



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Mature Students Guide



2026



University of Galway

Mature Students Guide 2026

The Mature Students Office is part of the Access Centre. The aim of the Access Centre is to create a supportive learning environment where students who have experienced socio-economic disadvantage, students with disabilities and mature students are enabled to access and succeed in third level education. This involves a wide range of educational approaches and specialist services that include Access Programmes, Disability Support Service, and the Traveller Education Officer, and are targeted at large numbers of students who are classified by the Higher Education Authority as 'non-traditional'.





Come *and* meet with us

Mature Public Information Evening

15th January 2026

University of Galway Open Days:

Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th October 2025;

March 2026

Meet the Mature Students Officer and learn about degrees, careers, SUSI Grants, Access Courses and CAO application.

The Mature Students Officer will give a welcome presentation explaining the CAO application procedure and sharing some past students' experiences with you.

Representatives from all our College Degree Programmes will be there to answer questions about career opportunities and the learning outcomes of their individual programmes. The Career Development Service will be there to assist with questions on career prospects if you complete a degree.

All adult learners are welcome no matter what their age is as the university offers so much more than just full-time degrees. The Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development will be present and offers short special interest courses, online courses, languages, classroom-based learning and professional development courses.

Many people attending the evening in the past have been directed into Access Foundation Diploma Courses to give them the Foundation Skills in academic subjects at a pre-university level 6 and supported onwards to degrees in all disciplines at University of Galway. These courses build confidence in self, and ability and support everyone to reach their full potential.

There is a place for everyone at University of Galway whether it is through an Access course, a full-time degree or through our Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development Programmes. Full details will be available on our website in December.

Open Days are the perfect opportunity for you and your family to experience life at University of Galway. Visit us and immerse yourself in our vibrant and diverse community. Meet our world-leading academics, our current access students and see how they can inspire you.

Find out more:

www.universityofgalway.ie/opendays

www.universityofgalway.ie/mature

www.universityofgalway.ie/adult-learning

www.universityofgalway.ie/accesscentre

www.susi.ie

www.universityofgalway.ie/cao



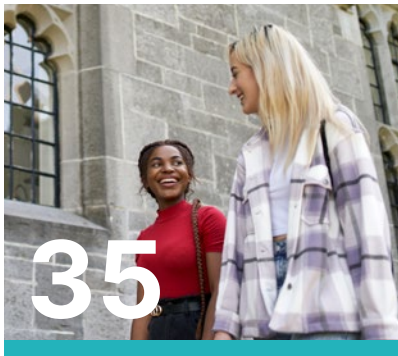
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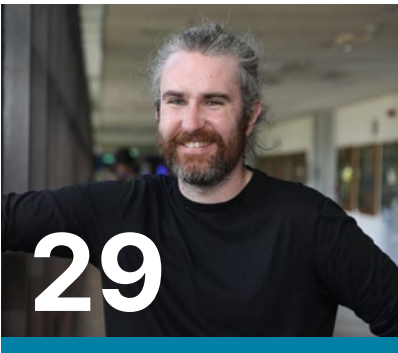


College of Arts, Social
Sciences, and Celtic Studies



College of Medicine,
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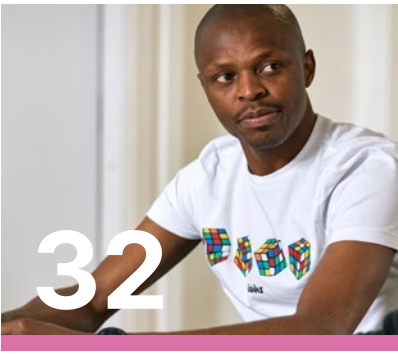
College of Business,
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Financial Information,
FAQ's, Leaving Certificate
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Degree Programmes and
Mature Students Criteria
Quick Guide and Allocation
of Places



College of Science and
Engineering

Disclaimer: whilst every effort is made to ensure contents are accurate, the Mature Students Guide is issued only for the guidance of students. It does not impose or infer any legal obligations on the University of Galway. Course syllabi, fees, regulations, or other information given may be altered, cancelled or otherwise amended at any time. The Mature Students Guide does not confer any rights on a student registered for any course of study.



What is the *Definition* of a Mature Student?

Full-time Degree Mature Student

You will qualify as a mature applicant for full-time study if you are at least 23 years of age on or before 1 January in the year you submit your application and if your Leaving Certificate qualifications are insufficient for standard admission.

Therefore, to apply to University of Galway for the academic year 2026, your birth date must be on or before 1 January 2003 and you must have lived in an EU/EEA Member State for three of the last five years. Students attending university on a full-time basis are generally not in full-time employment.

If you started a degree but did not complete it, you must be 5 years out of formal education to qualify for Free Tuition Fees again.

People who hold a Level 8 degree, who may be 23 or over, will not qualify for Free Tuition Fees but are still eligible to apply as a Mature Student. The costs can prevent studying again at this level. Such students are encouraged to look at Post Graduate study options.

Part-Time Degree Mature Student

The Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development recognises mature students at the age of 21 and over. This route may suit you if you are in full-time employment.

Access Mature Programme

You will qualify as a mature applicant for an Access Foundation Diploma Programme if you are 23 or over. If you apply at the age of 22, please ensure that you turn 23 before 1 January for progression purposes to a full-time degree.

The Access Foundation Diploma Programme is a one-year part-time daytime course that aims to provide disadvantaged mature students with the opportunity to prepare, personally and academically, for an undergraduate course of full-time study of at least three years duration at University of Galway.

School Leaver Access Programme

The Access Foundation Diploma Programme for School Leavers is a course specifically designed for students who are aged 22 or under and have a proven ability to study but were unable to progress due to financial, family, personal and other issues that disrupted their studies and denied progression to higher education.

Find out more:

www.universityofgalway.ie/mature

www.universityofgalway.ie/access

www.universityofgalway.ie/adult-learning

How do I *Apply* as a Mature Student for a Full-time Degree?

Mature students should apply online through the Central Applications Office (www.cao.ie) before the 1 February for all University of Galway's full-time undergraduate courses.

The cost of applying through the CAO is approximately €45. There is an online discounted rate of €30 if you apply before the January 20th. It is important to complete the CAO application form thoroughly. Supporting documentation such as exam results, current studies and a strong statement of intent are essential components of your CAO application for some programmes.

If you use the online application process, you must forward your supporting documentation to the CAO immediately afterward with your name and CAO number clearly stated on each document. Do not send any documents to the University of Galway – these will not be reviewed. Documentation that supports your application will only be considered for admission purposes if it has been included with your formal application through the CAO. University of Galway does not accept late Mature Student applications after the 1st of February deadline.

Important: Your supporting documents must arrive in the CAO offices within seven days of your submission of the online application. It is of the utmost importance as a mature student that you ensure all relevant information, including evidence of formal education, certificates, personal statements, and other requested documents, are included with your CAO application. Omission of this information may affect the success of your application to University of Galway.

The CAO also provides a comprehensive handbook, which includes information specific to mature students and must be read carefully in advance of submitting a final application.

Some Degree Programmes also require the applicant to register for assessments in association with their CAO application with certain deadlines and one testing date. Such programmes are Medicine (HPAT) and Nursing (NMBI).

Find out more:

www.cao.ie

<https://hpat-ireland.acer.org>

www.nmbi.ie/Careers-in-Nursing-Midwifery



Mature Student Scholarships

University of Galway has encouraged and facilitated the admission of mature students to its programmes over many years.

There are some scholarships that applicants can apply to before even receiving a college offer. More are given on merit or for socio-economic reasons.

