

Monday May 11th 2020-5th Year Guidance Applying for College in 2021

This is a synopsis of the similarities and differences between your options after school. Please review carefully and if there are any queries you know where to contact myself or Mr. Lee by email. It is so important that you are prepared to thoroughly research all options open to you for the future.

In light of where we are now, I would advise you to prepare well for your end-of-year assessments. As you may be aware now LC results will now be determined at school by subject teachers in light of Covid 19 and the need to cancel the formal Leaving Certificate exams.

Criteria	CAO	UCAS	EUNICAS	PLC Colleges	Apprenticeships and Traineeships
What are they?	Online application system for applying for college in Ireland	Online system for applying to college in the UK and Northern Ireland	Online system for applying for college in Europe	Are those colleges of Further Education & Training that offer Post leaving Certificate courses	Training in conjunction with the Dept. of Education & Skills and Solas to work in trades.
When must I apply?	CAO opens in early November and closes on January 20 th early application deadline or on February 1 st of your Leaving Cert year. The section is highlighted on the attached for you to see.	Depending on your course choice October 15 th or January 15 th October deadline applies to Medicine courses in UK and NI	Opening and closing dates for applications vary by colleges	Spring of your LC year prior to interviews for courses	Depends upon the employer.
Websites	www.cao.ie	www.ucas.com	www.eunicas.ie	Each college has their own website for example:	www.careersportal.ie www.apprenticeships.ie

				www.moatebusinesscollege.com or www.cavaninstitute.ie	
Application Process	Online application and fee. Courses need to be listed in genuine order of preference. You have 10 choices at level 8 and 10 choices at levels 6-7	Online application and fee. You may select only 5 courses in any order but they must be for one particular career path. You may only apply for 4 medicine courses via UCAS.	Online application and fee. You may apply for up to eight courses and again in one career area.	Generally online application but you must apply to each college of interest separately via their respective websites.	Keep an eye on social media platforms and www.careersportal.ie for information regarding apprenticeships and their application details. Many applications are made online.
Requirements for Entry	LC entry requirements (minimum and in some cases specific) and CAO points	LC entry requirements for your UCAS courses, UCAS tariff points	LC results as well as some if not all of the following: Letter of Motivation Personal Statement Reference Statement of academic progress and grades.	Interview and LC must be passed to progress to Level 5 PLC options	Minimum entry Junior Cert results Other requirements: Leaving Certificate Online application Online aptitude tests and other assessments Interview
Specialised exams or means of accepting students	Medicine H-PAT Audition/interviews for restricted courses such as Music and Performance	UK CAT for medicine see: www.ukcat.ac.uk The BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) is a subject-	Most of the medicine, dentistry and veterinary science programmes in Central and Eastern Europe operate on	N/A	Yes online aptitude tests for ESAB apprenticeships for example and also for entry into the Defence

	<p>Portfolio for Art-related courses and some architectural courses and animation etc.</p> <p>Please Note: Third Level Institutes also offer students a maths exam if they do not meet LC entry requirements to satisfy entry into STEM courses.</p>	<p>specific admissions test for applicants to medicine, veterinary medicine and similar courses at universities.</p> <p>SEE INFO. BELOW TABLE FOR MORE DETAIL.</p>	<p>the same basis, with entrance examinations based on competency in biology and chemistry. These are usually held in Ireland, in April (or for late applicants, in July or August). Italian universities use the International Medical Admissions Test (IMAT), a 100-minute, subject-specific admissions test for applicants to medicine and surgery courses.</p>		<p>Forces and An Garda Síochána</p>

For prospective UCAS applicants:

As per www.careersportal.ie

Brexit (the UK's decision to leave the EU) is likely to have implications for students wanting to study in the UK, but it remains to be seen exactly what those implications will be. SUSI (the Irish student financing body) [www.susi.ie] provide up-to-date information about funding decisions related to Brexit.

Also for your information:

If you want to compare UK qualifications with Irish qualifications, see the '**Qualifications can cross boundaries**' leaflet from Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) that gives a rough guide to comparing qualifications in the UK and in Ireland. The leaflet shows how qualifications are organised and how they relate broadly to each other through the different qualifications frameworks, including the European Qualifications Framework.

If you are interested in studying abroad, you need to do some careful research about the relevant degree, the college and the country. This section gives you an idea of some of the most important aspects you need to consider.

Comparability / Recognition

You should seriously consider **what you want to do after** completing a degree abroad. If your future plans involve working and/or studying in Ireland, ask questions such as:

- Will the qualification be recognised in Ireland, or will I have to complement a 'shortfall' in the degree with further courses/modules?
- How do Irish employers rate the degree/college?
- If you want to pursue further studies in Ireland, will Irish Universities recognise the qualification?

There are a number of useful resources here in relation to having a qualification recognised in Ireland, and vice versa.

