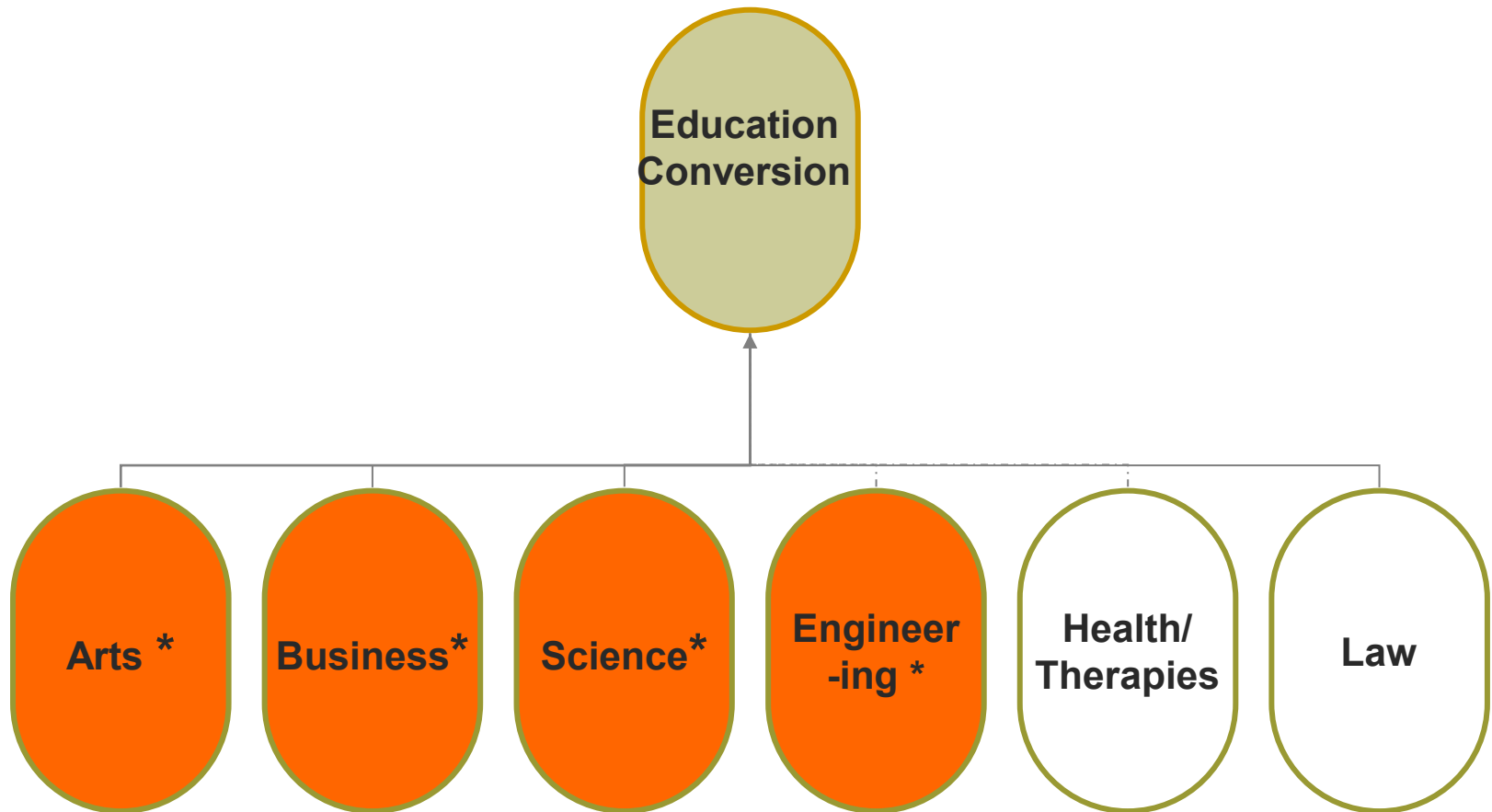


- Finance and Accountancy
- Marketing/Advertising
- Human Resource Management
- Entrepreneurial Studies
- E-Business
- Management Consultancy
- Project Management; Strategic Management
- Supply Chain Management
- Transport/Logistics

