

Further Education and Training (FET) Progression to Higher Education (HE)

Transitions Reform Working

Paper – June 2020

Resource C: Higher Education Links Scheme (HELS) Process across HEIs

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Relevant link: <http://www.ucd.ie/registry/admissions/FET.html>

Students with the relevant and appropriate QQI-FET Level 5/6 awards and modules, with a minimum of distinctions in five modules, may be admitted on a competitive basis to the UCD courses listed on the above webpage.

FET graduates must apply to the Central Applications Office (CAO) for entry to UCD via the QQI-FET entry pathway. Detailed information about the application process and important dates is available on the CAO website. When entering course choices in the application, it is important to list them in genuine order of preference.

Offers on the basis of QQI-FET qualifications normally issue in early August each year. Offer round dates can be viewed on the CAO website.

Applicants are offered the quota of places reserved for QQI-FET applicants. Places are limited and are allocated based on the applicant's score only. [Please click here to visit the CAO website for details of the scoring scheme.](#) The best 8 Modules in a single award will be used for the calculation of points. Where more than one student has the same score, students will be ranked by the CAO on a random basis.

For all courses (**except** Nursing and Veterinary Nursing courses), the required modules can be completed over multiple sittings leading to an appropriate award. Due to the competitive nature of the Nursing and Veterinary Nursing courses, scores are only calculated where the appropriate award is presented in a single sitting, together with all the required modules and grades.

Applicants can see the requirements for entry to UCD courses listed on the webpage. They can also search to see what the [options are from the QQI-FET course](#)

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK (UCC)

Relevant link: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/study/undergrad/fetac/>

QQI FE (FETAC) Qualifications and Links Information:

Entry to the first year of a large number of degree programmes at UCC is available on a competitive basis to students who present with one of the recognised QQI FET (FETAC) qualifications listed in the section below. However, students must meet the specific module requirements and have achieved the required distinctions (i.e. 80% or greater).

QQI FE Scoring:

UCC only counts the best eight modules from a full Level 5/6 award. The scores from these eight modules, taken at a single sitting, are added up to give a tally which is used to rank students and reserved places are then offered in order of merit. Please consult www.gqi.ie for further information on the QQI FET (FETAC) awards system and scoring scheme.

The specific requirements for each College programme are given through these links:

[College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Science](#)

[College of Business and Law](#)

[College of Science, Engineering and Food Science](#)

[College of Medicine and Health](#)

Prospective FETAC student who would like to find out more about QQI FET (FETAC) Level 5 and Level 6 links to UCC can contact the Admissions Offices at E: admissions@ucc.ie

UCC provide information on the cut-off requirements for the last number of years by following the link: [QQI Cut-Off Requirements](#)

Also [Alerts for QQI FET \(FETAC\) entry](#) can be checked for amendments, additions or deletions made during the year.

50 QQI-FETAC Level 5 and 31 Level 6 major awards that are linked to UCC courses are listed.

A booklet with information on links, number of places available for FET graduates on courses and courses that require distinctions in certain minor awards can be accessed at –

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/studyatucc/undergrads/QQIFE2020Booklet.pdf>

NUI GALWAY

Relevant link: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/accesscentre/qqifetac/> (note that it's contained within the Access category)

A number of Undergraduate programmes in NUIG are open **on a competitive basis** to students who present with a recognised QQI -FETAC or NCVA qualification. In order to be considered for a place on these programmes, students are required to have completed the requisite QQI (FETAC) **Level 5 or Level 6** course and hold a minimum of **five distinctions** in the requisite modules. **For a list** of these possible entry routes, please see the [NUI Galway QQI \(FETAC\) Progression Guide 2020](#)

Further information can be obtained from Daniel Savery, Access Programme Co-ordinator by emailing Daniel.Savery@nuigalway.ie

NUI MAYNOOTH

Relevant link: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/undergraduate-studies/how-apply/qqi-fetac-hetac>

Any QQI award (at level 5 or 6), with a minimum of five distinctions, fulfills the **minimum entry requirements** for admission to Maynooth University - this means the applicant is eligible for consideration for a place at the University. However, due to the high demand for courses, a higher number of distinctions are required for entry in many instances (typically at least 8 distinctions). Similar to the Leaving Certificate applicants, QQI applicants are ranked on the basis of the points they have achieved in their QQI award.

The following rules apply:

- A major award must be achieved. Component certificates do not suffice.
- In some instances the University requires achievement of specific grades, and/or specified components e.g. five distinctions, including a distinction in mathematics or statistics.
- While the major award may be achieved over a number of sittings, for scoring purposes, results achieved in a SINGLE SITTING are counted, i.e. between 1st August – 31st July. Where this occurs, but the QQI centre offers the program over more than one year, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their QQI centre applies to QQI for a major award where courses are taken over more than one year.

- The total maximum score that can be achieved is 400 points. The score is based on achievement of the major award, i.e. a total of 120 credits, multiplied by the grade score of individual components.

Grade scores for component awards are as follows:

DISTINCTION GRADE SCORE = 3.333

MERIT GRADE SCORE = 2.222

PASS GRADE SCORE = 1.111

Credit is accumulated across component awards. Some component awards have a credit value of less than 5 credits, in which case that value is multiplied by 15. The scoring is applied by the CAO. For the most current list of linked awards and specialised components visit our website. You will also find other information in relation to QQI entry pathways. Changes made to those listed below will be implemented in the next admissions cycle, through the CAO, where possible.

Students with appropriate QQI qualifications and modules, with distinctions in at least five modules, will be considered for admission on a competitive basis to the first year of the following honours degree programmes at Maynooth University.