Scholarships include:

- Mature Students Scholarships
- Uiversity Scholarships

These are applicable to Mature Students in particular. For details of each scholarship, application dates and eligibility criteria please refer to universityofgalway.ie/mature/scholarships

Terms and conditions apply

Find out more:

www.universityofgalway.ie/mature/scholarships/

Mature Student *Supports*

The following are a number of student support services that you can avail of as a full-time mature student:

Return to Learning programme

The Access Centre's Return to Learning programme is offered in August to new incoming Mature and Access Mature students, so as to prepare them academically, socially, and practically before the semester begins. The programme comprises of a series of workshops including practical study skills sessions, memory techniques, practical computing and advice on making the transition to third level education as well as information on the support services in the University. These workshops provide you with an opportunity to meet fellow mature students, make friends, and familiarise yourself with our campus.

Orientation

The university runs an orientation week for all new first years in early September with an opportunity to hear college talks from the Deans, learn about academic and personal supports, and receive timetables and library tours.

Academic Supports Available

In addition to the core subjects studied on an Access Course, University of Galway runs a number of practical skills workshops throughout the academic year ranging from academic writing, research skills, and practical study skills to revision techniques and exam preparation. These are open to all students.

The SUMS Centre provides mathematical supports for all students.

The Academic Writing Centre provides practical supports with writing essays guidance on how to improve your approach to assignment writing tasks. They have a specific arrangement with Access Centre to support our Access students.

Online study resources are available through Canvas our internal learning system.

For other student supports such as Chaplaincy, Counselling, Crèche and others please see www.universityofgalway.ie/student-services/

Find out more:

www.universityofgalway.ie/academic-skills

www.library.universityofgalway.ie/awc

www.universityofgalway.ie/public-sites/s-u-m-s

www.universityofgalway.ie/students

Financial Support and Scholarships

There are some scholarships that applicants can apply to before even receiving a college offer. More are given on merit or for socio-economic reasons. Terms and conditions apply

Find out more: www.universityofgalway.ie/mature/scholarships/

Mature Student Entrance Scholarship

The University awards several Entrance Scholarships annually to mature students based on grades.

Uversity Scholarship

Uversity Scholarships are for adult learners who wish to complete a Bachelor's (Ordinary or Honours) Degree, for the first time.

For full details of scholarships please visit
www.universityofgalway.ie/scholarships/

Financial Assistance Fund

Some students may find themselves experiencing financial difficulties despite being careful with money during their time at university. All full-time students who attend a course of at least one year's duration leading to an undergraduate qualification are eligible to apply for the Financial Aid Fund. Applicants are means tested (taking financial situation and family circumstances into account). The application forms are usually available online from late September/ early October.

For more information, go to
www.universityofgalway.ie/financialaidfund/

1916 Bursary Fund

The 1916 Bursary is a financial award to encourage the participation and success of students from sections of society that are significantly under-represented in higher education.

The 1916 Bursary is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) and aims to encourage participation and success by students who are most socio-economically disadvantaged and from groups most under-represented in higher education.

To be eligible for a 1916 Bursary, all applicants must meet, Financial, Priority Group and College Entry eligibility criteria.

Full details available at
www.universityofgalway.ie/accesscentre/accessscholarships/1916bursary-fund/

The University of Sanctuary Scholarship

The University of Sanctuary Initiative at University of Galway aims to increase public awareness of International Protection and Traveller-specific topics across campus, in order to address the low levels of participation of International Protection Applicants, refugees, vulnerable immigrant groups, and Irish Travellers in third level education. These groups are too frequently excluded from education due to inequitable societal barriers, and we feel that through our actions we can make University of Galway a much more inclusive and equitable campus.

Full details available at
www.universityofgalway.ie/sanctuary
or email uni.sanctuary@universityofgalway.ie





Disability Support Service

Support for students with a disability, ongoing physical or mental health condition, or specific learning difficulty.

Students with a disability, ongoing health condition (physical or mental), or a specific learning difficulty, are encouraged to register with University of Galway's Disability Support Service (DSS). Approximately one in twenty students at University of Galway is registered with the DSS. You can find out more about this service and how to register at www.universityofgalway.ie/disability/.

Most of the students who register with the DSS present with one or more of the following:

- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Attention deficit disorder (ADD)/attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- Blind/vision impaired
- Deaf/hard of hearing
- Neurological condition, including epilepsy and brain injury
- Speech and language communication disorder
- Physical disability, including mobility issues
- Developmental coordination disorder (DCD) - Dyspraxia/Dysgraphia
- Mental health condition
- Significant ongoing illness
- Specific learning difficulty (SLD), including dyslexia or dyscalculia

Register for disability support

To register for support, you will need to complete our online registration form at www.universityofgalway.ie/disability and provide evidence of your disability, ongoing health condition, or specific learning difficulty. Once the form is submitted students will be contacted to arrange a needs assessment appointment with a Disability Advisor.

Supports and reasonable accommodations will be determined through an individual needs assessment; taking into account the nature and impact of your disability, evidence of disability, and course requirements.

For more information please visit www.universityofgalway.ie/disability, email disabilityservice@universityofgalway.ie phone +353 91 492813 or visit the Access Centre, Ground Floor Áras Uí Chathail.

Returning to Education

– Access *Diploma* Programmes

University of Galway's Access Centre offers pre-university preparatory Access and Foundation diploma programmes for under-represented groups in higher education, including those from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, students with disabilities and mature students including adults who may be in employment.

The preparatory programmes are student centered and are delivered in a very supportive environment by experienced tutors and staff. The overall aim is to give the chance of college to everyone and to provide an opportunity to progress to full-time or part-time degrees once the foundation year is completed. Each year over 200 students progress to university and excel in their new degrees. Continued support is provided to all students by the Access Centre.

Subjects

Subjects offered are in the areas of Humanities, Science and Business and alongside core subjects such as Academic Writing, Study Skills, Technology and Career/College Guidance. Upon completion and meeting certain grades, students progress to full-time degrees in these areas including Health Sciences, Law and Engineering.

Mature Students are those aged 23 years or over.

School Leavers are those aged 22 year or under.

Outreach Access Courses

These free programmes are delivered in centres such as Tuam and An Cheathrú Rua which is a bi-lingual programme. They are made up of both Mature Students and School Leavers from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Diploma in Foundation Studies Science, Technology and Engineering

This is a joint diploma delivery with ATU and is a fee-paying evening programme that runs two evenings and some Saturdays from September to May and is suitable for those over 22 who are interested in moving onwards to a full-time or part-time degree in University of Galway or ATU in areas such as Engineering, Science, Computer Science and Health Sciences. Academic subjects include Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Support Modules include Academic Writing, Study Skills, Technology and Career/ College Guidance. Fees are €380 for employed and €60 for unemployed.

Diploma in Foundation Studies Business, Arts and Law

This is a joint diploma delivery with ATU and is a fee-paying evening programme that runs two evenings and some Saturdays from September to May and is suitable for those over 22 who are interested in moving onwards to a full-time or part-time degree in University of Galway or GMIT in areas such as Business, Humanities and Law. Academic Support Modules include Academic Writing, Study Skills, Technology and Career/College Guidance subjects include Maths, Economics, Business Skills and Accountancy. Fees are €380 for employed and €60 for unemployed.



Progression Criteria to Degrees and Scholarships

All Modules studied in all Access and Diploma courses must be passed and completed and the attendance required is 85%. All courses are classroom-based over 2 semesters with exams, assignments and continuous assessment. Certain subjects require A's and practical work experience for some degrees including Health Sciences (School Leavers) and Nursing. All students who want to proceed to full-time degrees apply to the CAO before 20 January for a discounted fee of €30. Places in degrees are allocated according to grades and competition for places. Certain high achieving mature students who enter 1st year of a full-time degree may receive a scholarship of €1,500 subject to terms and conditions. Other funding may be available through the Financial Aid Fund and Access Funds for School Leavers.

How To Apply

Applications to all Access Foundation Diploma Programmes are completed online. Interviews apply. Details of documents required are available on the Access Centre website.