Business: Examples

- Professional Diploma in Accountancy, [DCU](#), [TU Dublin](#)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Finance, [TU Dublin](#)
- MSc Advertising TU Dublin
- MSc Marketing, [NCI](#), [TU Dublin](#)
- MSc, Business & Entrepreneurship, [TU Dublin](#)
- MA Human Resource Management, [NCI](#), [DCU](#), [Smurfit](#)
- Postgrad Diploma in Fashion and Buying, [TU Dublin](#)
- Higher Diploma in Economics, [UCD](#), [NUIG](#)
- MSc Project Management, [Smurfit](#)
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management, [TU Dublin](#)

Pathways into Education



Education: Conversion Options

- Primary Teaching
- Post-Primary Teaching
- Guidance and Counselling

Education: Examples

- Primary Education
 - ✓ St.Patrick's College, Dublin
 - ✓ Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
 - ✓ Froebel College, NUI Maynooth
 - ✓ Coláiste Mhuire , Marino
- Hibernia Online

Prof. Master of Education (PME)

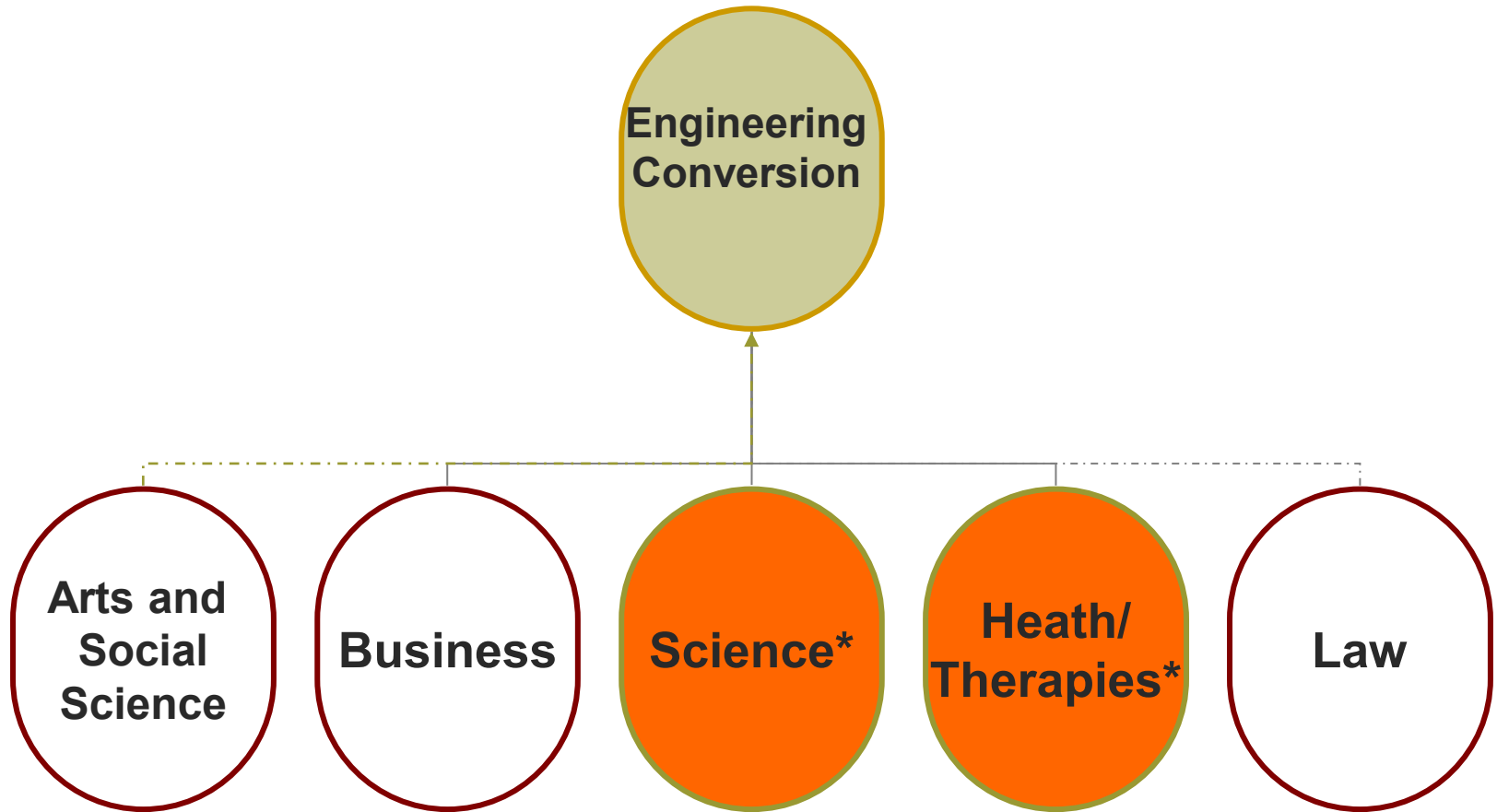
- NUIG, UCC, NUIM, UCD, DCU - apply through www.pac.ie
- [TCD](#) - apply direct
- Hibernia - online [Professional Diploma in Education – Secondary](#) — ongoing
- [UL](#): Specialist Grad Dip in Education - Maths, Engineering, Construction, Languages, Music,
- [DCU](#) Part-time Masters
- P.Grad Dip in Guidance and Counselling, [UCC](#), [TCD](#), [NUIM](#), [UL](#), [DCU](#)