QQI linked degrees – 2019 points and places 2020

CAO Code	Degree	2020 Places	2019 QQI Points
MH101	Arts	175	325
MH106	Psychology	3	New link
MH107	Social Science	20	358
MH109	Media Studies	12	341
MH116	Community and Youth Work (full-time)	5	Test /interview
MH201	Science	10	341
MH202	Biotechnology	2	374
MH203	Biological and Geographical Sciences	3	New link
MH208	Biological and Biomedical Sciences	7	374
MH209	BSc Psychology (through Science)	2	New link
MH210	Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Chemistry	2	374
MH305	Product Design	3	—
MH306	Robotics and Intelligent Devices	3	390

MH401 FIN/IFE	Finance/International Finance and Economics	3	314
MH403	Accounting and Finance	7	341
MH404	Business - all streams BMA/INB/MKT	20	341
MH405	Equine Business	3	—
MH407	Business and Accounting	3	374
MH411	Entrepreneurship	5	374
MH501	Law (LLB)	3	390*
MH502	BLC - all degree streams LWA/LWB/LWC/LWD	4	390*
MH601	Computer Science/Multimedia through Arts	5	374
MH602	Computer Science/Multimedia through Science	5	341
MH801	Early Childhood - Teaching and Learning (part-time)	10	341
MH802	Community and Youth Work (part-time, in-service)	3	Test/interview

* Random Selection: not everyone on these points was admitted

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Relevant link: <https://www.tcd.ie/study/apply/admission-requirements/undergraduate/index.php>

Admission Requirements

Entry to programmes at Trinity is competitive and based on academic merit.

To qualify for admission to a degree course at the University, learners must meet the requirements outlined in further detail in the QQI tab at the bottom of the page.

Entry routes to the first year of a Degree Programme in Trinity College Dublin from appropriate Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) (NCVA) Level 5 Qualifications

2019 minimum points

Students with appropriate QQI (Level 5) qualifications and modules, with a minimum of distinctions in five modules, can be admitted on a competitive basis to the following Degree programmes at Trinity College Dublin:

Law

TR004 - Law

TR060 - Biological & Biomedical Sciences

TR061 - Chemical Sciences

TR062 - Geography & Geoscience TR063 - Physical Sciences

Business

TR080 - Global Business

TR081 - Business, Economic and Social Studies (BESS)

Science

TR060 - Biological & Biomedical Sciences

TR061 - Chemical Sciences

TR062 - Geography & Geoscience TR063 - Physical Sciences

Nursing

TR091 & TR093 - General Nursing

TR095 - Mental Health Nursing

TR097 - Intellectual Nursing Midwifery

TR913 - Midwifery

Application: Application is made in the normal way via the Central Applications Office www.cao.ie

QQI Places

Course	Places
TR004 Law	5
TR060 Biological and Biomedical Sciences	12
TR061 Chemical Sciences	5
TR062 Geography and Geoscience	5
TR063 Physical Sciences	5
TR080 Global Business	1
TR081 Business, Economic and Social Studies (BESS)	12
TR091 and TR093 - General Nursing	4
TR095 Mental Health Nursing	4
TR097 Intellectual Disability Nursing	4
TR913 Midwifery	3

For all of the above courses, specific QQI-FETAC major awards, along with distinctions (80% or better) in a minimum number of identified modules in the award, are required. In addition, a pass in 5N0690 Communications is required for all of them.

QQI Scoring Scheme

Modules that have a credit value of 1 receive the following points:

- Distinction 3 points
- Merit 2 points
- Pass 1 point

The scores for each of the best 8 modules taken at a single sitting are added up to give a total best 8 grade points tally. Only the best 8 modules will be counted. Places reserved for QQI applicants are then offered in order of merit based on ranking. Due to the competitive nature of the Nursing Programmes, scores will only be calculated when the appropriate award is presented in a single sitting, together with all the required modules and grades. Full details of the scoring scheme is available on the CAO website www.cao.ie

Alternative Paths to Trinity - TAP foundation course for young adults

This one-year course aims to equip students with the skills they will need to benefit from and participate in a third-level education course. It is open to Leaving Certificate pupils from schools in the Greater Dublin area which are affiliated to third level access programmes. Applicants should have taken the Leaving Certificate in the year of application or not more than two years prior to that. Minimum entry requirements are grade O6 or above in five subjects and grade H5 or above in one subject. QQI-FETAC and Leaving Certificate Applied qualifications are also considered.

Applicants for the Foundation Course for Young Adults may apply online from mid-November. This application form can also be used for The University Access Course which Trinity College runs in partnership with Liberties College. The closing date for receipt of applications is February 7th 2020.

Students are not required to apply to the Central Applications Office. They can apply online, find out more, or download application guidelines at www.tcd.ie/Trinity_Access/prospective/access/young.php

DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY

Relevant link: <https://www.dcu.ie/registry/undergrad.shtml>

Undergraduate admissions – general admission includes QQI/FE link

Extract from general information leaflet about revised scoring for QQI-FET awards:

From 2017 the points awarded for QQI-FET (formerly FETAC) awards will also be revised. This is required to maintain the existing equivalence with the current points scale, and reflects the overall marginal reductions in student points scores under the new points scale. Currently the maximum possible total score of 360 (120 credits x 3 for a distinction) is multiplied by 10 and divided by 9 to give a maximum overall points score of 400. From 2017, this maximum possible total score of 360 will be multiplied by 13 and divided by 12, to give a revised maximum overall points score of 390 for applicants from further education and training.

