

# France

## What qualifications are accepted?

- Diplôme du Baccalauréat Général
- Option Internationale du Baccalauréat

## What is the minimum I need?

The minimum eligibility criteria follow. Proof of English proficiency is required in all cases. The minimum standard may be higher in individual HEIs and/or for individual courses. There may also be specific subject requirements for courses. Admission to most courses is competitive and for these courses a standard in excess of the minimum is required.

Level	Irish matric type	French requirements
Level 8	2 H5 required	Overall 10 with a minimum of 6 distinct recognised subjects passed
	3 H5 required	Overall 10 with a minimum of 6 distinct recognised subjects passed
Level 7/6		Overall 10 with a minimum of 5 distinct recognised subjects passed

## What grade counts as a pass for purposes of admission to HEIs?

10. (scale 0-20 where 20 is best). Where there is a specific subject mark requirement, that subject must have a coefficient of at least 3 in the particular *option* taken.

## What level of English do I need?

The minimum level of English is 12 coefficient > 5 and 14 otherwise in the baccalaureate examination or equivalent English Language competence (see page 6). Note applicants whose school-leaving examinations are more than two years old must present additional proof of English.

## How do I meet the specific subject requirements?

To compare the subject requirements in terms of Irish Leaving Certificate as specified on the HEI's website, use the following table:

LC Higher	Coefficient ≤4	Coefficient ≥ 5	LC Ordinary	Coefficient ≤4	Coefficient ≥5
H1	18	16	O1	14	12
H2	17	15	O2	13	11
H3	16	14	O3	13	11
H4	15	13	O4	12	10
H5	14	12	O5	12	10
H6	13	11	O6	12	10
H7	12	10			

The subject Physics with Chemistry may meet a Chemistry requirement as follows:

- H4 – score of 16+ with coefficient of 5+
- H5 – score of 15+ with coefficient of 5+

**NB the table above is NOT used points conversion, only for entry requirement equivalence. For points conversion see Table 2.**

**October 2020.** This document is for 2021 entry. The matriculation and English language requirements are the minimum and will be higher for certain courses and in certain institutions. Applicants must also refer to HEI websites for details of specific subject requirements and previous points requirements.

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## Agreed Entry Requirements for EU/EFTA

### How do I work out my points score?

The indicative equivalence will be calculated based on the overall average as calculated on the Baccalaureate provided repeat sittings are not included

<b>Moyenne sur 20</b>	<b>IPS</b>
20	600
19	580
18	559
17	539
16	518
15	490
14	462
13	430
12	397
11	349
10	300

#### Single Sitting:

It is normal for some subjects to be examined in the year prior to the final examination. This is acceptable for points calculation purposes provided the examined subjects cover only 2 consecutive years.

#### Bonus points for mathematics

25 additional points will be awarded for Mathematics grade 11 or better with a minimum coefficient of 5 provided mathematics is included in the overall awarded used for points calculation

### What documents do I need to send?

You must send a copy of your official baccalaureate results accompanied by a translation. All documents must be sent to CAO and include your CAO application number.

### Are any other qualifications accepted for Level 6/7 courses?

The following qualifications may be recognised for admission to Level 6/7 courses in related areas only. They will be scored to a maximum of 390 points:

- Brevet de Technicien
- Brevet Professionnel
- Diplôme du Baccalauréat Professionnel
- Diplôme du Baccalauréat Technologique

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## **Important Note**

**Please note this document refers to 2021 only. It is revised annually. For future years, it will, therefore, act as a guideline only.** Adjustments to the scoring may be required where changes occur in educational systems, or in trends in grades awarded, in any of the countries described in the document.

If such changes are necessary for 2021, they will be highlighted on this page, with the date at which they are incorporated into the document.

<b>Country</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Date of change</b>	<b>Effective from</b>
A-level	Update to NUI list of recognised subjects	4 January 2021	2021 entry
Poland	Suspension of oral requirement for 2021	21 January 2021	2021 entry ONLY
European Baccalaureate	Change in minimum matriculation requirement to award of diploma	12 February 2021	2021 entry
English language requirements	Acceptance of IELTS indicator and TOEFL Home Edition	25 February 2021	2021 entry ONLY
Norway	Correction to matriculation requirements	26 May 2021	2021 entry

### **Note for 2021 applicants**

In cases where 2021 examinations are cancelled or the mode of assessment is changed due to the current pandemic we will continue to accept the results if they are formally issued by the examining body (and the examination is one which we normally recognise), in accordance with the timelines for 2021 admissions.