Post-Primary Ed: Restrictions*



- Subject and module in your primary must be recognised by the Teaching Council for the purposes of registration as a secondary teacher.
- List of subjects and module are constantly updated.
- Full details available at:
 - <http://www.teachingcouncil.ie>

Pathways into Engineering



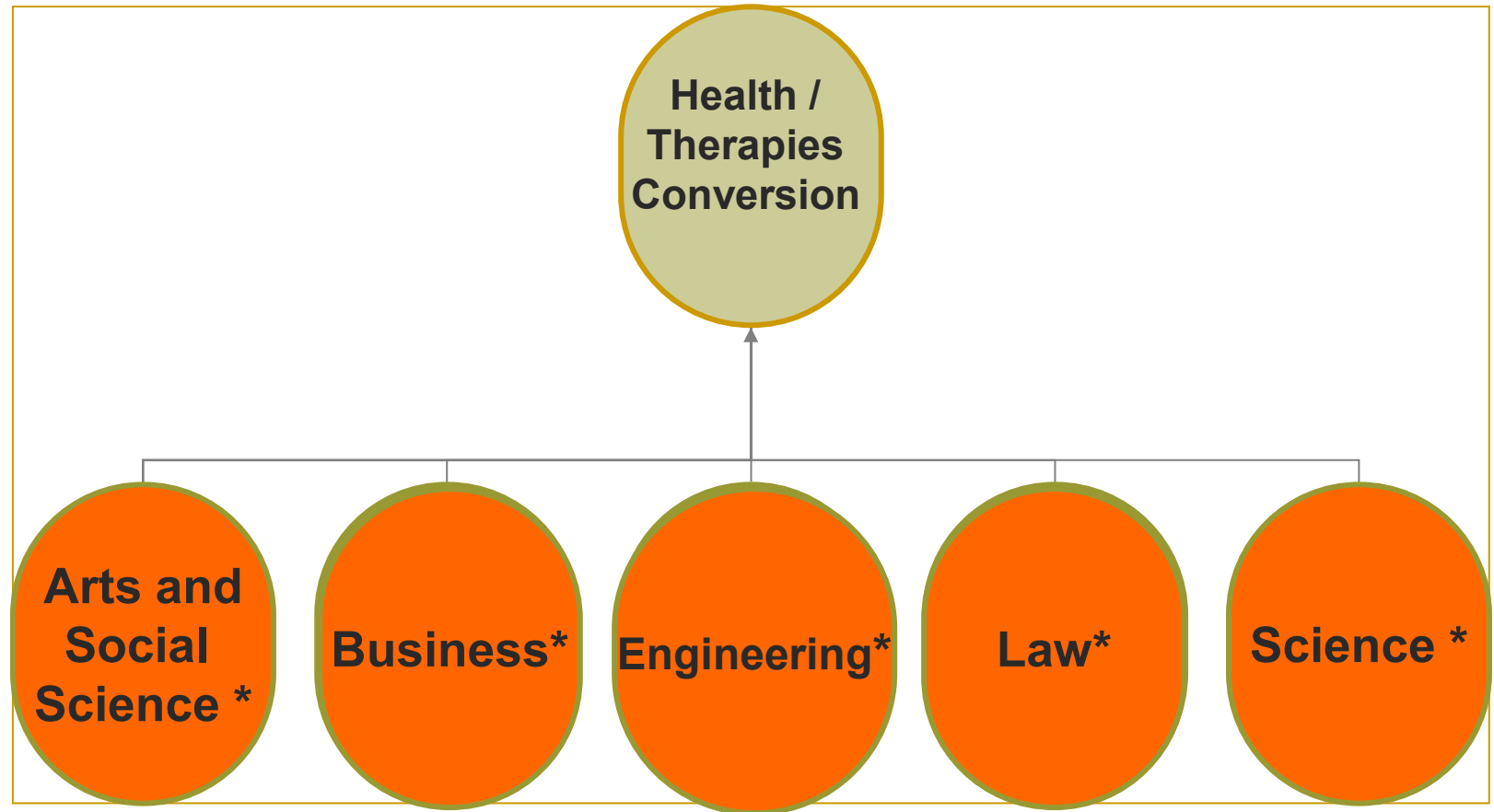
Engineering: Conversion

- Chemical Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Safety and Ergonomics
- Computer-aided Performance Modelling
- Quality Assurance

Engineering: Examples

- Chemical Engineering, UL
- Operations and Quality Mgt, NUIG
- Biomedical Engineering, UL
- Computer-Integrated Manufacturing Engineering, UL

Pathways into Health/Therapies





Health/Therapies: Conversion

- Psychotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Play, Art and Music Therapy
- Dietetics

****NOTE – Not all courses are open to all disciplines; always check with the course provider**

Health/Therapies: Examples

- Occupational Therapy, UL (HPAT)
- Speech and Language Therapy, UL (HPAT)
- Physiotherapy, UL (GAMSAT); UCC
- Music Therapy, UL
- Art Therapy, CIT
- Play Therapy, UK
- Dietetics, UK, UU; UCD

