

WHAT IS AN ORDINARY DEGREE LEVEL 7 ?

The Ordinary Bachelor Degree is awarded after completion of a programme of three years duration in a recognised higher education institution. After this you can transfer to a level 8 programme of study.

WHAT IS AN HONOURS DEGREE LEVEL 8 ?

The Honours degree is awarded after completion of 3-4 years duration in a recognised higher education institution. After this you can transfer to level 9 or in some cases level 10 programmes of study.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS WHEN I GRADUATE?

On graduating from your studies you have many options. You can go straight into graduate employment in your field of study or go on to continue your studies further at level 9 and/or level 10.

WHAT IS A HIGHER CERTIFICATE LEVEL 6 ?

The Higher Certificate is awarded after completion of a programme of two years duration in a recognised higher education institution. After this you can transfer to a level 7 programme of study.

H.E.L.S HIGHER EDUCATION LINKS SCHEME

Progression from FETAC Level 5 Certificates and Level 6 Advanced Certificates to Higher Education Courses. For more information about the Higher Education Links scheme go to: www.fetac.ie/fetac/learners/hels/hels.htm

COLLEGE FOUNDATION COURSES

A college foundation course is another access route into Higher Education. It is a one year foundation course for school leavers, young adults and mature students that prepares participants both personally and academically to go on to study for a degree. Examples of college foundation courses are the DIT foundation course (see www.dit.ie/ace) and the Trinity Access Programme (TAP) (see www.tcd.ie/Trinity_Access)

CAO: CENTRAL APPLICATIONS OFFICE

You will apply for your first year undergraduate programme on-line through the Central Applications Office. www.cao.ie

ACCESS ROUTES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION WHAT IS AN ACCESS ROUTE?

An access entry route is an entry route into higher education for school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds and communities where there is little tradition of participation in higher education. Access entry routes offer the following benefits to eligible applicants:

- Opportunity to compete for reduced points places in college
- Places reserved on every course in participating colleges
- Academic, social, personal and group support when in college
- Financial support when in college (if available)

23 OR OVER?

Third-level colleges reserve a small number of places for mature students. If you are over 23 you can apply for one of these places.

ACCESS ROUTES FOR MATURE STUDENTS

As a mature student you can apply to college foundation courses. You can find out more about these programmes at www.dit.ie/ace and www.tcd.ie/Trinity_Access

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK EXPLAINED LEVEL 1- 10

The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) is a system of ten levels and is used to describe the Irish qualifications system from FETac Certificate Level 3 right up to Doctorate level. The levels are indicated on the back of this page. Research the levels further at: www.qqi.ie

WHICH ROUTE WILL YOU TAKE?

You have various routes that you can take to access higher education. There are 4 routes marked on the map on the other side of this page.

Which route will you take? Have a look at the routes; then research them further with the information and website links provided on this page and see which route is the best route for you.

HERE ARE TWO ACCESS ENTRY ROUTES THAT YOU CAN APPLY FOR

1. **HEAR:** A route run by 16 colleges and universities to give all leaving cert students a fair and equal opportunity to progress to third level education. You apply through the CAO. For further information check out www.accesscollege.ie/hear
2. **Access DIT:** This route is aimed at young adults/school leavers who would benefit from extra help in applying to college. It is for young adults/school leavers applying to DIT. For further information check out www.dit.ie/ace/access