However, we will keep the situation under review and if there is a significant difference in relative grade distribution between an EU examination and the 2021 Leaving Certificate results, we reserve the right to implement a Numerus Clausus (see [page 12](#))

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# Introduction

## 1. Background

This document is based on a combination of information available from international qualifications recognition databases, historical data for admissions standards for entry in the past and examination performance statistics where available.

The purpose of this document on Entry Requirements for EU students presenting with qualifications (other than the Irish School Leaving Certificate Examination) is to provide a framework for comparisons of European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) qualifications for entry to undergraduate Degree Programmes in Irish Universities.

This will facilitate applicants in understanding the factors that determine the minimum entry requirements and the competitive entry requirements that equate with achievements in the school leaving qualifications in their country. However, applicants should be advised that in the case of high demand programmes, e.g. Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, other criteria may be also applied to particular examination qualifications.

Adjustments to the scoring as described in this document may be required where changes occur in educational systems, or in trends in grades awarded, in any of the countries described in the document for future years. Changes for 2021 will only be considered where there is evidence of a major change in the examination system which was not available when the document was prepared.

This document is a policy document based on a draft document prepared to support a pilot scheme that was implemented in 2006 in the NUI Universities and RCSI. It has since been joined by Dublin City University, University of Limerick and Trinity College Dublin and, from 2014, Institutes of Technology Ireland.

This document is the agreed criteria of the participating institutions. If institutions differ from the agreed criteria, this will be noted on the page for that country. It is planned to review and refine the document at the end of each CAO season, with a view to publishing the scheme for the following year's entry.

## 2. Scope of the Document

This document covers admission to undergraduate courses in the participating Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) only. At undergraduate level, the HEIs offer courses spanning levels 6, 7, 8 on the National Qualifications Framework (see [www.nfq.ie](http://www.nfq.ie) for details)

- Level 8 = Honours Bachelor Degree
- Level 7 = Ordinary Bachelor Degree
- Level 6 = Higher Certificate or Advanced Certificate

Unless otherwise specified it refers to examination systems currently in operation. Applicants presenting older examinations or qualifications not listed should contact the Admissions Office of the HEI to which they are applying in advance of making an application. It will not be possible to review the recognition of a qualification following the issue of offers.

### 3. Minimum Entry Requirements (Matriculation)

The minimum standard in order to be eligible for consideration for admission is specified for Level 8 and Level 6/7 in each country section. In all cases proof of English proficiency is required (see section 4). It must be noted that for some HEIs and/or some courses the minimum eligibility may differ both in terms of grades and subject requirements (e.g. for some HEIs Mathematics is required for matriculation). In addition there are specific subject requirements for most courses and this document should be read in conjunction with the HEIs entry requirement literature.

Only subjects which are normally recognised for purposes of admission to Irish Higher Education Institutions will be considered. In general, vocational qualifications/subjects will not be considered for Level 8 courses.

In general, in terms of Irish Leaving Certificate matriculation for **level 8 degrees** is either

- 2 H5 required i.e. 6 subjects at ordinary level D3 or better including 2 with minimum of C3 at higher level
- or
- 3 H5 required i.e. 6 subjects at ordinary level D3 or better including 3 with minimum of C3 at higher level.

For **level 7/6 awards**, matriculation is normally

- 5 subjects at ordinary level D3 or better

Please note: entry to undergraduate courses in Ireland, and especially Level 8, **is competitive** and attainment of the minimum eligibility criteria does not guarantee a place. A points scoring system is in operation. It is not possible to forecast how many points will be required for a particular course until the current year's examination results are known (mid-August each year).

Only recognised subjects are considered. In general subjects deemed equivalent to a subject offered in the Irish Leaving Certificate or listed on the [A-level list of recognised subjects](#) are considered. If you are presenting subjects not listed, please contact the Admissions Office of the HEI to which you are applying.

### 4. English Language requirements<sup>1</sup>

Teaching in Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) is normally through the medium of English; therefore, all applicants are required to demonstrate a high level of competence in English Language.

Applicants whose first language is not English must provide evidence of equivalent competence in English Language, through their school leaving examination or matriculation examination or by achieving the minimum standard (**there may be higher levels for matriculation and/or particular programmes in individual institutions**) in a recognised English language test, as specified below (note applicants are assessed on the results of a single sitting only):

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<sup>1</sup> English requirements may vary for HEIs and individual courses – please consult HEI websites for details.