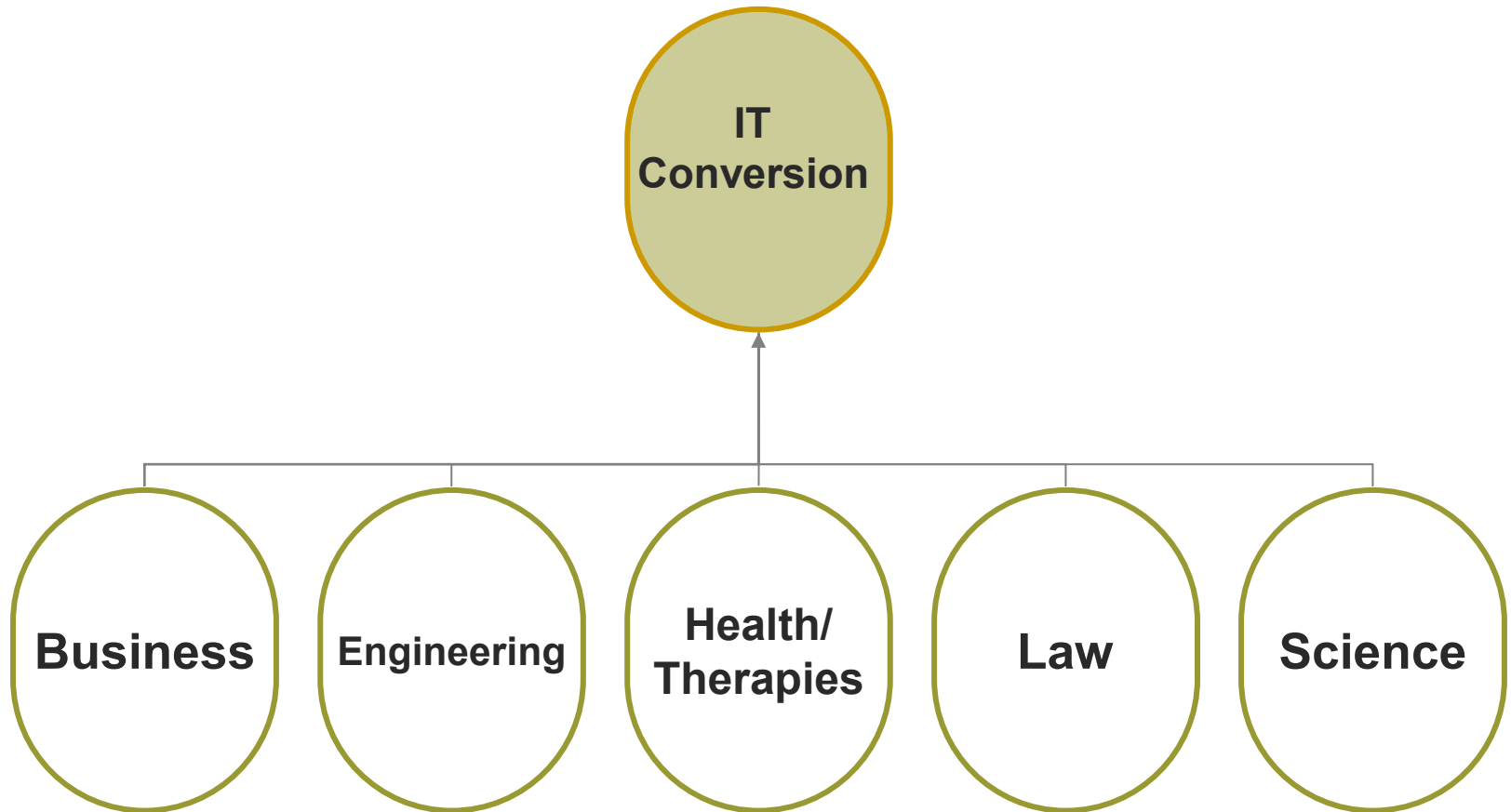
H&T: Entry Requirements *

- Occupational:
 - Degree with health, psychology, sociology, anatomy or human biology; *UL course open to all disciplines*

- Speech and Language:
 - Degree with linguistics and/or anatomy and/or physiology and/or psychology; *UL course open to all disciplines*

- Dietetics
 - Degree containing an acceptable level of human physiology and biochemistry

Pathways into IT...



IT: Conversion

- Conversion options in IT include:
 - Business Information Systems
 - Business Studies (IT)
 - Multimedia Technology
 - Electronic Commerce
 - Computational Science

**Potentially some funded opps via springboard*

IT: Examples

- NCI - Higher Diploma in Science in Web Technologies
- TU Dublin - Higher Diploma in Computing; Information and Knowledge Management
- Limerick IT - Higher Diploma in Computing in Creative Multimedia Programming
- UL - Higher Diploma in Mobile and Secure Cloud Computing
- NCI - Higher Diploma in Science in Software Development
- TU Dublin MSc in Creative Digital Media
- TU Dublin MSc in Digital Games
- TU Dublin MSc Technology and Information Management