Applications to Diploma in Foundation Studies Science, Technology and Engineering/ Business, Arts and Law are completed online from July. No interviews apply. Information will be posted on the Access Centre website.

Find out more:

www.universityofgalway.ie/access

www.universityofgalway.ie/mature/part-time

QQI (FETAC) Applications

A number of Undergraduate programmes in University of Galway are open on a competitive basis to students who present with a recognised QQI (FETAC) Qualification.

In order to be considered for a place on these programmes, students are required to have completed the requisite Level 5 or Level 6 course and hold a minimum of five distinctions in the requisite modules.

For the most up-to-date and comprehensive list of QQI (FETAC) entry routes and requirements, see the CAO website or discuss with your Education Advisor in your college of further education.

Please note that places are limited for QQI applicants in degree programmes. Quotas of places are advertised on the admissions website.

Nursing

If you are doing a pre-nursing course and are over 23, you can also apply as a Mature Student and take the nursing exam in addition to completing your QQI course to have a second chance of obtaining a nursing place. All applications must be made before 1 February through the CAO on year of application for a full-time degree.

Find out more:

- www.universityofgalway.ie/accesscentre/qqifetac/
- www.cao.ie
- www.nmbi.ie/Careers-in-Nursing-Midwifery



Quick Guide for Mature Students

For each degree, assessments, interviews or academic criteria and further education apply. Please refer to this guide for detailed information on all application criteria. In all CAO applications include a Statement of Intent and Relevant Information to the degree applied for.

Course Code	Course Name	Mature Places Allocated 2025	Quick Guide For Mature Students
GY101	Bachelor of Arts (Joint-Honours)	Unlimited	Leaving Certificate results or further Education, evidence of academic ability
GY104	Bachelor of Science (Psychology)	1	Criteria as for GY101 plus Further Education in Psychology, Strong Statement of intent
GY105	Bachelor of Arts (History)	Unlimited	Leaving Certificate results or further Education, evidence of academic ability
GY109	Bachelor of Arts (Mathematics and Education)	2 *	Criteria as for GY101 plus Honours Maths, Experience and Strong Statement of Intent
GY110	Bachelor of Arts with Children's Studies (AWC) / Arts (Children's Studies) (ACS)	4 *	Criteria as for GY101. Desirable: background in Children or Youth Studies through further education, Work Experience, On your CAO application please indicate which stream of GY110 you would like to study
GY111	Bachelor of Arts (English and Creative Writing)	4 *	Criteria as for GY101 plus Evidence of written works or publishing's and recent studies in a relevant area
GY113	Bachelor of Arts with Human Rights	4 *	Criteria as for GY101. Desirable: work/life experience and further education in human rights issues
GY118	Bachelor of Arts (Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies)	2 *	Criteria as for GY101. Desirable: work/life experience and further education in theatre
GY119	Bachelor of Arts (Journalism)	1 *	Criteria as for GY101 plus work/life experience and further education in writing
GY122	Bachelor of Arts (Cumarsáid agus Gaeilge)	2 *	Irish from Leaving Cert to an Honours standard both written and oral, written assessment and interview
GY123	Bachelor of Science (Social Sciences)	3 *	Criteria as for GY101. Desirable: work/life experience and further education in social issues.
GY127	Bachelor of Arts (Film and Digital Media)	2 *	Criteria as for GY101 plus evidence of interest in film and screen with a brief description of a topic of a media of your choice and further education studies completed in a relevant area.
GY128	Bachelor of Arts (Global Languages)	5	Criteria as for GY101 plus evidence of an aptitude for languages supported by either further education, leaving cert or life experience of living in a non-English speaking country.
GY129	Bachelor of Arts (Global Experience)	Unlimited	Criteria as for GY101
GY130	Bachelor of Arts (Music)	2 *	Criteria as for GY101 plus ability to read music
GY132	Bachelor of Arts Government (Politics, Economics and Law)	2 *	Criteria as for GY101
GY133	Bachelor of Arts Education (Computer Science and Mathematical Studies)	2 *	Criteria as for GY101 plus Honours Maths.
GY134	Bachelor of Science (Geography and Geosystems)	2 *	Criteria as for GY101 plus evidence of Maths and Science ability from Leaving Certificate or equivalent.
GY135	Bachelor of Arts (Global Media)	5 *	Criteria as for GY101 plus evidence of media background and further education.
GY136	BA (Gaeilge agus Léann Aistriúcháin)	2 *	Evidence of Gaeilge from the Leaving Cert. Irish interview applies and an Irish Written test is required.
GY137	Bachelor of Arts (Child, Youth and Family: Policy and Practice)	2 *	Criteria as for GY101. Desirable: Background in Children or Youth Studies through further education, Work Experience
GY201	Bachelor of Commerce	Unlimited	Criteria for selection include an assessment of the candidate's ability to benefit from, and to undertake the programme. Experience and educational background are taken into account. An aptitude for Mathematics is beneficial. Interviews are not required.
GY202	Bachelor of Commerce (International with French)	Unlimited	Criteria as for GY201. In addition, you must submit evidence of certificates/ diplomas obtained studying the French language.
GY203	Bachelor of Commerce (International with German)	Unlimited	Criteria as for GY201. In addition, you must submit evidence of certificates/ diplomas obtained studying German.
GY204	Bachelor of Commerce (International with Spanish)	Unlimited	Criteria as for GY201. In addition, a proven aptitude for learning modern languages.
GY206	Bachelor of Science (Business Information Systems)	Unlimited	Criteria as for GY201. In addition, an aptitude for Mathematics (normally Leaving Certificate ordinary level) is required.
GY207	Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting)	Unlimited	Criteria as for GY201 and should have studied maths to Leaving Certificate standard or equivalent. A good standard of English is an advantage. An aptitude for Accountancy (normally Leaving Certificate or equivalent) is desirable and where possible to have taken exams and modules in an Accountancy Technician course.
GY208	Bachelor of Commerce (Gaeilge)	2	Criteria as for GY201 and have a HC3/H4 in Leaving Certificate Irish.
GY209	Bachelor of Commerce (Global Experience)	2	Criteria as for GY201.
GY261	Bachelor of Business Studies (International Hotel Management)	2	Educational Qualification, Work experience and passing an entrance interview. Late applications will be accepted for this programme up until May 1st.

* = indicative No.