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## Agreed Entry Requirements for EU/EFTA

- **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)**

- Internet based test: 90 (no less than 21 in writing and at least 19 in every other section) in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
- Written test: A minimum score of 600 administered by Princeton University, with Test of Written English at 475+.

Note TOEFL Home Edition will be accepted for 2021.

- **International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - Academic**

An average score of 6.5 over all components and a minimum of 6.0 in each band.

Note IELTS indicator will be accepted for 2021

- **Duolingo DET**

For 2021 a score of 110 is required with at least 100 in each subscore. This test of English will be reviewed during 2021 and a decision taken as to whether it should continue to be acceptable.

- **University of Cambridge:**

176+ on Cambridge English scale with no less than 169 in each skill and use of English i.e.

Proficiency Certificate, Grade C or better (CEFR Level C1 or C2)

Advanced Certificate, Grade C or better (CEFR Level C1 or C2)

First Certificate, Grade A (CEFR Level C1)

- **English Test for Academic and Professional Purposes (ETAPP):**

With grade C1 or better (CEFR Level C1 or C2)

- **UK Examining Boards/Bodies**

GCE O Level English Language at Grade C or above

GCSE English Language at Grade C or above

GCSE English Literature at Grade C or above

CSE Grade 1 Pass in English

- **University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES)**

with English at grade C or above (incorporating the Oxford Examining Body's English as a Foreign Language (Higher Paper)

- **EU Countries' Matriculation Examination<sup>2</sup>**

Matriculation Examinations from European Countries where English is presented as a subject and an acceptable level is achieved. Where the examination has been taken more than 2 years previously candidates may be required to take a proficiency test.

Where an English proficiency test which is scored on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) is presented as part of a school-leaving qualification, grade must be C1/C2.

- **Pearson English language test (PTE Academic):**

minimum of 63 (with at least 59 for each item in the Communicative Skills section)<sup>3</sup>.

- **Trinity ISE**

Trinity ISE III with at least merit in each skill category

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<sup>2</sup> English requirements may vary for HEIs and individual courses – please consult HEI websites for details.

<sup>3</sup> Pearson English Language is not currently accepted by DCU

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## Agreed Entry Requirements for EU/EFTA

- **QQI FET ESL**

Merit in the module "English as a Second Language" or "Communications" (level 5)

- **Or an equivalent level of English in a recognised examination**

Proficiency tests are used to meet entry requirements but do not count towards points scores. For all proficiency tests the results must normally have issued within two years prior to the start of your course (i.e. for entry in September 2021, only results attained since 1 February 2019 will be accepted).

Note: Where an applicant shows evidence of hearing impairment which meets the requirements for access, the English language requirements can be met without the hearing and speaking components

### 5. Application process

Applicants must apply through the Central Applications System (CAO). Complete information on the CAO system is available in the CAO Handbook and is also available on the CAO Website at [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie). Each application must be accompanied by appropriate documentation as outlined below.

#### Documentation to be submitted with CAO Application Form

When submitting an application to the CAO it must be accompanied by the following documentation (or followed by the documentation if applying on-line):

- Certified true copy of official transcripts of academic results
- In some cases, the final school report is also required (to show the full range of subjects taken)
- A certified English translation is required in the case of qualifications not issued originally in English or Irish, in addition to the certified A4 photocopies of the documents themselves.

In the absence of these documents and translations the application may not be processed. Applicants who are awaiting current year examination results must forward their results as soon as they become available to the CAO For applicants who are successful in their application, the HEI will require will require that the original documentation be presented at registration for verification. Offers of places are provisional until such time as all Registration formalities have been completed within the University.

### 6. Evaluating Applications

When EU applicants' results are being evaluated it will be on the basis of the results of any one examination taken in a single sitting (insofar as it is possible with the relevant examination system).

The first stage of the evaluation process requires an applicant's results to meet the **Minimum Entry Requirements/Matriculation** and specific subject requirements of a programme.

The second stage of the evaluation process involves ranking the applicant's results relative to other EU applicants. All EU applicants will compete on equivalences as outlined in the tables, which follow.

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## **Agreed Entry Requirements for EU/EFTA**

It should be noted that where subjects are being presented to meet course or matriculation requirements, then only those subjects which have an appropriate weighting in the relevant examination and are recognised for matriculation/entry purposes by Higher Education Institutions which are party to this document, will be considered. Where oral and written examinations are presented in the same subject in the same sitting used for scoring, the average of the two will be used for eligibility and scoring.