QQI/FE Applicants

- Applications should be made through the Central Applications Office (CAO) by the 1st February. To apply through the CAO click [here](#). Many DCU programmes have an entry route for QQI/FE Level 5 applicants. For programmes with a QQI entry route, approximately 10% of places are retained for QQI applicants. Applicants presenting a minimum of five distinctions in a specified QQI Level 5

award, with specified modules if required, may be eligible to compete for a place. Applicants are ranked based on their performance as outlined here. To review the QQI requirements for DCU programmes, please click [here](#).

- To review 2019 - 2020 QQI (FETAC) statistics, please click [here](#).
- There have been changes to the codes used for QQI Awards. The DCU prospectus may not have the most current information. Please refer to the CAO website for the most current list of acceptable QQI Awards and modules to compete for a place on a DCU programme.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

Relevant link: <https://ulsites.ul.ie/admissions/node/108201>

Students presenting QQI FET Level 5 Award (NFQ Level 5 Major Award)

The University of Limerick has entry routes to first year undergraduate degree programmes for students who have achieved the relevant QQI FET Level 5 Award (NFQ Level 5 Major Award). Candidates are ranked on the basis of their performance in that award.

The Undergraduate Programmes available are listed in the QQI FET Level 5 Entry 2020 Brochure

Please click here for [QQI FET Level 5 Entry 2020 Brochure](#). (Minimum entry requirements and scoring process are on page 1 of this brochure.)

Application Process

All applications for admission under the QQI entry pathway must be made through the CAO.

Places Available

The following undergraduate programmes have entry pathways for students presenting [QQI FET Level 5 Award \(NFQ Level 5 Major Award\)](#). For each programme, the number of places available under this pathway are indicated. These figures are indicative and subject to change

CAO Code	Description	QQI FET Level 5 Award (NFQ Level 5 Major Award)
LM002	Bachelor of Arts	20
LM026	Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts	3
LM038	Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology	1
LM039	Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and New Media	2
LM040	Bachelor of Arts in European Studies	1
LM044	Bachelor of Arts in Applied Languages	3

CAO Code	Description	QQI FET Level 5 Award (NFQ Level 5 Major Award)
LM050	Bachelor of Business Studies	20
LM102	Bachelor of Science in Psychology	2
LM150	Bachelor of Science Nursing (General)	2
LM152	Bachelor of Science Nursing (Mental Health)	1
LM154	Bachelor of Science Nursing (Intellectual Disability)	1
LM156	Bachelor of Science in Midwifery	1

QQI Cut-Offs 2019 Entry

CAO CODE	Description	Cut-off
LM002	Bachelor of Arts	325
LM026	Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts	No Candidates
LM038	Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology	390
LM039	Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and New Media	374
LM040	Bachelor of Arts in European Studies	No Candidates
LM044	Bachelor of Arts in Applied Languages	390
LM050	Bachelor of Business Studies	341
LM102	Bachelor of Science in Psychology	390*
LM150	Bachelor of Science Nursing (General)	390*
LM152	Bachelor of Science Nursing (Mental Health)	390*
LM154	Bachelor of Science Nursing (Intellectual Disability)	390*
LM156	Bachelor of Science in Midwifery	390*

* It was not possible to offer all applicants with 390 points and random selection was applied.

ATHLONE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Relevant link:

<https://www.ait.ie/life-at-ait/registry/admissions>.

QQI-FET Applicants

Applicants must apply through the CAO system and must have obtained a full award. A component Certificate is not sufficient.

The best 8 modules are used for scoring purposes. A major 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 major award where courses are taken over more than one year. Due to the competitive nature of entry in respect high-demand programmes such as General/Psychiatric Nursing, Health Science, Sports Science, and Veterinary Nursing, scores will only be calculated when the appropriate award is presented in a single sitting, together with all the required modules and grades.

Applicants presenting full QQI-FET/FETAC Level 5 and/or Level 6 awards will not be required to meet minimum entry requirements based on Leaving Certificate results. The QQI-FET/FETAC award is accepted in its own right.

For full information please click here: https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=fetac_search

For information on the evaluation of QQI-FET/FETAC qualifications, click here http://www2.cao.ie/fetac/FETAC_scoring.pdf

All QQI-FET/FETAC level 5 and level 6 awards will be scored to deliver a maximum of 390 FET points.

AIT programmes with reserved places:

Many courses reserve a number of places for QQI FET/FETAC applicants who have attained specific components and or distinctions. The requirements are outlined in individual course details. Due to high demand for courses at AIT, there is a limit to the number of reserved places. Random selection may apply in certain circumstances. For programmes having a specific QQI-FETA/FETAC quota, results are considered in Round 0 (early August). QQI/FET/FETAC scores will not normally be considered after Round 0 where a quota applies.

For programmes where no specific quota applies, QQI-FET/FETAC scores are included in the order of merit list of all applicants presenting school leaving examinations, and initial offers issue in Round 1. QQI-FET/FETAC results will not be added to Leaving Certificate results. If applicants have taken both exams, the exam in which they have achieved the highest points will be used for non-quota places.

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY CARLOW (ITC)

Relevant link:

<https://www.itcarlow.ie/study/admissionssupport/cao-gqi-fet-applicants.htm>

Applicants can access a brochure for requirements for entry September 2019. This contains a list of 2020-2021 courses at CIT and details on whether or not a specific major award and/or a number of distinctions in component awards are required for each course. In some cases certain components are required. For example CW548 Mechanical Engineering requires three distinctions and a pass in one of the following: C20174, C20175, C20139, 5N1833 or 5N0556. Four courses - Physiology and

Health Science, Sport Science, Strength and Conditioning and Sport Rehabilitation and Athletic Therapy – have reserved places.