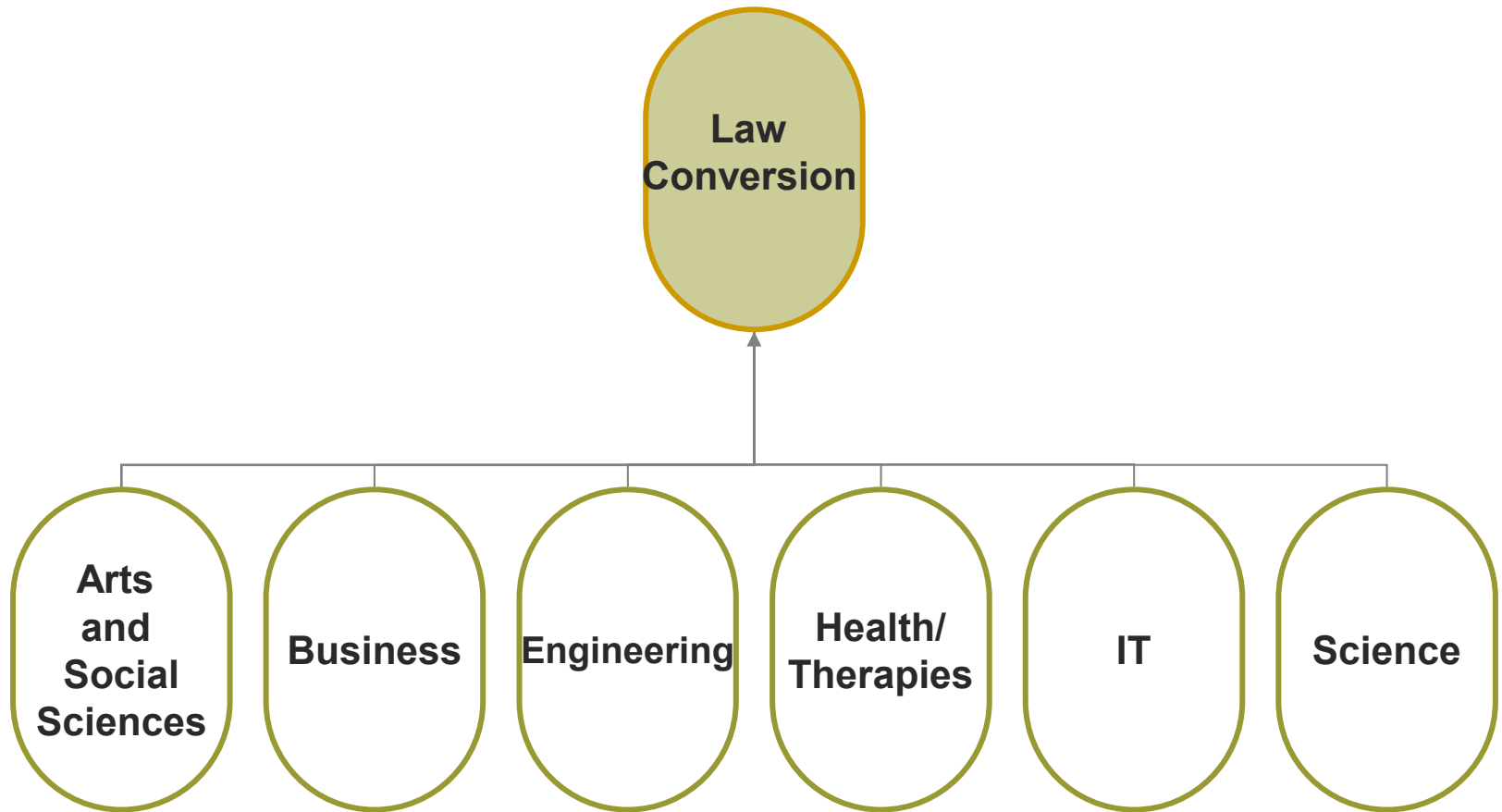
Graduate Skills Conversion Programme

- The Expert Group on Future Skills Needs
 - To provide graduates with opportunities to acquire skills in ICT for employment

Springboard:

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Pathways into Law...



Law: Conversion

- Postgraduate Diploma Legal Studies - TU Dublin
- Independent College – Dublin
- Griffith College

Professional Bodies

- Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)
www.ireland.accaglobal.com
- Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)
www.cimaglobal.com/ireland
- Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (ICAI)
www.cipd.co.uk
- The Marketing Institute
www.mii.ie
- Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development in Ireland (CIPD)
www.cipd.co.uk
- Irish Taxation Institute (ITI)
www.taxireland.ie
- Institute of Professional Auctioneers and Valuers (IAVI)
www.iavi.ie
- The Insurance Institute of Ireland
www.insurance-institute.ie



Challenges of Conversion Courses

- Intense and focused on specialisation
- Financially challenging with less part-time work opportunities
- Evening/weekend attendance in some cases
- Some are highly competitive

How Employers View Conversion Courses

- Favour broad educational background of the student
- Demonstrates student's commitment to subject area and for continued professional development
- May sponsor attendance
- Some are mandatory for professional admittance.

Issues to Consider for Students

- Freedom to think outside of constraints of points system
- Think of long term career aspirations
- Don't be deterred by labour market constraints at second level stage
- Employment record of graduates on the course?
- Importance of 'reality testing' careers
- Choosing courses that match interest and aptitudes
- Degree is the 'foundation stone' or 'first step' in a process
- Change careers up to six times in a lifetime