Course Code	Course Name	Mature Places Allocated 2025	Quick Guide For Mature Students
GY250	Law & Business	Unlimited	Criteria include an aptitude for legal study, Accountancy, Mathematics, and the likelihood of successful completion of the course. A strong statement of intent is required in the CAO application. A good standard of the English, written and verbal (normally leaving cert standard or equivalent). Students may be required to attend an interview.
GY251	Law (BCL)	Unlimited	A strong statement of intent is required in the CAO application. A good standard of the English, written and verbal (normally leaving cert standard or equivalent). Students may be required to attend an interview.
GY252	Law and Human rights	1	A strong statement of intent is required in the CAO application plus evidence of voluntary work in Human Rights areas. A good standard of the English, written and verbal (normally leaving cert standard or equivalent). Students may be required to attend an interview.
GY254	Law Criminology and Criminal Justice	1	A strong statement of intent is required in the CAO application. A good standard of the English, written and verbal (normally leaving cert standard or equivalent). Students may be required to attend an interview.
GY301	Bachelor of Science	Unlimited	Evidence of mathematical and science ability is desired either from the Leaving Certificate or from Further education completed. Please include statements of Leaving Cert exam.
GY303	Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science)	Unlimited	
GY304	Bachelor of Science (Biotechnology)	Unlimited	
GY308	Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science)	Unlimited	
GY309	Bachelor of Science (Financial Maths and Economics)	Unlimited	
GY310	Bachelor of Science (Marine Science)	Unlimited	
GY313	Bachelor of Science (Occupational Health and Safety Management)	Unlimited	
GY314	Bachelor of Science (Earth and Ocean Sciences)	Unlimited	
GY318	Bachelor of Science (Biopharmaceutical Chemistry)	Unlimited	
GY319	Bachelor of Science (Mathematical Science)	Unlimited	
GY320	Bachelor of Science (Physics)	Unlimited	
GY321	Bachelor of Science (Genetics and Genomics)	Unlimited	
GY322	Bachelor of Science (Agricultural Science)	Unlimited	
GY323	Bachelor of Science (Zoology)	Unlimited	
GY350	Bachelor of Science (Computer Science and Information Technology)	Unlimited	A minimum of grade C3 Higher Level Maths (H5) is desirable and evidence of science studied at Leaving Cert Level or equivalent. IT and Technical Drawing subjects, will be considered; therefore please include statements of Leaving Cert exam.
GY401	Undenominated Engineering	Unlimited	
GY402	Bachelor and Master of Engineering (Civil)	Unlimited	
GY405	Bachelor and Master of Engineering (Mechanical)	Unlimited	
GY406	Bachelor and Master of Engineering (Electronic and Computer)	Unlimited	
GY408	Bachelor and Master of Engineering (Biomedical)	Unlimited	
GY410	Bachelor of Science (Project and Construction Management)	Unlimited	
GY413	Bachelor and Master of Engineering (Energy Systems)	Unlimited	
GY414	Bachelor and Master of Engineering (Electrical and Electronic)	Unlimited	
GY501	Bachelor of Medicine (Surgery and Obstetrics)	3	Honours Leaving Cert Laboratory Science (C2 or H4 minimum) such as Chemistry, Physics, Biology or Agricultural Science is required. HPAT test must be completed and Interview for shortlisted candidates.
GY502	Bachelor of Science (Occupational Therapy)	2	Honours Leaving Certificate Science and life experience relevant to the programme (assessed via statement of interest/personal statement) Examples include being an informal carer, personal experience or healthcare etc. A strong statement of Intent is required in your CAO application.
GY503	Bachelor of Science (Speech and Language Therapy)	2	
GY504	Bachelor of Science (Podiatric Medicine)	2	
GY505	MPharm (Pharmacy)	5	Requirements/Criteria = Minimum 6 subjects 2 at H5 and 4 at O6/H7 to include Irish (unless exempt), English, Mathematics O6/H7, Laboratory Science at H4*. A strong Statement of Intent is required as part of your CAO application. *The H4 in Laboratory Science is not required if applying with a QQI Level 6 Pharmacy Technician qualification.
GY515	Bachelor of Nursing Science (General)	9	Nursing Careers Exam.
GY516	Bachelor of Mental Health Nursing	5	Nursing Careers Exam.
GY517	Bachelor of Midwifery Science	4	Nursing Careers Exam.

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I’ve always been fascinated by the medical side of things. Both in terms of being supportive, empathetic, and caring, as well as the physical/academic side of anatomy and how the body works. When I discovered there was a healthcare assistants’ program, I thought it was fantastic and that I would be able to fulfil my dream in part, so I enrolled in FETAC. Then an opportunity arose to do an Access Course, science route, at University of Galway during the pandemic.

Two nights a week to reacquaint myself with life after leaving school, even though I never truly stopped (small courses) - constantly striving to achieve a pinnacle where my aim and dream could be realized. We were guided through the entire process by fantastic, experienced tutors who provided us with all the extra aid we needed, particularly in arithmetic and academic writing.

I was encouraged to apply through the CAO process and then again through the NMBI, as they had a different testing process. The dream of one day attending university was always in the back of my mind. However, all the normal anxieties of cost, time, transport still over clouded the prospects.

I was overjoyed with my Access Course results, and the knowledge and experience I gained were fantastic. I was offered a place in Midwifery – I had never imagined that I would be able to attend University, let alone such a difficult course. We were given academic advisors, linked in with funding organisations and told where we could always get support and guidance. I am pleased to say that I have completed my first year and am completely impressed with the course, my future prospects, and the opportunity to live my dream. If I can encourage anyone, no matter your age or circumstances – if I can, you can!

Karen Strydom
47, *Midwifery*



College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies

The College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies is at the cutting edge of new thinking in every subject offered within our programmes. Our degrees are designed to inspire your intellectual curiosity, build your capacity for creative and critical thinking.

GY101 Bachelor of Arts (JOINT-HONOURS)

The assessment criteria that will be used will be based on a combination of:

- Overall Leaving Cert Results (or equivalent, where relevant).
- Relevant Leaving Cert results in specific subjects (where relevant).
- Any other courses/programmes completed.
- Evidence of proficiency in English, for non-native speakers of Irish or English.
- Evidence of academic ability that can be ascertained from their application and/or professional experience.
- A Statement of Intent must be completed in your CAO Application

DENOMINATED BA DEGREES

GY104 Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) Criteria as for GY101 plus evidence of further education in the area of psychology. Psychology can also be studied through the BA Arts (Joint Honours) GY101 and mature applicants are encouraged to put both programmes on their CAO application.	GY110 Arts with Children's Studies (Child and Youth studies) Criteria as for GY101 Desirable: knowledge of the degree, evidence of work in a related area and all further education courses completed in a relevant area. Interview may apply. On your CAO application please indicate which stream of GY110 you would like to study
GY105 Bachelor of Arts History Criteria as for GY101.	GY111 Bachelor of Arts with Creative Writing Criteria as GY101 plus knowledge of the degree, evidence of written work and all further education courses completed in a relevant area. Interview may apply.
GY109 Bachelor of Arts (Mathematics and Education) Criteria as for GY101 plus Honours Leaving Certificate Maths.	GY113 Bachelor of Arts with Human Rights Criteria as for GY101 Desirable: knowledge of the degree, evidence of work in a related area and all further education courses completed in a relevant area. Interview may apply.

College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies *(Continued)*

GY118 Bachelor of Arts in Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies Criteria as for GY101 Desirable: knowledge of the degree, evidence of work in a related area and all further education courses completed in a relevant area. Interview may apply.	GY129 Arts (Global Experience) Criteria as for GY101
GY119 Bachelor of Arts Journalism Criteria as for GY101 plus knowledge of the degree, evidence of work in a related area and all further education courses completed in a relevant area. Interview may apply.	GY130 Arts (Music) Criteria as for GY101 and must have the ability to read music.
GY123 BSc (Social Sciences) Criteria as for GY101 Desirable: knowledge of the degree, evidence of work in a related area and all further education courses completed in a relevant area. Interview may apply.	GY132 Government (Politics, Economics and Law) Criteria as for GY101.
GY125 Arts (Digital Arts and Technology) Criteria as for GY101 plus Leaving Cert Mathematics. Evidence of interest and/or experience in Information Technology is desirable. A strong statement of intent should show knowledge of the degree, your motivation for studies and efforts of any further education completed in recent years.	GY133 BA Education (Computer Science and Mathematical Studies) Criteria as for GY101 plus Honours Maths with a H5.
GY127 Arts (Film and Digital Media) Criteria as for GY101 plus evidence of interest in film and screen with a brief description of a topic of a media of your choice and further education studies completed in a relevant area.	GY134 BSc (Geography and Geosystems) Criteria as for GY101 plus evidence of Maths and Science results from the Leaving Cert or from further education in these areas. This degree involves a proficient level of maths and science ability. A strong statement of intent in the CAO application demonstrating knowledge of the degree.
GY128 Arts (Global Languages) Criteria as for GY101 plus evidence of global languages, not including English.	GY135 Arts (Global Media) Criteria as for GY101 plus evidence of media interest and further education completed in a relevant area. A strong statement of intent is required in your CAO application demonstrating knowledge and commitment to the degree.
	GY137 Arts (Child, Youth and Family: Policy and Practice) Criteria as for GY101 plus knowledge of the degree, evidence of work in a related area and all further education courses completed in a relevant area. Interview may apply.