Further Education Progression Pathways

ITC also provides a lot of information about further education progression pathways.

<https://www.itcarlow.ie/study/admissionssupport/further-education-progression-pathways.htm>

IT Carlow's Further Education Progression Pathways ensure greater access to Higher Education for students who successfully complete a FETAC/QQI course in a partner College of Further Education and who satisfy the certain entry criteria.

Further Education providers who wish to discuss a Progression Agreement with IT Carlow are invited to contact Ciara Byrne, FET Liaison Officer on t: 059 9175080 or email fet@itcarlow.ie

Benefits of Further Education Progression Pathways

- Offers are made in advance of CAO Round 1, normally early August in the year of entry
- An additional route to Higher Education
- IT Carlow Progression Workshop offers students a valuable insight into higher education

Further education colleges in Wicklow, Carlow, Laois, Offaly, Dublin, Waterford, Wexford and Kildare, with agreed progression pathways to CIT, are listed. Information is provided on the application steps for entry to Year 1 and Year 2, progression workshop 2019 dates, student testimonials and other support services such as campus tours, institute visits and open days.

CORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (CIT)

Relevant link:

http://www.cit.ie/prospectivestudents/undergraduate/fetacawards_admissiontocit

Scoring of QQI –FETAC awards in the CAO

QQI/FETAC operates within the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), and its awards have been placed at Level 5 or Level 6 of the framework as appropriate. Holders of QQI/FET awards at Level 5 of the NFQ should apply through the CAO system. Points will be allocated and will be used to place applicants in order, in the same rounds of CAO offers as Leaving Certificate applicants. Applicants must present a full award totalling 120 credits. This full award may be accumulated over more than one academic year.

A new scoring system has been agreed for all level 5 and 6 QQI/FET awards, providing access through CAO to the first year of programmes leading to awards at levels 6, 7 and 8. The new scoring system has been applied since 2013.

The new scoring system applies where all the requirements for the major award are met, i.e. when the specified component awards have been achieved, totalling 120 credits. To calculate your score you must know the credit value of your component awards.

- 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, multiply the credit value of the component by the weighting for the grade achieved.
- Add all of the component scores up to a cumulative credit value of 120. When adding up these scores begin with distinctions, then merits, then passes.
- Finally, multiply the total by 13 and divide by 12 to give the overall score (maximum 390).

Examples of the scoring scheme are provided.

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) forwards all relevant FETAC results to CAO for each applicant, and calculates the best score obtained for each candidate.

If a QQI applicant also presents a Leaving Certificate, the CAO will use whichever is the better of the Leaving Certificate points or the QQI points.

Minimum Entry Requirements for QQI/FETAC Award Holders:

The following is a general guide. The requirements for particular courses may be varied for holders of FETAC awards. Further information is available on the **QQI/FETAC Information** section of www.cao.ie

For most Bachelor Degrees on the CAO Level 7 list:

The minimum entry requirement is Leaving Certificate O6/H7 Level in five subjects including Mathematics and either English or Irish.

- The corresponding minimum entry requirement for holders of FETAC awards is a full FETAC Level 5 award totalling 120 credits.
- The requirement for English or Irish may be met by either O6/H7 in the Leaving Certificate or a pass on a QQI/FETAC Communications component (Level 5 or higher).
- The requirement for Mathematics may be met by O6/H7 in the Leaving Certificate or a pass on a QQI/FETAC Mathematics component (Level 5 or higher).
- Applicants should refer to http://www2.cao.ie/fetac/fetac_search.php for specific course requirements.

NB: *Certain courses may have specific minimum standards specified that are different to the above. Please click [here](#) for information.*

For most Honours Bachelor Degrees on the CAO Level 8 list:

The minimum entry requirement is Leaving Certificate with two H5 grades and four O6/H7 grades, including Mathematics and either English or Irish.

- The corresponding minimum entry requirement for holders of QQI/FETAC awards is a full QQI/FETAC Level 5 award in a cognate area totalling 120 credits, including a distinction in 3 components.
- The O6/H7 grade Leaving Certificate requirement for English or Irish may be met by a pass on a FETAC Communications component (Level 5 or higher).
- The O6/H7 Leaving Certificate requirement for Mathematics may be met by a pass on a FETAC Mathematics component (Level 5 or higher).
- Applicants should refer to http://www2.cao.ie/fetac/fetac_search.php for specific course requirements.

NB: Certain courses have specific minimum standards specified that are different to the above. In particular, Level 8 Honours Degrees which have a Mathematics requirement higher than O6/H7 grade will still require the specified Leaving Certificate Mathematics achievement or an acceptable equivalent. Please click [here](#) for information.

Further information is provided for applicants about a Mathematics programme for further education students. It also provides information on the Cork Further Education Colleges Scheme. Under this scheme a number of courses in CIT are linked to certain courses in the FE colleges. CIT reserves a number of places on its linked courses for applicants achieving specified levels and other requirements in their awards.

DUNDALK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (DKIT)

Relevant link:

<https://www.dkit.ie/admissions-and-fees/entry-requirement-information.html>

QQI-FET level 5 and 6 awards are now made by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). Applicants must have obtained a full QQI-FET Level 5/6 major award with a minimum credit value of 120. A Component Award will not suffice.

- A full QQI-FET major award normally contains 8 components.
- A full award may be accumulated over a number of years. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the applicant to apply to QQI-FET for a major award prior to release of QQI-FET results.

