OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Alternative Pathways to University

Quick Guide 2026

The following is a quick guide to the alternative pathways to full-time undergraduate programmes at University of Galway. It includes entry criteria for Mature and FET students, as well as information on our pre-University Diploma in Foundation Studies programmes. This guide does not include information on the HEAR (Higher Education Access Route) or DARE (Disability Access Route to Education) schemes. For more information visit:

https://www.universityofgalway.ie/access/entryroutes/

https://accesscollege.ie/hear/

https://accesscollege.ie/dare/what-is-dare/

Quick Guide for Mature Students

To qualify as a mature student for entry to a full-time undergraduate programme, you must: 1) be at least **23 years of age** on or before 1 January in the year of entry and; 2) have lived in an **EU/EEA Member State** for three of the last five years. All applications must be submitted to the CAO before the closing date of **February 1st** with an accompanying Statement of Intent.

Course Code	Course Name	Places Available	Eligibility Criteria
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.

* = indicative No.

Course Code	Course Name	Places Available	Eligibility Criteria
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.
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 work experience in a health care area 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.
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)	6	Nursing Careers Exam.
GY516	Bachelor of Mental Health Nursing	3	Nursing Careers Exam.
GY517	Bachelor of Midwifery Science	1	Nursing Careers Exam.

Quick Guide for FET/QQI/PLC Students

Applicants must achieve a minimum of 5 distinctions (80% or above) in a recognised FET award to be eligible to apply. Where specific distinctions are required, these count towards the minimum of 5 distinctions, unless stated otherwise. Any additional requirements are outlined below.

Course Code	Course Name	Places Available	Eligible Courses
GY101	Bachelor of Arts (Joint-Honours)	30	5M0529, 5M2009, 5M2067, 5M2069, 5M2073/ELESX, 5M2102/BBSXX, 5M2154/ECHSX, 5M2181/EASSX, 5M2464, 5M2468/BBSAX, 5M2786, 5M3114/ELAXX, 5M3635, 5M3789, 5M4468/DCHSX, 5M4732, 5M5011, 5M5163, 5M21473, 6M0691, 6M2007, 6M3674, 6M4985, 6M5013, 6M5014/BITSX, 6M21471, EMMWD.
GY104	Bachelor of Science (Psychology)	1	5M2181, 5M3114, 5M3635, 5M4468 (**All eligible awards must include a distinction in 5N0754**).
GY105	Bachelor of Arts (History)	1	5M2073, 5M2154, 5M2181, 5M2464, 5M3114, 5M3635, 5M5011.
GY109	Bachelor of Arts (Mathematics and Education)	3	5M0529, 5M0536, 5M2009, 5M2181, 5M3114, 5M3635, 5M21473, 6M0695, 6M2007, 6M21471, CELTX, CITXX (**All eligible awards must include a distinction in 5N18396 or 5N1833/C20139 or H5/O1 in Leaving Certificate Mathematics**).
GY110	Bachelor of Arts Children's Studies (AWC/ACS)	6	5M2009, 5M2073, 5M21473, 5M2154, 5M2181, 5M2464, 5M2786, 5M3114, 5M3635, 5M4468, 5M4732, 6M2007, 6M21471, 6M4985, 6M5013.
GY111	Bachelor of Arts (English and Creative Writing)	1	5M2073, 5M2181, 5M2154, 5M2464, 5M3114, 5M3635, 5M5048, EMMWD