College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies *(Continued)*

ACADAMH NA HOLLSCOLAÍOCHTA GAEILGE

GY122 Na Dána (Cumarsáid agus Gaeilge)

Leaving Certificate Irish, Irish Interview, Irish Written Test is required. Demonstrate knowledge of the degree, evidence of work in a related area and all further education courses completed in a relevant area in your CAO application.

GY136 BA Gaeilge agus Léann an Aistriúcháin

Degree Options: BA Gaeilge agus Léann an Aistriúcháin - Leaving Certificate Irish. Irish Interview applies and an Irish Written Test is required. Demonstrate knowledge of the degree, evidence of work in a related area and all further education courses completed in a relevant area in your CAO application.



“

I did the Access Foundation Science course in 2020/2021 and it could not have prepared me better for a Health Science degree. I had not done science for my Leaving Cert, so was worried I would find it difficult.

The tutors were incredibly helpful and supportive and although it was hard at times, there was so much help available when I needed it. It got me used to the routine of studying, assignments, and exams. The supplementary modules like academic writing really set me up for success in a full-time course as I could start off on the right foot from day one.

By the time I started my degree, I was already familiar with the University's many resources and so could focus on learning. Meeting other mature students was also helpful as all of us had similar concerns and interests, and so could support each other.

Síafra Conroy
25, *Speech and Language*
Therapy Student



College of Business, Public Policy, and Law

University of Galway has a long history and is internationally recognised for producing high-quality, market-ready graduates in all areas of Business, Public Policy and Law. We offer a wide range of programmes, which are all taught by staff who are at the forefront of original thinking and innovation, ensuring you get the best student experience for your future career.

J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics

GY201 Bachelor of Commerce

Criteria for selection include an assessment of the candidate's ability to benefit from, and to undertake, the programme. Experience and educational background are taken into account. Evidence of Mathematics from the Leaving Cert is required. Interviews are not required. Include a strong statement of intent in your CAO application demonstrating knowledge of the degree, professions, and career plans.

GY202 Bachelor of Commerce (International with French)

Criteria as for GY201. In addition, you must submit evidence of certificates/diplomas obtained studying the French language.

GY203 Bachelor of Commerce (International with German)

Criteria as for GY201. In addition, you must submit evidence of certificates/diplomas obtained studying German.

GY204 Bachelor of Commerce (International with Spanish)

Criteria as for GY201. In addition, a proven aptitude for learning modern languages.

GY206 Bachelor of Science (Business Information Systems)

Criteria as for GY201.

GY207 Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting)

Criteria as for GY201. Candidates should have studied maths to Leaving Certificate standard or equivalent. A good standard of English is an advantage. An aptitude for Accountancy (normally Leaving Certificate or equivalent) is desirable and where possible to have taken exams and modules in an Accountancy Technician course.

GY208 Bachelor of Commerce (Gaeilge)

Criteria as for GY201 and have a H4 in Leaving Certificate Irish.

GY209 Bachelor of Commerce (Global Experience)

Criteria as for GY201.

Shannon College of Hotel Management

GY261 Bachelor of Business Studies (International Hotel Management)

Criteria – Educational Qualification, Work experience and passing an entrance interview. Late applications will be accepted for this programme up until May 1st.

College of Business, Public Policy, and Law *(Continued)*

School of Law

GY250 Bachelor of Law & Business

Accountancy (normally leaving cert standard or equivalent) and Mathematics (normally leaving cert standard or equivalent) are required. In addition, a strong statement of intent is required in the CAO application. A good standard of the English, written and verbal (normally leaving cert standard or equivalent). Students may be required to attend an interview.

GY251 Bachelor of Law (BCL)

A strong statement of intent is required in the CAO application. A good standard of the English, written and verbal (normally leaving cert standard or equivalent). Students may be required to attend an interview.

GY252 Law (BCL) and Human Rights

Criteria for selection include an assessment of the candidate's ability to benefit from, and to undertake, the programme. Experience and educational background are taken into account. Voluntary or work experience in Human Rights issues. Interviews are not required.

GY254 Law (BCL), Criminology and Criminal Justice

A strong statement of intent is required in the CAO application. A good standard of the English, written and verbal (normally leaving cert standard or equivalent). Students may be required to attend an interview.

GY101 Bachelor of Arts (Joint-Honours) in Law

Criteria - Refer to page 24.

GY201 Law in Bachelor of Commerce

Criteria for selection include an assessment of the candidate's ability to benefit from, and to undertake, the programme. Experience and educational background are taken into account. Leaving Cert Mathematics is required or equivalent. Interviews are not required.

Applications

Apply through the CAO before 1 February 2026.

Assessment procedure

Emphasis is placed on the academic criteria listed for each programme and on evidence of recent academic achievements (within the past three years is desirable). Factors which may assist in determining suitability for all courses include Relevant work/life experience Absence of previous opportunity to undertake third-level education Leaving Certificate results and other educational qualifications.

Work/Life experience

A detailed account of this is beneficial to your application. An aptitude for organisation, decision-making, and management is desirable. Commitment to your interests is sought.

Statement of Intent in the CAO

This should explain why you are motivated to pursue a degree in your chosen area of interest and how you see your degree being an asset to your future plans. Any personal interests or business/language related activity would also be of interest.

Find out more:

www.universityofgalway.ie/law/

www.universityofgalway.ie/commerce

www.cao.ie



College of Science and Engineering

At University of Galway you will get a first-class education across all Science and Engineering disciplines, taught by lecturers who are leading experts in their fields, and who will prepare you for an interesting and challenging future in your chosen specialism.

GY401 Undenominated Engineering

GY402 BE (Civil)

GY405 BE (Mechanical)

GY406 BE (Electronic and Computer)

GY408 BE (Biomedical)

GY410 BSc (Project & Construction Management)

GY413 BE (Energy Systems)

GY414 BE (Electrical & Electronic)

GY350 BSc (Computer Science & Information Technology)

GY301 Bachelor of Science

GY303 BSc (Biomedical Science)

GY304 BSc (Biotechnology)

GY308 BSc (Environmental Science)

GY309 BSc (Financial Mathematics and Economics)

GY310 BSc (Marine Science)

GY313 BSc (Environmental Health and Safety)

GY314 BSc (Earth and Ocean Sciences)

GY318 BSc (Biopharmaceutical Chemistry)

GY319 BSc (Mathematical Science)

GY320 BSc (Physics – degree options in Applied, Astrophysics, Biomedical, Theoretical)

GY321 BSc (Genetics and Genomics)

GY322 BSc (Agricultural Sciences)

GY323 Bachelor of Science (Zoology)

College of Science and Engineering *(Continued)*

Engineering Criteria

A minimum of grade C3 Higher Level Maths (H5) is desirable for all Engineering Degrees and Computer Science degrees. Evidence of science studied at Leaving Cert Level or equivalent. IT and Technical Drawing subjects will be considered; therefore, please include statements of Leaving Cert exam. Qualifying Maths Exam may apply in some cases. Interviews are not required.

Science Criteria

Leaving Certificate Maths and Science is required or equivalent from further education. Please include statements of Leaving Cert exam. Interviews are not required. A statement of intent should explain why you are motivated to pursue a degree in your chosen area of interest and how you see your degree being an asset to your future plans. Any personal interests in science would also be of interest.

Applications

Apply through the CAO before 1 February 2026.

Assessment procedure

Emphasis is placed on the academic criteria above and on evidence of recent academic achievements (within the past three years is desirable). Factors which may assist in determining suitability for all courses include relevant work/life experience. Absence of previous opportunity to undertake third-level education Leaving Certificate results and other educational qualifications.

Work/Life experience

A detailed account of this is beneficial to your application. An aptitude for organisation, decision-making, and management is desirable. Commitment to your interests is sought.