The minimum entry requirement for graduates of QQI-FET (Level 5 and 6) awards to:

- **Higher Certificate** (NQAI Level 6) programmes is a full QQI-FET (Level 5 or 6) award;
- **Ab-initio Ordinary Degree** (NQAI Level 7) programmes (with the exception of Veterinary Nursing) is a full QQI-FET (Level 5 or 6) award, plus one Distinction or two Merits;
- **Ab-initio Honours Degree** (NQAI Level 8) programmes (with the exception of nursing and midwifery programmes) is a full QQI-FET (Level 5 or 6) award including a Distinction grade in at least three modules.

2019-20 QQI/FE Places

A document containing a detailed breakdown of DkIT QQI quotas, offers and cut-off points for this year can be downloaded.

In these three cases, a general specific requirement for Mathematics or a language will not apply. Notwithstanding the minimum entry requirements listed above, relevant cognate courses and / or specific pre-requisite QQI-FET modules may be required for some programmes. Further details can be acquired by contacting the Admissions Office or the 'QQI- FET Information' section of the CAO website.

In some programmes, a specific module such as Mathematics or language module is a mandatory component of the QQI-FET 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

Office. QQI-FET has introduced a new awards system known as the Common Awards System, or CAS. All QQI-FET awards are part of CAS since 2014.

Common Awards System (CAS) Scoring

This scoring scheme only applies where all the requirements for the major award are met, i.e. when the named component awards specified have been achieved to a minimum of 120 credits.

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, multiply the credit value of the component by the weighting for the grade achieved. Add all of the component scores up to a cumulative credit value of 120. When adding up these scores begin with distinctions, then merits, then passes.

Finally, multiply the total by 13 and divide by 12 to give the overall score (maximum 390).

Further information and examples of the scoring scheme are available on the '[QQI-FET Information](#)' section of the CAO website.

Examples of scoring are provided: 8* Merits with a Credit Value of 15 (Merit Weighting = 2)

Credit Value	Weighting	Component Score	No. of Modules	Score	Adjusted Score
15	x2	= 30	x 8	= 240 x 13 over 12	260

QQI-FET Links to Nursing Honours Degree Programmes and Veterinary Nursing are included.

GALWAY MAYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (GMIT)

Relevant link:

<https://www.gmit.ie/apply/further-education-students>

A qualification from a Further Education and Training (FET) or Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) course can be used to apply for entry to a course in GMIT.

Qualifications received from FET/PLC courses depends on the type of course. Many of the one-year courses offer Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) accreditation at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, while other more advanced courses may offer a QQI Level 6 qualification.

These qualifications can be used to apply for entry to Year One or Year Two of GMIT courses as follows:

Admission to Year 1

Year 1 applications can be made, for holders a QQI Level 5 qualification, or a QQI Level 6 qualification that does not map to the desired course in GMIT. Application are made through the CAO and must meet the Minimum Entry Requirements listed below.

Points are then assigned. Details of the points allocated in the selection process are outlined [HERE](#) (Word, 19KB).

QQI FET award holders are ranked for admissions with other applicants, and places are allocated based on points achieved.

There is no limit on the number of FET holders who may gain admission to GMIT programmes, with the exception of Nursing and Medical Science programmes which have a limit on places for FET applicants. Please also note that a FET qualification is not accepted for entry onto the BSc (Hons) in Education (Design, Graphics & Construction).

Minimum Entry Requirements

A pass in any QQI FET Major award at Level 5 or 6 meets the minimum entry requirements for Higher Certificate or Bachelor Degree (Level 6 or Level 7) programmes.

A pass with distinction grade in at least three components in any QQI FET Major Award at Level 5 or 6 meets the entry requirements for honours bachelor degrees (Level 8) with the exception of nursing degree programmes.

From 2020-21, QQI FET applicants for engineering programmes in GMIT must have completed awards including a Mathematics module (5N1833, 6N3395, 5N18396, 5N0556 or 5S2246).

For consideration for progression to Nursing degree programmes, applicants must meet the following specific requirements:

A pass with FIVE distinctions in one of the following Linked QQI FET Level 5/6 awards:

- CCHSN/5M4349 (Nursing Studies)
- DCHSX/5M4468 (Community and Health Services)
- DHSXX/5M4339 5M4339 (Healthcare Support)
- 5M3782 (Health Service Skills)

PLUS a pass with distinction in each of the following modules:

- D20001/5N0749 (Anatomy and Physiology),
- D20012/5N4325 (Introduction to Nursing Theory and Practice), and
- D20032/5N1279 (Human Growth and Development) or
- C20006/5N2746 (Biology).

How to Apply - Year One Entry

Applications for Year 1 are made through the CAO. See www.cao.ie

Admission to Year Two (Advanced Entry)

Eligible Courses for Advanced Entry –

GMIT have mapped many QQI FET Level 6 courses in the region to allow advanced entry to certain GMIT courses. Check the full list [HERE](#) (PDF, 172KB).

If the desired course is not included on the mapping, prospective students may still apply directly to GMIT to see if they are eligible for advanced entry.

How to Apply - Year Two Advanced Entry

Apply for advanced entry at <http://www.gmit.ie/transfer-add>

IMPORTANT - TIMING OF OFFERS

Offers for the following restricted courses will be made to FE applicants in Round Zero (early August):

- General and Psychiatric Nursing
- Medical Science

All other offers to FE applicants will be issued in Round One (after Leaving Certificate results become available), so that the number of places available to FE applicants is not restricted.