GY113	Bachelor of Arts with Human Rights	5	5M2067, 5M2069, 5M2073, 5M2102, 5M2181, 5M2468, 5M2464, 5M3789, 5M4468, 6M3674, 6M4985, 6M5013.
GY118	Bachelor of Arts (Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies)	2	5M2181, 5M2464, 5M3114, 5M5151, 5M5163, 6M3566.
GY119	Bachelor of Arts (Journalism)	7	5M0529, 5M18518, 5M18519, 5M2009, 5M2067, 5M2069, 5M2073, 5M2102, 5M2146, 5M21473, 5M2149, 5M2154, 5M2181, 5M2464, 5M2468, 5M2786, 5M3114, 5M3789, 5M4468, 5M5011, 5M5048, 5M5163, 6M0691, 6M2007, 6M21471, 6M3674, 6M4985, 6M5013, 6M5014, 6M18534, CITXX, EMMWD.
GY122	BA (Cumarsáid agus Gaeilge)	2	5M2073, 5M2154, 5M2464, 5M3635, EMMWD. (**All eligible awards must include a H5 in Leaving Certificate Irish or a distinction in 5N1631/6N2398, and must satisfy the Course Director as to their competence in Irish.**)
GY123	Bachelor of Science (Social Sciences)	5	5M2009, 5M2102, 5M21473, 5M2181/EASSX, 5M2154, 5M2464, 5M2786, 5M3114, 5M4732, 5M5011, 6M4985.
GY127	Bachelor of Arts (Film and Digital Media)	2	5M18519, 5M2069, 5M2073, 5M2102, 5M2154, 5M2181, 5M2464, 5M3114, 5M5048, 6M0691, 6M18534, 6M2007, 6M21471, 6M4985, 6M5013, EMMWD.
GY128	Bachelor of Arts (Global Languages)	2	5M2073
GY129	Bachelor of Arts (Global Experience)	2	5M2073, 5M2154, 5M2181, 5M2464, 5M3114, 6M3674.
GY130	Bachelor of Arts (Music)	2	5M2011, 5M20599, 5M2149, 6M20602
GY132	Bachelor of Arts Government (Politics, Economics and Law)	2	5M2067, 5M2069, 5M2102, 5M2154, 5M2181, 5M2464, 5M3114, 5M3789, 6M4985.
GY133	Bachelor of Arts Education (Computer Science and Mathematical Studies)	2	5M0529, 5M0536, 5M2009, 5M21473, 5M2181, 5M3114, 5M3635, 6M0695, 6M2007, 6M21471, CELTX, CITXX. (**All eligible awards must include a distinction in 5N1833/C20139, or 5N18396, or 02/H6 Leaving Certificate Maths.**)
GY134	Bachelor of Science (Geography and Geosystems)	2	Same criteria as GY301. See below.
GY135	Bachelor of Arts (Global Media)	10	5M0529, 5M18518, 5M18519, 5M2009, 5M2067, 5M2069, 5M2073, 5M2102, 5M2146, 5M21473, 5M2149, 5M2154, 5M2181, 5M2464, 5M2468, 5M2786, 5M3114, 5M3635, 5M3789, 5M4468, 5M5011, 5M5048, 5M5163, 6M0691, 6M18534, 6M2007, 6M21471, 6M3674, 6M4985, 6M5013, 6M5014, CITXX, EMMWD.
GY136	Bachelor of Arts (Gaeilge agus Léann an Aistriúcháin)	2	5M2073, 5M2154, 5M2181, 5M2464, 5M3114, 5M3635. (**All eligible awards must include a distinction in 5N1631/6N2398, and must satisfy the Course Director as to their competence in Irish.**)
GY137	Bachelor of Arts (Child, Youth and Family: Policy and Practice)	15	5M2009, 5M2073, 5M21473, 5M2154, 5M2181, 5M2464, 5M2786, 5M3114, 5M3635, 5M4732, 6M2007, 6M4985, 6M5013.
GY201	Bachelor of Commerce	20	5M0828, 5M1997, 5M2067, 5M2069, 5M2102, 5M2111, 5M2468, 5M5165, 6M2115, 6M3618, 6M4385, 6M4587, 6M4985, 6M5013. (**All eligible awards must include a pass in 5N1833/C20139, or O6 Leaving Certificate Maths.**)
GY206	Bachelor of Science (Business Information Systems)	5	5M0529, 5M0536, 5M0828, 5M1997, 5M2067, 5M2069, 5M2102, 5M2111, 5M2468, 5M5165, 6M0691, 6M0695, 6M2115, 6M3618, 6M4385, 6M4587, 6M4985, 6M5013, CITXX. (**All eligible awards must include a pass in 5N1833/C20139, or O6 in Leaving Certificate Maths.**)