Statement of Intent in the CAO

This should explain why you are motivated to pursue a degree in your chosen area of interest and how you see your degree being an asset to your future plans. Any personal interests in engineering, design, medical devices, computing, building etc. would also be of interest.

Find out more:

www.cao.ie

www.universityofgalway.ie/engineering



College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

The College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences comprises of four schools: School of Health Sciences, School of Medicine, School of Nursing & Midwifery and the School of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences. We work to provide programmes that are grounded in clinical expertise and cutting-edge research to best prepare you for a challenging career in the changing healthcare environment.

GY501 Bachelor of Medicine (MB) of Surgery (BCh) and of Obstetrics (BAO)

GY502 BSc (Occupational Therapy)

GY503 BSc (Speech and Language Therapy)

GY504 BSc (Podiatric Medicine)

GY505 MPharm (Pharmacy)

GY515 Bachelor of Nursing Science (General)

GY516 Bachelor of Nursing Science (Mental Health)

GY517 Bachelor of Midwifery Science

Criteria for Medicine

The subject eligibility requirement is a C2/H4 grade in a Leaving Certificate higher level laboratory science subject (i.e. Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics with Chemistry (joint) or Agricultural Science) or equivalent. You need to have achieved this grade in order to be eligible to apply, i.e. you must have achieved this grade by taking the Leaving Certificate examination in the year prior to applying or earlier.

Evidence of English proficiency is required where English is not your first language. All applicants must sit HPAT-Ireland. You need to register for this in advance. Please see the website for closing date details and date of HPAT-Ireland for 2026 <https://hpat-ireland.acer.org/>

Applicants' scores on HPAT-Ireland are used to rank order applicants for a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI). The top performing applicants are called to this interview process. The maximum number of times an applicant can be interviewed is twice. University of Galway is an undergraduate medical school, and the mature entry route is aimed at widening diversity. Applicants who qualify to apply for graduate entry medicine elsewhere (i.e. achieving a second class honours, grade one- 2:1 undergraduate degree) are not eligible to apply to the University of Galway Mature Entry Route. Applicants who have a place in another medical school are not considered eligible to apply for Mature Entry to Medicine at University of Galway.

Uptake of a place in medicine is contingent on meeting the Garda/Police vetting, Occupational health requirements and good standing regulations, as per University of Galway admissions policies and regulations. See website for more details and updates.

Criteria for GY505 Pharmacy

Applicants must present a minimum of six subjects in the Leaving Certificate (or equivalent), including at least two subjects with a minimum grade of H5 and four subjects with a minimum grade of O6/H7. These must include Irish (unless exempt), English, Mathematics (at O6/H7 level), and a Laboratory Science subject—specifically, a minimum grade of H4 in Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Physics with Chemistry (combined)).

All subject and grade requirements must be met in the year prior to application or earlier; that is, applicants must have achieved the necessary results before applying.

In addition to meeting the academic entry requirements, applicants must also satisfy several additional criteria. If English is not the applicant's first language, evidence of English language proficiency must be provided. A Statement of Intent is required and must be submitted as part of the CAO application. Applicant scores - based on eligibility and the assessment of the Statement of Intent - will be used to rank candidates for invitation to the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI). Only the top-ranked applicants will be invited to participate in the MMI, and further information will be provided to those shortlisted. Please note that applicants may be interviewed a maximum of two times.

Acceptance of a place in the Pharmacy programme is conditional upon the successful completion of Garda/Police vetting, meeting all occupational health requirements, and compliance with the University of Galway Admissions Procedures.

College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences *(Continued)*

To register as a Pharmacist, you must hold an MPharm degree, which is awarded after successful completion of Year 5. As this is a postgraduate year, it is not covered by the Free Fees Initiative and carries a course fee of €11,500. The four-year BSc in Pharmacy alone does not meet the educational requirements for registration as a Pharmacist.

Criteria for Pharmacy Technician

Applicants must meet all three of the following criteria: (1) They must present a minimum of six subjects in the Leaving Certificate (or equivalent), including at least two subjects with a grade of H5 and four with a grade of O6/H7. These must include Irish (unless exempt), English, Mathematics (at O6/H7), and a Laboratory Science subject. All subject and grade requirements must be met in the year prior to application or earlier. (2) Applicants must hold a minimum QQI Level 6 Pharmacy Technician qualification. (3) They must also have at least three years of post-qualification experience as a Pharmacy Technician.

In addition to meeting the academic entry requirements, applicants must also satisfy several additional criteria. If English is not the applicant's first language, evidence of English language proficiency must be provided. A Statement of Intent is required and must be submitted as part of the CAO application. This should include a description of your work as a Pharmacy technician. Applicant scores - based on eligibility and the assessment of the Statement of Intent - will be used to rank candidates for invitation to the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI). Only the top-ranked applicants will be invited to participate in the MMI, and further information will be provided to those shortlisted. Please note that applicants may be interviewed a maximum of two times.

Acceptance of a place in the Pharmacy programme is conditional upon the successful completion of Garda/Police vetting, meeting all occupational health requirements, and compliance with the University of Galway Admissions Procedures.

To register as a Pharmacist, you must hold an MPharm degree, which is awarded after successful completion of Year 5. As this is a postgraduate year, it is not covered by the Free Fees Initiative and carries a course fee of €11,500. The four-year BSc in Pharmacy alone does not meet the educational requirements for registration as a Pharmacist.

Criteria for Nursing and Midwifery

An aptitude test is the only requirement considered for Mature Nursing places and is carried out by the NMBI. The score of the test determines places which are highly competitive. A CAO statement of Intent is not required for Nursing. Having applied through the CAO before 1 February 2026, Mature Applicants must go to <https://www.nmbi.ie/Careers-in-Nursing-Midwifery/How-to-apply/Mature-Applicants> and follow all instructions to register for the Nursing Test. Details of test and handbook are generally available in March. Please contact the NMBI directly for details of test and technical issues or support.

Criteria for Health Sciences

A laboratory Science subject to Leaving Certificate higher level or equivalent (i.e. Foundation Science and Engineering programme) is required for consideration to Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Podiatric Medicine. A strong statement of Intent is required in your CAO application.

Assessment procedure:

Evidence of recent academic achievement (no more than three years previously. Examples are Science and Engineering Foundation, an Open University module, a micro-credential module etc). Factors which may assist in determining suitability for all courses include Relevant work/life experience. Absence of previous opportunity to undertake third level education Leaving Certificate results and other educational qualifications.

Work /Life experience

Life experience relevant to the programme (assessed via statement of interest/personal statement. Examples include being an informal carer, personal experience of healthcare etc).

Work experience relevant to the programme (this will include relevant volunteering, working as a carer, working in a nursing home etc)

Applications

Apply through the CAO before 1 February 2026.

Find out more:

www.universityofgalway.ie/medicine/
www.hpat-ireland.acer.org/
www.universityofgalway.ie/nursing/
www.nmbi.ie/Careers-in-Nursing-Midwifery
www.universityofgalway.ie/healthsciences/
www.cao.ie



Financial Information

Returning to full-time education can place a strain on your finances. There are many factors to be considered - rent, utility bills, food, travel and class materials for example. It is important to evaluate whether you can financially afford to pursue a fulltime degree.

Undergraduate Fees

EU undergraduate fees consist of three elements: 1. Tuition Fee (tax exempt) 2. Student contribution charge 3. Student facilities levies (covers cost of registration, examinations and student services).

1. Tuition fee

Under the 'free fees' initiative from the Department of Education and Skills, the state pays the tuition fee for eligible full-time, nonrepeat undergraduate EU students who:

- Are first time undergraduates
- Hold EU nationality or official refugee status
- Have been ordinarily resident in an EU member state for at least three of the five years preceding their entry to an approved full-time course.