For each European Union country the recognised examinations, matriculation requirements and the method of calculating the points score (IPS) are now presented in alphabetical order in the pages, which follow.

Applicants presenting examinations from different examination systems, seeking to combine these to meet matriculation and entry requirements should contact the HEI(s) to which they are applying, as this is considered only in exceptional circumstances. NB applicants will not be scored using subjects from different examinations systems.

To ensure that that a consistent approach is taken to evaluating EU qualifications the HEIs may share the work of evaluating these qualifications. This means, for example, one HEI may evaluate applicants presenting EU qualifications from a specific country (e.g. HEI "A" evaluate all French qualifications, HEI "B" evaluate all German qualifications, etc.). This does mean, in limited circumstances, that a representative from a HEI that you have not applied to may have temporary access to details of your personal data provided during this evaluation process.

### **7. EU applicants presenting non-EU qualifications**

It is not possible to include every qualification worldwide in this document. Non-EU qualifications are assessed jointly insofar as possible. Applicants presenting non-EU qualifications should seek advice from the Admissions Office of the HEI(s) to which they are applying regarding eligibility and entry requirements. While an Admissions Office may give an indication of likely points conversion, this will not be final until agreed by all relevant Admissions Officers.

**In some HEIs non-EU applicants apply direct to the HEI. Please check your fees status with the institutions to which you are applying if in doubt.**

### **8. Applicant's Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide full and accurate information in the application and to notify the University of any changes or corrections made to the original application. Applicants must provide copies of both the official (untranslated) document and a translation where the official document is not issued in English.

The HEI may request verification from the issuing authority of any or all details on documentation presented. If documents are found to have been falsified the awarding body will be notified.

In the light of additional information which was not available at the time of selection, an offer may be amended or, in exceptional circumstances, withdrawn. The University also reserves the right to correct errors where they have been made in the communication of decisions and offers.

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## **Agreed Entry Requirements for EU/EFTA**

The onus is on the applicant to check entry criteria for the programmes for which they are applying. Please note, criteria can change from year to year.

### **Latest date for submitting documentation**

- Documents for qualifications already complete should arrive in CAO within 10 days of submission of the online application
- For 2021 examination results: Results should be forwarded as soon as they issue. To be considered in the competition for places in Round One, these results must arrive in CAO at least 10 days before the issue of Round One offers, otherwise they will be considered for subsequent rounds, subject to availability of places.

It may not be possible to gain entry in the current year if documents and/or results are presented later than the dates stated above.

### **9. Bonus points for Mathematics**

For Irish Leaving Certificate, 25 bonus points are awarded to students attaining a minimum of grade 6 in Higher Level Mathematics (H6). Where there is a clear distinction between levels of mathematics in other examination systems, this bonus applies to those examinations. As it is not possible to attain this bonus in all systems, if a candidate presents either grade H6 or better in Leaving Cert Mathematics or grade E or better in A level Mathematics, 25 bonus points will be added to the score from their school examination, *provided* Mathematics is one of the subjects used to attain that score and that both examinations were taken in the same examination session (e.g. summer 2021).

### **10. Subjects not available in examination**

Where a specific subject requirement is not available in an examination system, applicants may meet the requirement from another recognised examination. They should consult with the relevant Admissions Office to ensure requirements will be met.

## Understanding the page for each country

### A brief note about education in Ireland

In Ireland, students normally take 7 subjects for their terminal second level examination, known as the Leaving Certificate (LC). For most subjects there are two levels of examination, Higher (H) and Ordinary (O). Each subject is graded from 1 (max) to 8, with 6 as the minimum pass mark. However, a H7 may be accepted as a pass in some cases.

Entry to third level is very competitive. Firstly, applicants must meet the minimum entry requirements (matriculation). For each institution there is an overall minimum requirement, (e.g. 2 H5 and 4 O6 including Mathematics and English). In addition, there may be specific requirements for individual courses. All applicants who meet minimum requirements compete based on their overall points score which is attained from their six best subjects, attained in a single sitting, with 100 being the maximum for each subject. If Higher Level Mathematics is counted among the subjects, 25 bonus points are awarded; the maximum available is 625 points.

### Meeting these requirements

On the page for your country you will see the following headings

### What qualifications are accepted?

Check that your examination is listed here. Not all examinations are automatically accepted.