Please note: the Access Programme is not included in these tables. This programme provides school leavers and mature students from underrepresented groups with a Foundation Diploma, offering a pathway into higher education. For full details and to apply, visit www.universityofgalway.ie/access or scan the QR code.

Course Code	Course Name	Places Available	Eligible Courses
GY209	Bachelor of Commerce (Global Experience)	2	5M0828, 5M1997, 5M2067, 5M2069, 5M2102, 5M2111, 5M2468, 5M5165, 6M2115, 6M3618, 6M4385, 6M4587, 6M4985, 6M5013. **(All eligible awards must include a pass in 5N1833/C20139, or O6 Leaving Certificate Maths.)**
GY250	Law and Business	5	5M0828, 5M1997, 5M2067, 5M2069, 5M2102, 5M2111, 5M2181, 5M2468, 5M3789, 5M5165, 6M2115, 6M3618, 6M4385, 6M4587, 6M4985, 6M5013. **(All eligible awards must include a pass in 5N1833/C20139, or O6 in Leaving Certificate Maths.)**
GY251	Law (BCL)	5	5M1997, 5M2073, 5M2102, 5M2181, 5M3050, 5M3789, 5M5165, 6M2115, 6M2218, 6M3115, 6M3618, 6M3674, 6M4385, 6M4587, 6M4985, 6M5013
GY252	Law and Human Rights	1	5M0828, 5M1997, 5M2067, 5M2069, 5M2073, 5M2102, 5M2111, 5M2181, 5M2468, 5M2786, 5M3050, 5M3789, 5M5165, 6M2115, 6M2218, 6M3115, 6M3618, 6M3674, 6M4385, 6M4587, 6M4985, 6M5013.
GY254	Law, Criminology and Criminal Justice	1	5M1997, 5M2102, 5M2181, 5M2786, 5M3050, 5M3789, 5M5165, 6M2218, 6M3115, 6M3618, 6M3674, 6M4587, 6M5013.
GY261	Bachelor of Business Studies (International Hotel Management – Shannon College)	3	5 distinctions in any QQI/FET Level 5 or Level 6 Major Award. All eligible awards must include a pass in 5N1833/C20139 Mathematics or Grade O6 in Mathematics Leaving Certificate Ordinary Level.
GY301	Bachelor of Science	30	5M3807/CASLT, CELTX, CITXX, 5M0529, 5M0536, 5M5267 **Distinction in: C20139** or **5N1833** or **C20174** or **C20175** or **5N18396** or **5N0556** and 3 distinctions from the following: **C20006** or **5N2746, C20011** or **5N2747, C20012, C20013, C20016** or **5N1606, C20018** or **5N1774, C20033** or **5N2751, C20040** or **5N1638, C20048** or **5N1460, B20012** or **5N0783** or **B20028** or **5N1977, 5N0541, 5N0548, 5N0583, 5N0690, 5N0737, 5N1460, 5N2006, 5N2746, 5N2747, 5N2748, 5N2751, 5N2772, 5N2927, 5N2928, 5N2929**
GY303	Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science)	4	
GY304	Bachelor of Science (Biotechnology)	4	
GY308	Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science)	4	
GY309	Bachelor of Science (Financial Maths and Economics)	4	
GY310	Bachelor of Science (Marine Science)	4	
GY313	Bachelor of Science (Occupational Health and Safety Management)	4	
GY314	Bachelor of Science (Earth and Ocean Sciences)	4	
GY318	Bachelor of Science (Biopharmaceutical Chemistry)	4	
GY319	Bachelor of Science (Mathematical Science)	4	
GY320	Bachelor of Science (Physics)	4	
GY321	Bachelor of Science (Genetics and Genomics)	4	
GY322	Bachelor of Science (Agricultural Science)	4	
GY323	Bachelor of Science (Zoology)	4	
GY350	Bachelor of Science (Computer Science and Information Technology)	4	5M0536, CITXX, 6M0695, 5M0529, 6M0691 **(All eligible awards must include a distinction in one of the following 5N1833 or 5N0556 or 5N18396 or C20139 or C20174 or C20175)**
GY402	Bachelor and Master of Engineering (Civil)	4	5M3807, 5M2061, 5M5010. **(All eligible awards must include a distinction in one of the following 5N1833 or 5N0556 or 5N18396 or C20139 or C20174 or C20175)**
GY405	Bachelor and Master of Engineering (Mechanical)	4	
GY406	Bachelor and Master of Engineering (Electronic and Computer)	4	
GY408	Bachelor and Master of Engineering (Biomedical)	4	
GY410	Bachelor of Science (Project and Construction Management)	4	
GY413	Bachelor and Master of Engineering (Energy Systems)	4	
GY414	Bachelor and Master of Engineering (Electrical and Electronic)	4	
GY515	Bachelor of Nursing Science (General)	2*	5M3782, 5M4339/DHSXX, 5M4349/DCHSN, 5M4468/DCHSX. **(All eligible awards must include distinctions in D20001/5N0749 and D20012/5N4325 and 20032/5N1279 or C20006/5N2746)**
GY516	Bachelor of Mental Health Nursing	2*	
GY517	Bachelor of Midwifery Science	1*	

* = indicative No.

Explore Your Pathway to University

If you do not satisfy the FET and Mature eligibility criteria on previous pages, you may be eligible to apply to university on the basis of a diploma in Foundation Studies Award.

Simply scan the QR code or access the link to find out more and book a call with one of our advisors.

Access Programme - School Leavers

The Access Programme gives school leavers a head start on university life.

You'll gain the required qualifications, build academic and study skills, explore subjects in Humanities, Business, or Science which will enable you to progress to full-time university study.

Why choose this programme?

- Kickstart your university journey with tailored guidance.
- Develop practical study skills and academic confidence.
- Explore subjects before choosing your degree path.

Find out more and book a consultation using the contact info below or the QR Code.

access@universityofgalway.ie
(091)493553

Access Programme - Mature Students

The Mature Student Access Programme empowers adult learners to return to education and achieve their goals. You'll receive the requisite qualifications to build your skills, knowledge and confidence to progress to full-time university study.

Why choose this programme?

- Introduction to university subjects.
- Gain practical skills and guidance to succeed at university.
- Build confidence and prepare for academic study in a supportive environment.

Find out more and book an consultation using the contact info below or the QR Code.

access@universityofgalway.ie
(091)493553

Part-time Foundation Courses

Why choose this part-time programme?

Part-time Foundation Courses provide a flexible pathway into undergraduate programmes at University of Galway. You'll gain subject knowledge, core academic skills, and hands-on learning to progress to full-time university study.

- Strengthen your knowledge in the subjects you are passionate about.
- Develop essential academic and practical skills for university.
- Access guidance and support every step of the way to ensure success.

Find out more and book an consultation using the contact info below or the QR Code.

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Quick Guide 2026

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