If you do not satisfy the above criteria for 'free fees', you may be eligible for 'EU fees'. There are two ways to qualify for EU fees, through nationality or residency:

- **Nationality:** If the student holds EU nationality or official refugee status and where a student has received ALL his/her full-time post-primary education within the EU but has not been resident for three of the five years immediately prior to university entry, the student is eligible for EU fees. Euro nationality can be proved with an EU passport, an original Irish Birth Certificate, an original EU National Identity Card or official Irish refugee status.

- **Residency:** The student's principal residence for the purpose of taxation must have been in an EU member state for at least three of the five years preceding their entry to an approved third-level course. (Prior residence as a fulltime student alone does not qualify a student for EU fee rates)

If you do not qualify for the Free Fees Initiative or a Student Grant, then you may be liable to pay the full tuition fees for your programme of study. For all information in relation to fees and related criteria, please refer to www.universityofgalway.ie/fees

2. Student contribution charge:

The student contribution charge, which will be approximately €3,000 in 2026, is payable by all students. However, students who have applied and are successful in their application for a higher education grant or scholarship will have this student contribution charge paid on their behalf by the scholarship provider or higher education grant authority.

3. Student facilities levies:

This is payable by all students and will be circa €140 in 2026. Further information may be obtained from the Fees Office

Find Out More

| www.universityofgalway.ie/fees



Funding options

- SUSI Student Grants
- Back to Education Allowance (BTEA) (Department of Social Protection)

SUSI Student Grants

Student Grants are applied for online and are administered centrally through SUSI. If you are eligible, it may cover all or part of your fees and assist you with maintenance payments to contribute to living expenses while you study. The residency requirement in the State for grant eligibility is three out of the past five years for new applicants, be a holder of an EU passport and have official refugee status. The duration of the break in studies required for re-entry as an independently assessed mature student is three years.

BTEA: Typically, a claimant would have to be in receipt of social welfare payments for nine consecutive months or more prior to returning to college, but there can be exceptions to this rule, usually in cases involving statutory redundancy. To see if you qualify for BTEA check www.mywelfare.ie Students in receipt of the BTEA are not eligible for the maintenance portion of the Student Grant. Such students should still apply for a grant to pay their registration fees (and in some cases, their tuition fees).

Social Welfare Payments for part-time students

It is possible for mature students who are unemployed to attend part-time programmes at University of Galway and retain their Jobseeker's Benefit (JB) or Jobseeker's Allowance (JA) and associated secondary benefits such as Rent Allowance.

Find Out More:

Department of Social Protection Contacts:

Unemployment Payments/BTEA:
T: 0818 607080

Pension/Invalidity/Disability Payments:
T: 0818 928400

One-parent Family Payment:
T: 0818 07 4000

www.susi.ie

www.mywelfare.ie

Scholarships and Bursaries

For a list of additional scholarships and bursaries that you can apply for and will not impact upon SUSI funding or BTEA please see page 12 of this guide. Know when you need to apply. In some cases, applications are made before your degree starts.

Frequently Asked Questions

When do you apply?

The deadline for all CAO applications is the 1st of February 2026. The CAO office must have received your application and all supporting documentation by this date. Online applications are recommended for admission to University of Galway's undergraduate programmes. Using a single CAO application, you may choose from the entire range of courses listed in this guide. You may apply for up to 10 courses in the Level 8 category and 10 courses in the Level 7 category. Please note that all undergraduate degrees taught at University of Galway are Level 8 degrees.

For more information:

Central Applications Office Tower House,
Eglinton Street, Galway City, Ireland.

T: +353 (0)91 509 800

E: info@cao.ie **W:** www.cao.ie

What full-time degree programmes can I apply for?

All of University of Galway's degrees are open to mature students.

What happens if my application is unsuccessful, and I am not accepted for July 2026 entry?

If you are a mature student who has applied for Science/Engineering/ Technology/Health Sciences or Business/Arts or Law and have been unsuccessful, an email will be sent to you advising you to apply for the relevant Diploma in Foundation Studies Course in order to meet the criteria for 2026 entry. This email will be sent in late July.

How are applications assessed?

All applications are considered on the grounds of mature numbers that are received by the CAO closing date, 1 February. These applications are processed by the CAO office and forwarded to University of Galway. University of Galway does not accept direct applications to the University itself. The University will review each application, seeking evidence of your academic ability as well as your interest in and aptitude for the programme for which you have applied. Refer to each college entry in this guide to see the criteria required for each programme.

What happens if I am successful and accept a place at University of Galway?

Registration: late August to late September.
Registration details will be provided via email to all students after the Leaving Certificate results are released.

Mature Students' Return to Learning Programme will run in late August. You will receive all information on the Return to Learning programme by email in July 2026.

Main Campus Student Orientation occurs generally the first week in September.

Where can I get a copy of my Leaving Certificate?

You can request a certified statement of your results from the State Examinations Commission (€14.50) at the following address:

Statements Section, State Examinations Commission, Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co Westmeath.

E: FOI@examinations.ie
W: www.examinations.ie



If you completed school leaving exams outside Ireland, you should also include a copy of your results and a certified English translation of the transcript where applicable. If you sat the Leaving Certificate between 1985 and 2024, you must supply your Leaving Certificate number for some degrees and the year the exam was taken in your CAO application. If you completed the Leaving Certificate prior to 1985, please enclose the official results.

Can I make a late application to University of Galway after 1 February?

It is not possible to apply on the grounds of mature years after 1 February. However, you may make a late application based on Leaving Certificate results only, up to 1 May. Refer to the Leaving Certificate Points at www.universityofgalway.ie/cao/ and see the Undergraduate Prospectus for Matriculation Subject Requirements.

Can I use the change of mind option for University of Galway's programmes?

The change of mind option does not apply to mature students applying through the CAO for University of Galway. 1 February 2026 is the closing date for mature student applications.

Once you have submitted your CAO application, a statement of your choices will be sent to you in early February. Only at this point may you add new choices to or delete choices from your application, if desired. Once you resubmit your confirmation of choices, you can only reorder existing choices up until offers are made in early July. This means you should put your most preferred choice of course at the top of the list, then your second choice, and so on. In accordance with CAO procedures, applicants will only be offered their highest successful preference so it is important that you fill out your CAO choices in order of genuine preference.

When will I know if my application has been successful?

If you are offered a place at University of Galway you will receive official notification of this from the CAO, usually in early July. The date by which you must accept your offer will be clearly stated on the CAO notification. If CAO applicants do not accept their offer by the stated date, then the place is recalled to be offered to another applicant (2nd round offers). It is essential that you are aware of the date for accepting your offer. You may accept your offer online (www.cao.ie) in the event that you are away from your address.

Your responsibility... If you change your address any time between February and the end of June you need to update to the correct address.