INSTITUTE OF ART DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY DUN LAOIGHAIRE (IADT)

Relevant link: (note - information route is through Services> Student Services rather than Study>How to Apply)

<http://www.iadt.ie/services/institute-student-services/access-social-inclusion/fetac-entrants>

10% of places at IADT are reserved every single year for students transitioning from FET courses. For details of QQI / FETAC courses please refer to FETAC / QQI on 01 9058100 or www.qqi.ie. Applications from QQI / FETAC award holders are made through the CAO and all relevant closing dates and conditions apply. Holders of a full QQI /FETAC level 5 or level 6 award are eligible to apply for a place on any of the Ordinary Degree (level 7 award) courses or on any of the Honours Degree (level 8 award) courses. Applicants for level 8 awards must have a minimum of three distinctions to be eligible. For full details, see [here](#).

Admissions details are available [here](#).

Please note that some courses (Applied Psychology, Creative Computing, Creative Media Technologies and Creative Music Production) require at least a pass (O6/H7) in Mathematics in the Leaving Certificate or a pass in a Mathematical Methods module as part of your QQI FET/FETAC award.

Points are awarded on the basis of QQI FET/FETAC results. See [qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie) or [cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) for details on the scoring system used.

LETTERKENNY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (LYIT)

Relevant link:

<https://www.lyit.ie/Study-at-LYIT/How-to-Apply-for-Full-time-Undergraduate-Courses/CAO-Further-Education>

Application Process

In some cases any QQI Level 5 award is acceptable for entry to Higher Ed. However, in many cases, and especially the high-demand courses, such as nursing, veterinary nursing etc., only a limited

number of PLC/FET awards are recognised for college entry. It is very important to check college requirements before choosing any PLC/FET course, as there may be a requirement for specific modules within the PLC/FET award. For each Higher Ed course of interest, there is a need to know the name and code of any acceptable PLC/FET awards. This can be checked via the CAO website [here](#). Once applicants have established which PLC/FET course is needed, they can then find out where that course is available.

To check requirement for QQI/FET/FETAC entrants, consult the CAO website [here](#), to find entry requirements, information on the scoring scheme and a video guide.

Note that a full QQI/FET at level 5 normally consists of 120 credits. Component Certificates do not meet the entry requirements. Applicants must have the full level 5 award/120 credits to be eligible for consideration.

In some instances QQI/FET level 5 modules are 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.

12 LyIT programmes (listed on a table), in the School of Science, have a very limited number of places available for QQI FET level 5 applicants.

QQI FET level 5 scores for quota programmes will be based on exams taken at a single sitting and will be considered on round zero only.

QQI FET level 5 applicants, who do not achieve quota places on round zero can, if they also have Leaving Cert/GCSE results, compete on round 1 for non-quota places. However please note that points based on QQI FET level 5 will not be considered on round 1 for any course where a quota is listed above - only Leaving Cert. results will be considered at round 1.

For all other programmes, where no specific quota of places has been listed, points based on QQI FET level 5 results may be accumulated over more than one sitting. For non-quota courses, QQI FET level 5 Scores are included in the round 1 order of merit list. If a student has also taken a school leaving exam such as Leaving Certificate/GCSEs, etc., then the exam yielding the highest score will be used for ranking. Offers for courses that do not have a specific QQI FET level 5 quota will be made in round 1 and subsequent rounds.

QQI Level 6

Applicants presenting QQI FET Level 6 awards may be eligible for some exemptions or perhaps even for advanced entry into year 2 of a cognate area, provided there is sufficient overlap in the learning outcomes that they achieved via the QQI FET Level 6 and those achieved by LyIT first years. This is a judgement call for the relevant Head of Department and/or RPL officer at LYIT. Each such application has to be considered separately and on its merits.

In order to establish what, if any, exemptions may be available, an applicant intending to present a QQI FET level 6 should apply directly to LYIT. The application would be forwarded to the Head of Dept. for decision. Just in case they aren't deemed eligible for any exemptions or advanced entry, applicants with QQI FET at level 6 may also want to apply, via CAO, for first year - as a fall-back or failsafe position.

LIMERICK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (LIT)

Relevant link:

<https://lit.ie/admissions/qqi-feta-applicants>

QQI FETA

The following entry arrangements will apply to graduates of QQI FETA (Formerly FETAC) programmes seeking admission to programmes at Limerick Institute of Technology. The minimum entry requirement for graduates of FETAC (NCVA level 5 or 6) awards to:

- Higher Certificate (QQI level 6) programmes is a full QQI FETA (level 5 or 6) award
- Ab-initio Ordinary Degree (QQI level 7) programmes is a full QQI FETA (level 5 or 6) award
- Ab-initio Honours Degree (QQI level 8) programmes (is a full QQI FETA (level 5 or 6) award including a Distinction grade in at least three modules

In these three cases, a general specific requirement for mathematics or a language will not apply. Notwithstanding the minimum entry requirements listed above, entry to year 2 and subsequent years may have specific pre-requisite QQI FETA modules or QQI FETA programme requirements. Note that a full QQI FETA award normally contains 8 modules. 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 FETA for a full award where programmes are taken over more than one year. A record of achievement does not meet these minimum entry standards.

To calculate points score, please click the following link:

https://careersportal.ie/courses/cao_fetac_links.php

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence directly to the admissions officer of this Institute. For a detailed explanation of the scoring system please click the following link

http://www2.cao.ie/fetac/FETAC_scoring.pdf

IT Sligo

Relevant link:

<https://www.itsligo.ie/study-at-it-sligo/applying/entry-requirements/>

There are a number of different ways to satisfy the entry requirements for IT Sligo. The most common method is through the Irish Leaving Certificate examination. However, a candidate can also satisfy the entry requirements by having other school leaving qualifications, such as GCE A-Levels, BTEC, QQI FE qualifications, or, on the grounds of being a mature student.