### What is the minimum I need?

This explains the minimum entry requirements for the HEIs. Generally there are different levels for Level 8 and Level 6/7 qualifications. Within level 8, some HEIS require 2H5 and others require 3H5.

### What grade counts as a pass for purposes of admission to HEIs?

Shows the minimum which will be accepted as a pass mark.

### What level of English do I need?

The minimum English language requirement for school-leavers. It may be higher for some courses or some HEIs

### How do I meet the specific subject requirements?

This shows you how to convert the specific subject grades you will find on a HEI's website to the requirement for your country. E.g. on the sample below if Mathematics H5 is required you will need to attain an Advanced level grade C.

LC Higher	Country exam	LC Ordinary	Country Exam
H1	Advanced A	O1	Ordinary A
H2	Advanced B	O2	Ordinary B
H3	Advanced B	O3	Ordinary B
H4	Advanced C	O4	Ordinary C
H5	Advanced C	O5	Ordinary C
H6	Advanced D	O6	Ordinary D
H7	Advanced E		

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**NB the table above is NOT used points conversion, only for entry requirement equivalence. For points conversion see Table 2.**

### How do I work out my points score?

Explains the calculation of points in a table headed Table 2: Points Conversion Table

<b>Average</b>	<b>IPS</b>
100	600
90	574
80	506

These points equivalences are indicative only as it is not possible to include every result in the document. In the case of high demand programmes such as Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, a numerus clausus may operate.

#### Single Sitting:

As points for Irish school-leavers are calculated based on a single sitting, EU qualifications are assessed on this basis. If this is not feasible within the structure of the exam, what is acceptable is explained.

#### Bonus points for mathematics:

Shows how bonus points for Mathematics are awarded (they are not awarded where there is only one level of Mathematics available in the country).

### Are any other qualifications accepted for Level 6/7 courses?

Shows any qualifications which are not acceptable for Level 8 courses but may be accepted for level 6/7

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## Undergraduate Applications Appeals Process

1. Applications presenting EU/EFTA qualifications are assessed on the basis of criteria published by the participating HEIs (in prospectuses and on websites) and in this document.
2. Applicants who feel their application has not been fairly assessed should contact the Admissions Officer of the relevant Higher Education Institution (HEI) in the first instance and if the issue is a clerical error or documentation not previously available, it can be resolved locally.
3. If the matter cannot be resolved locally, an appeal may be lodged on one of the following grounds
  - a. Incorrect process; specific evidence of irregularity in the applications assessment process;
  - b. Specified/stated grounds where the decision was based on misinterpretation of data or information provided as part of the application process
4. Such an appeal will be referred to the Standing Committee of Admissions Officers.
5. In the event that the outcome of the appeal does not satisfy the applicant, a further and final appeal may be made to the Registrar/Senior Lecturer of the relevant HEI. The Registrar/Senior Lecturer will consult with the other HEIs as appropriate.
6. The Admissions Officers will endeavour to reply to appeals as speedily as possible. However, decisions may take 5-7 working days.
7. This appeals process operates in conjunction with any local appeals processes within the HEIs.
8. Please note appeals must be made within 20 days of the Round 1 offer date and must be made by the applicant. We cannot enter in to correspondence with third parties.

## Glossary

<b>CAO</b>	Central Applications Office
<b>EU</b>	European Union Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom*
<b>EFTA</b>	European Free Trade Association: Iceland; Norway; Lichtenstein; Switzerland
<b>HEI</b>	Higher Education Institution
<b>IPS</b>	Indicative points score
<b>LC</b>	Irish Leaving Certificate
<b>Level 6</b>	Higher Certificate – see <a href="http://www.nfq.ie">www.nfq.ie</a> for details of qualification framework
<b>Level 7</b>	Ordinary degree – see <a href="http://www.nfq.ie">www.nfq.ie</a> for details of qualification framework
<b>Level 8</b>	Honours degree – see <a href="http://www.nfq.ie">www.nfq.ie</a> for details of qualification framework
<b>Matric:</b>	Matriculation i.e. minimum requirement to be eligible for consideration for admission to the institution.
<b>Points</b>	The mechanism by which applicants who meet basic matriculation requirements are scored. Eligible applicants are ranked in descending points order and places allocated from the highest score downwards until the programme is full.

\* As the United Kingdom has indicated that it will leave the EU in October 2019, intending UK applicants should consult the fees website of the HEIs to which they intend to apply to check the fee rate which will apply. If a non-EU fee rate will apply applicants must then follow procedures to apply as a non-EU applicant.

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