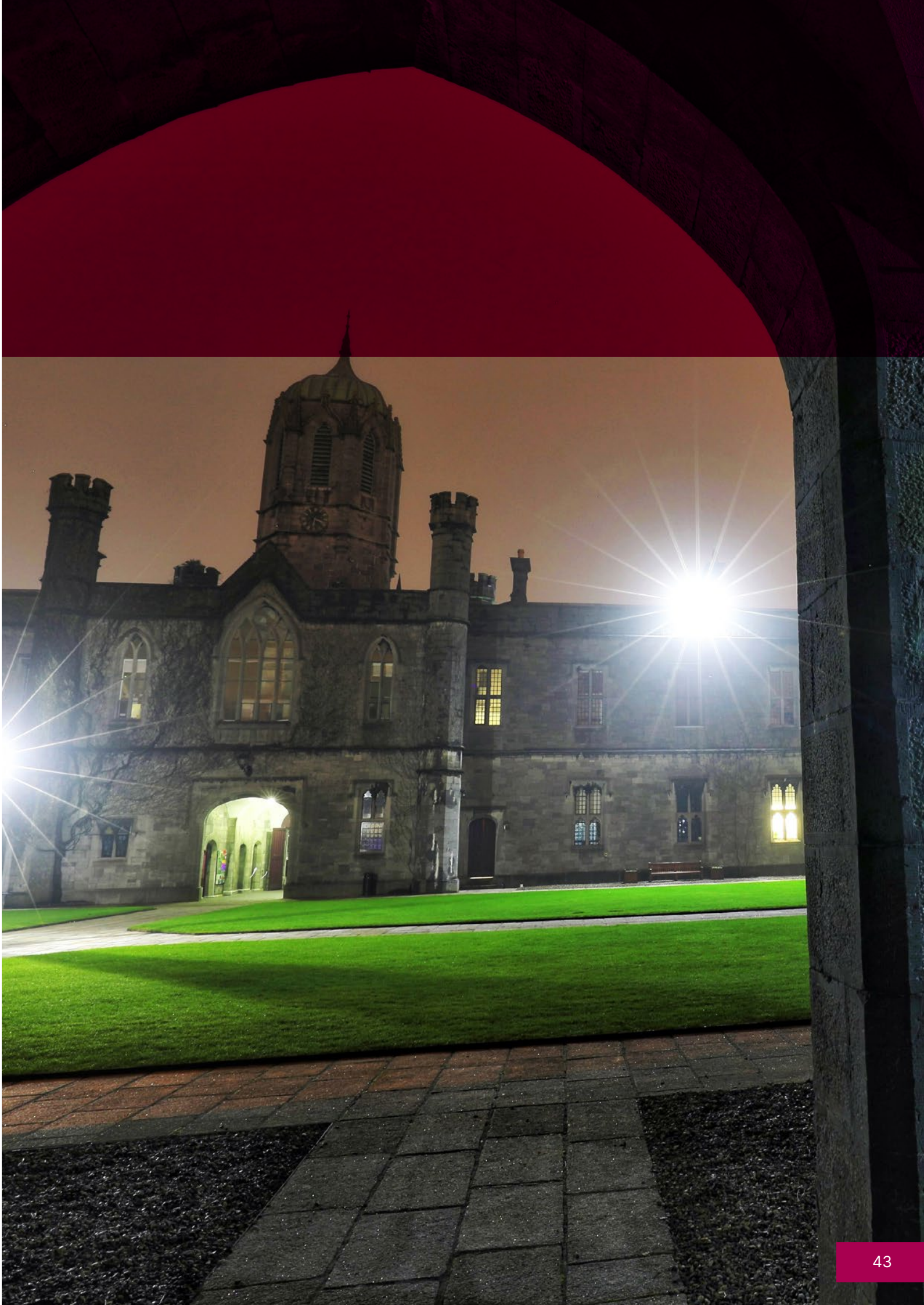
Points Converter

Leaving Certificate Points Converter Pre-2017

Current (Pre-2017) Leaving Certificate Grading Scale	New Leaving Certificate Grading Scale	New Points at Higher Level	New Points at Ordinary Level
A1	H1 / O1	100	56
A2	H2 / O2	88	46
B1			
B2	H3 / O3	77	37
B3			
C1	H4 / O4	66	28
C2			
C3	H5 / O5	56	20
D1			
D2	H6 / O6	46	12
D3			
E		33	0

Leaving Certificate Points Converter Pre-1992

Pre-1992 LC Grade	New Grades	Current Points Awarded at Higher Level	Current Points Awarded at Ordinary Level	New LC Grade Equivalent	New Points Awarded at Higher Level	New Points Awarded at Ordinary Level
A	85 - 100	95	55	H1 / O1	100	56
B	70 < 85	80	40	H3 / O3	77	37
C	55 < 70	65	25	H4 / O4	66	28
D	40 < 55	50	10	H6 / O6	46	12
E	25 < 40	0	0		33	0
F	10 < 25					
NG	< 10					



Important *Dates* for Mature Applications

Useful Contacts

October 2025

University of Galway's Open Days
3 and 4 October 2025

November 2025

CAO online application facility opens.
HPAT registration opens
Early November 2025

January 2026

Mature Students Public Information Evening
15 January 2026 (See website for updates)

CAO online discounted application fee ends this date.
20 January 2026, 5pm

February 2026

Normal closing date for applications
1 February, 5pm

Online facility to amend course choices becomes available.
5 February

HPAT test date
Exact Date TBC

March 2026

Closing date for amending course choices
1 March 2026, 5pm

Latest date for HEAR/DARE supporting documentation to arrive in CAO. Applicable only to Leaving Certificate Students.
15 March 2026

University of Galway's
Spring Open Day
<http://www.universityofgalway.ie/opensdays/>

July 2026

Round A offers for Mature
Early July 2026

August 2026

Round 00 offers for certain nonstandard categories of applicant, including QQI FETAC applicants.
Early August 2026

Return to Learning Programme
Late August

September 2026

HEIs begin registration and orientation
Early September

Exam	HPAT (for medicine applicants)
Apply	See hpat-ireland.acer.org/
Late applications	See hpat-ireland.acer.org/
Test day	TBC

While some staff may continue to work remotely, please email to make an appointment and check our website for the latest guidelines around in-person meetings.

Mature Students

University of Galway
Access Centre Áras Uí Chathail
www.universityofgalway.ie/mature
maturestudents@universityofgalway.ie

Access Programmes

University of Galway Access Centre
www.universityofgalway.ie/access
access@universityofgalway.ie

Disability Support Service

University of Galway Access Centre
www.universityofgalway.ie/disability
disabilityservice@universityofgalway.ie

Traveller Education Officer

University of Galway Access Centre Áras Uí Chathail access@universityofgalway.ie

Adult Learning and Professional Development

Nuns' Island, University of Galway
T + 353 91 494 066
adultlearning@universityofgalway.ie

Main University of Galway Switchboard

T +353 91 524 411 F +353 91 494521
www.universityofgalway.ie

Student Registry Helpdesk (General Student Enquiries)

Áras Uí Chathail University of Galway
T +353 91 495 999
<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-registry-helpdesk/>
askregistry@universityofgalway.ie

Admissions Office – Undergraduate (EU Applicants)

Áras Uí Chathail University of Galway
T +353 91 492 401 T +353 91 494 024
T +353 91 493 878
www.universityofgalway.ie/admissions
admissions@universityofgalway.ie

Fees Office

Áras Uí Chathail University of Galway
T +353 91 492 386 F +353 91 495 553
fees@universityofgalway.ie

Accommodation and Welfare Office

Áras Uí Chathail University of Galway
T +353 91 492 760/493540
accommodation@universityofgalway.ie

Financial Aid Fund

www.universityofgalway.ie/financialaidfund/
financialaid@universityofgalway.ie

International Affairs Office – (Non-EU Applicants) University of Galway

T +353 91 495 277
www.universityofgalway.ie/international
international@universityofgalway.ie

Sports Scholarships University of Galway

T +353 91 493 475
www.universityofgalway.ie/sports
Sports@universityofgalway.ie

For all other entrance scholarships, contact the Admissions Office at www.universityofgalway.ie/admissions/scholarships

Access Centre Áras Uí Chathail University of Galway www.universityofgalway.ie/accesscentre

The University of Galway Access Centre provides support for students participating on access programmes, students with disabilities and mature students.

An aerial photograph of the University of Galway's main building, a large stone structure with a central tower and multiple wings. The building is surrounded by a large, paved courtyard with several green lawns. The image is split vertically: the left half is in color, and the right half is in a dark red monochrome. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Other useful contacts

Other useful contacts

National University of Ireland (NUI)

49 Merrion Square Dublin 2

T +353 1 439 2424

www.nui.ie

Central Applications Office (CAO)

Tower House Eglinton Street Galway

T +353 91 509 800

www.cao.ie

info@cao.ie

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