



Cumas – Certificate in Foundational Learning and Community






STUDENT INFORMATION LETTER

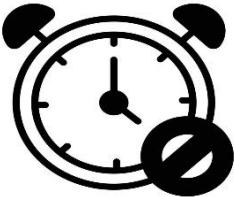


This letter provides detailed information on the Cumas programme at the University of Galway. This information will help you to decide whether the programme is a good choice for you. It also tells you about how to apply for the programme.

Sections:



1. What is attending University of Galway like?.....2
2. What does it mean to be a University of Galway student?.....3
3. What is the application process for Cumas?.....4
4. What is the Cumas Level 5 Certificate in Foundational Learning and Community?.....5
5. What planning is needed if you are offered a place on the Cumas programme?.....8
6. What are the next steps?.....9

1. What is attending University of Galway like?

	<p>Attending the University of Galway will give you the chance to experience what it is like to be a student in third-level education.</p>
	<p>It will challenge you to make choices about your learning and your future.</p>
	<p>You will have fun and new experiences.</p>
	<p>You will meet lots of new people and lecturers.</p>
 <p>Clubs and Societies</p>	<p>You can join Clubs and Societies in the University of Galway. You will become a member of the Cumas Society.</p>
	<p>It may or may not be the right time for you to attend college. Also, not everyone who applies will get a place on the Cumas programme.</p>



	<p>You need to think carefully about this: is college where I want to be? Attending University of Galway is a commitment of three days a week.</p>
	<p>By attending college, you have to go to your classes, do the work and be responsible for yourself.</p>
	<p>We have a lot of support for students on the Cumas programme: programme lecturers; two educational assistants to help with the project work; and an occupational therapist (OT).</p>


2. What does it mean to be a University of Galway student?

	<p>University of Galway students have a contract. The contract is between the student and the University of Galway</p> <p>Students are adults over 18 years of age.</p> <p>Communication about the programme will also be sent to supporters of the students.</p>
	<p>It is VERY IMPORTANT that all University of Galway students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know about and understand the Student Code of Conduct; • Agree to follow the Student Code of Conduct.

3. What is the application process for Cumas?

	<p>1. Take the time to read and understand all the information on the Cumas Programme. More</p>
--	---





	<p>information on Cumas can be found here: https://www.universityofgalway.ie/access/cumas/</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Complete the application form. 3. The Cumas Team will go through the application. 4. If you are selected, you will be called to an interview.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. IF you are called to an interview, you will meet at least 3 members of the Cumas programme team. The interview is a chat to help us understand why you applied. You may meet other staff too. 6. After the interview, we will let you know if you will be offered a place on the Cumas programme. 7. IF you are offered a place, you will be invited to attend the programme. The programme will begin in early September.

 **Important Note:** Not everyone who applies for the programme will be successful. This is because it may not be the right time for you to go to college.

4. What is the Cumas Level 5¹ Certificate in Foundational


¹ Level 5 programmes are programmes that represent the transition between general education and third-level education. As described by the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), Level 5 programmes, “enable learners to develop a broad range of skills, which are vocationally specific, and require a general theoretical understanding” (www.qqi.ie).


Learning and Community?

	<p>Cummas is a three-day-per-week programme. It runs over two academic years.</p> <p>The aim of the programme is to help students to develop their academic and learning skills, social engagement skills, and employment skills.</p>
	<p>In each academic year, the first term runs from September to December. The second term runs from January to April.</p>
	<p>Educational qualifications at Level 2 or above are required for entry to the programme². Examples include: Junior Cycle Level 2 Learning Programme; a 30-credit FET programme etc.</p> <p>This is to make sure you are ready for the academic skills part of the programme.</p> <p>We will be asking you to include a copy of your educational certificates as part of your application.</p>
	<p>Modules are the subjects that must be completed to graduate from the University of Galway. The types of modules on the programme are:</p>


² Level 2 programmes are programmes that are “designed to meet the needs of learners, both young and old, including those with intellectual and other disabilities, adults returning to


training, and learners with few or no previous qualifications, including those within the workforce" (www.qqi.ie).


	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cumas learning modules: students on the Cumas programme learn together as a group. These modules are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to college. - Skills for learning and academic success. - Skills for engagement and society. - Skills for career development. 2. Co-learning modules: Cumas students learn together with other students about subjects that are of interest to them. 3. There are no formal exams. Assessment is through flexible assignments that match students' learning strengths and needs.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Work placement: in the final semester, Cumas students have one day of work experience based on their interests and strengths. Both the student and the work placement provider will be supported by the Cumas team.

	<p>Students are expected to engage fully and attend all three days of the programme. Co-Learning and Work placement may be on different days.</p>


	Students are expected to complete all the college assignments.
--	--


	There are 2 Learning Support staff who help students with learning in the Cumas classroom.
---	--

	Support is also provided by Cairde, meaning “friends” in Irish. These are other students who you will meet in the co-learning modules.
---	--

	Students who complete all the work on the programme will graduate with a Level 5 Certificate in Foundational Learning and Community.
---	--

5. What planning is needed if you are offered a place on the Cumas programme?

	<p>If you are offered a place at University of Galway on the Cumas Programme, you need to think about what this will look like for you.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have a job, you will have to work around the days you are in college.
---	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you attend day services, you will need to plan for this.
	<p>As a student, you may have to learn new bus routes or how to use public transport like the train and/or bus.</p> <p>You need to do some planning. How will you get yourself ready to be in college on time every day?</p> <p>You will attend college on Monday Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 am-3 pm.</p>

6. What are the next steps?

	<p>If you think this programme is right for you:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the application form. You can have help with this from a supporter or using assistive technology. 2. Include a copy of your educational certificates.
--	---



3. If you don't have access to your certificates, you can arrange to chat with a member of our programme team.



Thank you for thinking about joining us on the Cumas programme at the University of Galway.

Good luck with your application!

This form is designed under the mentorship of ID+ Futures UCC