QQI FE Qualifications

Apply to the Central Applications Office before 1st May at <http://www.cao.ie/> or at Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway.

The minimum entry requirements for graduates of FETAC (Level 5 or 6) awards to:

- Higher Certificate Course (NFQ level 6) is a full FETAC (Level 5 or 6) award
- Ordinary Degree Course (NFQ level 7) is a full FETAC (Level 5 or 6) award
- Honours Degree Course (NFQ level 8) is a full FETAC (Level 5 or 6) award , 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 FETAC for a full award. However, for entry to certain courses an award achieved in a single sitting may be required.

Also, for some courses, specific component awards in mathematics must be included in the FETAC award presented for entry.

http://www2.cao.ie/fetac/FETAC_scoring.pdf

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY TRALEE

Relevant link:

<https://www.ittralee.ie/en/InformationFor/FutureStudents/FETQQISOLASAndOtherStudents/>

FET QQI, SOLAS and other Students

QQI Qualifications

The following entry arrangements will apply to graduates of QQI courses seeking admission to courses at the Institute. The minimum entry requirement for graduates of QQI awards to:

- Higher Certificate courses is a full QQI award;
- Ab-initio Ordinary Degree courses is a full QQI award;
- Ab-initio Honours Degree courses is a full QQI award in a course in a cognate area and including a distinction grade in at least three modules.

Notwithstanding the minimum entry requirements listed above, specific higher certificate and ab-initio ordinary degree courses may have specific prerequisite QQI module or QQI course requirements. Such prerequisite requirements are specified (see Specific Course Requirements). In the case of entry to Honours degree courses, relevant cognate courses and specific prerequisite module requirements, where relevant, are specified (see Specific Course Requirements).

For all courses, except for nursing, an overall point score is calculated based on the best 8 modules presented. For modules with a credit value of 1, scores are awarded as follows:

Pass: 1 Merit: 2 Distinction: 3

Nursing

The scoring scheme which applies for nursing is available at www.cao.ie. The ITT reserves four places on the BSc in Nursing (General) and two places on the BSc in Nursing (Psychiatric) for applicants who meet the minimum entry requirements as follows:

Must possess distinctions in 5 modules in the QQI level 5 qualifications which must include: (Community & Health) D20001/5N0749 Anatomy & Physiology AND (Health Care Support) D20012/5N4325 Nursing Theory and Practice AND (Health Service Skills) D20032/5N1279 Human Growth & Development OR C20006/5N2746 Biology

Pre-current year QQI applicants should attach their statement of results to their CAO form.

Information is also provided on any essential components required for listed IT Tralee courses and how the points awarded for QQI awards are calculated.

The **Bonus Points Access Scheme** guarantees a quota of reserved places in specified programmes for qualifying applicants from KETB. KETB students will apply as normal to the CAO and submit an application form to the admissions office, IT Tralee. The Institute will liaise with CAO to apply the bonus points.

<https://www.ittralee.ie/en/media/Bonuspointsscheme.pdf>

Advanced Progression

The Institute of Technology, Tralee is committed to providing entry routes to its programmes for students who have been awarded a combination of QQI/FET Level 5 and Level 6 awards qualifications. The Institute has agreed Advanced Progression routes for selected programmes. This allows students who have achieved specific QQI/FET awards and who meet pre-requisites to gain entry into the second year of specific ITT programmes. The Institute has individual agreements with individual QQI/FET colleges which guarantee reserved places in the specified programmes for qualifying applicants.

<https://www.ittralee.ie/en/media/ReservedPlaces.pdf>

The Institute of Technology, Tralee (ITT) in collaboration with Kerry Educational Training Board and SOLAS is committed to providing entry routes to its programmes to students who have been awarded a combination of QQI/FET Level 5 and Level 6 Qualifications.

How to apply

Students must apply directly to the Institute of Technology, Tralee.

Application forms are available from the Admissions office or Download:

<https://www.ittralee.ie/en/media/AdvancedEntryApplicationForm.doc>

<https://www.ittralee.ie/en/media/ReservedPlaces.pdf>

Technological University Dublin

Relevant link:

<http://www.itb.ie/HowtoApply/fetac.html>

The minimum entry requirements for graduates of [QQI - FET \(formerly FETAC\)](#) (Level 5 or 6) awards are as follows:

1. For entry to a Higher Certificate course (NFQ Level 6) and to an Ab Initio Ordinary Degree course (NFQ Level 7) a full QQI-FET (Level 5 or 6) award is required.
2. For entry to an Ab Initio Honours Degree course (NFQ Level 8) a full QQI-FET (Level 5 or 6) award including distinction grades in at least 3 components is required.

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 ensure that their QQI-FET registered centre applies to QQI-FET for a major award prior to application to the CAO. However, for entry to certain courses an award achieved in a single sitting may be required.

Also, for some courses, specific component awards in mathematics must be included in the QQI-FET award presented for entry. A table outlines the required major award for entry to ITB courses as well as any specific components and/or distinctions.

New award system for eligible QQI-FET applicants

QQI-FET introduced a new awards system in 2013 known as the Common Awards System, or CAS. CAS awards will replace existing linked QQI-FET awards. All QQI-FET awards will be part of CAS from 2014.