Regulated professions

It is important to note that in many cases, the final decisions on employment and recognition of qualifications lie with the employer. However, some professions are regulated and require very specific standards and qualifications. For example:

- [A medical doctor wishing to practise medicine in the Republic of Ireland must meet the requirements and register with the Medical Council.](#)

- CORU regulates **health and social care** professions, such as dietitians, opticians, occupational therapists and social workers. [Visit the CORU website](#) for the most up to date information as occupations may be added to their list
- To work as a primary and secondary school teacher in Ireland, [you need to be registered with the Teaching Council of Ireland](#), which means that the Teaching Council must recognise your qualification and they can identify if you have any shortfalls in a qualification from overseas.
- [The IAA \(Irish Aviation Authority\)](#) is responsible for licensing and certification of [air crew](#), [aircraft maintenance engineers](#), [air traffic services personnel](#) and [aviation security personnel](#).

A full list of the regulated professions in Ireland is available on the [EU Regulated Professions Database](#).

Information for prospective UCAS and EUNICAS applicants:

Where do people go to study medicine abroad?

Note: In the US, you can only study Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary or Law at postgraduate level.

Many Irish students study medicine in **Central and Eastern Europe**, including Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria. Fees in these countries are generally higher than in Western Europe and are usually between €8000 and €12000 a year.

Most of the medicine, dentistry and veterinary science programmes in Central and Eastern Europe operate on the same basis, with entrance examinations based on competency in biology and chemistry. These are usually held in Ireland, in April (or for late applicants, in July or August). Students should check with the relevant university, or their Irish representative. Where there is an earlier exam, it is recommended to attend the first sitting.

Medical programmes in **Western Europe** seem to increase in popularity with Irish students. For example, there are currently well over 100 Irish students studying on the Physiotherapy programmes in the **Netherlands**. And, there are now eleven public universities in **Italy** offering degrees in medicine through English that are open to all EU students. Italian universities use

the **International Medical Admissions Test (IMAT)**, a 100-minute, subject-specific admissions test for applicants to medicine and surgery courses. The test is through English and consists of verbal reasoning and science subjects. Medical School fees in Italy are rather low compared to other Western European countries and are linked to family income. The average Irish student pay approx. €1500 per year.

As most courses in medicine and healthcare require a practical period, you need to know what the requirements are for the courses you consider. For example, Irish students on Italian medical programmes usually take their **intern year** back in Ireland, whereas most (but not all) central and eastern European graduates, complete their intern year as part of their studies.

If you are thinking about studying Medicine in the **UK**, note that the deadline to apply is October 15, through UCAS.

There are a number of entrance exams for entry to medicine in the UK, including UKCAT and HPAT UK (similar to the HPAT in Ireland). UKCAT is the preferred test for large number of colleges including Queen's University, Belfast (QUB). UKCAT registration opens in the first week of May closes sometime in October each year. The test is held at locations all over Ireland and students need to register for UKCAT at www.ukcat.ac.uk. Applicants are advised to register early and nominate their preferred centre, as some locations fill-up faster than others. It is useful to get some practice for the test before sitting the assessment and sample papers are available on the UKCAT website.

The BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) is a subject-specific admissions test for applicants to medicine, veterinary medicine and similar courses at universities. The BMAT is a 2-hour, pen-and-paper test divided into three sections. It does not require a lot of extra study as it is a test of skills and knowledge that learners are expected to have already.

Some of the UK Colleges which require students to sit BMAT are University of Cambridge, University of Oxford and the Royal Veterinary College. There are also colleges in the Netherlands, Spain, Russia, Romania, Poland, Croatia and Hungary, as well as a large number of universities in Asia, which accept the BMAT. Full details are available on the [BMAT website](#).

Nursing

There are now an increasing number of nursing programmes through English in the EU, particularly in **Italy and Finland**. However, some programmes, although through English, have specific language requirements as students need to be able to interact with patients in the local language.

In Ireland, many students who want to do Nursing have long opted to go to the **UK**. However, since the 2015 decision by the UK government to end NHS funding for nursing and paramedical degrees (which previously covered the tuition fees) the number of Irish students studying nursing degrees in the UK have decreased somewhat. However, due to English being the official language and nursing having strong practical elements, UK will probably remain popular amongst Irish students.

Individual college websites where nursing training is offered provide comprehensive information for both students and parents. The following UK universities' Nursing Faculties websites will give you information about course details, entry requirements and open day information etc.:

[Kings College London](#)

[University of Edinburgh](#)

[University of Liverpool](#)

[University of East Anglia](#)

[University of Huddersfield](#)

[University of Nottingham](#)

[University of Southampton](#)

[University of York](#)

[Coventry University](#)

[Northumbria University](#)

For more information about studying nursing in the UK, [Study in the UK](#) provides free independent advice and support to international students.

Student recruitment companies:

There are numerous private companies which focus on recruiting international medical students to specific universities in different parts of the world. Be aware that these companies are student recruiters which generally operate on commission and are thereby

not impartial or independent. In other words, you still need to research your options. In contrast, **EUNICAS** is an Irish based independent application support service for students in Ireland interested in studying in Europe.

Email support@eunicas.ie

Your contact is Mr. Guy Flouch who is incredibly helpful to students applying to Europe.