New scoring system for eligible QQI-FET (formerly FETAC) applicants for existing and new awards

A new scoring system for QQI-FET awards was applied for entry through the CAO to higher education from 2013. This scoring system applies to all relevant QQI-FET level 5 and 6 awards. It applies to all results achieved from 2013.

A full QQI-FET 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.

Scoring Process

Each QQI-FET 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)

HOW QQI-FET (formerly FETAC) GRADUATES APPLY FOR ENTRY TO TU DUBLIN - BLANCHARDSTOWN CAMPUS COURSES

Applicants who have spent at least one year on a recognised PLC course validated by QQI-FET (formerly FETAC) can be considered for entry. Applications should be made through the CAO. Applicants who have completed a full QQI-FET (formerly FETAC) award since 2002 or are in the process of completing a full QQI-FET award should follow the QQI-FET instructions on page two of the CAO application form and enter their PPS number in the relevant box. As indicated previously, applicants who have achieved their full award over more than one academic year must ensure that their QQI-FET registered centre applies to QQI-FET for a major award prior to application to the CAO.

Applicants who completed a full QQI_FET award before 2002 should tick the NCVA level 2/3 box on page three of the CAO application form and complete further details on page four since these courses cannot be automatically rated by the CAO.

In addition, applicants must forward a copy of these results to our Academic Administration Office before the end of June 2017.

QQI-FET results cannot be added to Leaving Certificate points. Where applicants have taken both exams, the higher points will be considered for rating purposes.

QQI_FET applicants must compete for course places with other QQI_FET applicants and Leaving Certificate applicants alike

WATERFORD INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (WIT)

Relevant link:

https://www.wit.ie/future_students/fe_progression/further-education-progression-scheme

Waterford Institute of Technology offers preferential entry to students who successfully complete a linked QQI FET programme in partner Colleges of Further Education and who meet certain criteria. 14 Partner Colleges and 4 Education Training Boards are identified in [WIT Progression Scheme criteria](#)

The aim of the WIT Progression Scheme is to ensure equality of opportunity for, and the smooth transition of learners moving from further to higher education. The Scheme recognises the range of generic and discipline specific skills and knowledge acquired by successful students on further education programmes and matches these to the requirements of WIT programmes.

Eligibility for Consideration under Progression Scheme

Students of partner Colleges of Further Education who meet the specific criteria are eligible.

Benefits

- The WIT Progression Scheme is an additional route into Higher Education for students of partner Colleges of Further Education. The route is in addition to applicants being assessed as regular CAO applicants on the basis of Leaving Certificate or FET QQI points, or as a CAO mature applicants (if over 23 on 1 January on the year of entry), if relevant;
- There are a specific number of places reserved on particular WIT programmes for Progression Scheme applicants;
- The WIT progression workshops and information sessions, held at partner Colleges of Further Education, offer a valuable preview of the nature of the WIT programme(s) chosen and college life.
- The WIT Progression Scheme criteria set out the requirements that an applicant must meet to be considered for a place at WIT under the Progression Scheme. A student who is about to embark on a FET QQI course at one of the partner Colleges of Further Education covered by the agreement will therefore know which programme to select and successfully complete, and what additional requirements are essential, in order to be considered for the progression scheme and maximise his/her opportunities for gaining a place in higher education.
- Offers to applicants under the Progression Scheme are made in advance of CAO Round 1 which gives more time to organise accommodation and make travel arrangements.
- By applying to the WIT Progression Scheme applicants agree to supply their QQI FET results to the CAO. Further Education Colleges may be also be requested to supply the FET results for candidates to WIT by 30 June 2020.
- WIT will make admission offers to designated WIT programmes to candidates from Partner Further Education College who satisfy the criteria set out in - Programmes Included in the WIT Further Education Progression Scheme. Candidates will be made offers through the CAO, at Round 0. In instances where there is a limited number of reserved places specified on a WIT programme under the WIT Further Education Progression Scheme for a partner Further Education College/ETB, these will be allocated to eligible applicants on a descending rank order. Should any applicant who is offered a place not accept the offer, subsequent offers will not be made.
- Failure to meet any of the criteria of the scheme will exclude student(s) from being offered a place at WIT under the scheme.

- The WIT Progression Scheme is an additional route into Higher Education for students of partner Colleges of Further Education. The route is in addition to applicants being assessed as regular CAO applicants on the basis of Leaving Certificate or FET QQI points, or as a CAO mature applicants (if over 23 on 1 January on the year of entry), if relevant.

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN (NCAD)

Relevant link:

https://www.ncad.ie/files/san_files/NCAD_2020_QQI.FETAC_Entry_Requirements_.pdf

NCAD considers applications from candidates who have successfully completed FET programmes at levels 5 and 6.

The minimum entry requirements for graduates of QQI (Level 5 or 6) awards:

All First Year Art, Design and Education Programmes	Any Full Award with 5 distinctions for Minimum Entry + Portfolio
Product Design Interaction Design	Any Full Award with 5 distinctions for Minimum Entry + Portfolio, and a pass in C20139 or 5N1833 or C20174 or C20175 or 5N0556 or 5N2066 (or O6/H7 in LCE Maths)
Visual Culture	Full Award with 5 distinctions (List of relevant QQI Levels 5 and 6 awards)

FET students should apply through the CAO by the 1st February and submit a portfolio by the required date. Include any supporting documentation such as transcripts or CVs to the CAO marked clearly with your CAO number.

<https://www.ncad.ie/study-at-ncad/undergraduate-year-1/portfolio-guide/your-portfolio-your-way-2020>

Throughout the year, NCAD runs several Portfolio Information sessions, workshops and clinics. These will be in November and January and will be clearly advertised on our website.