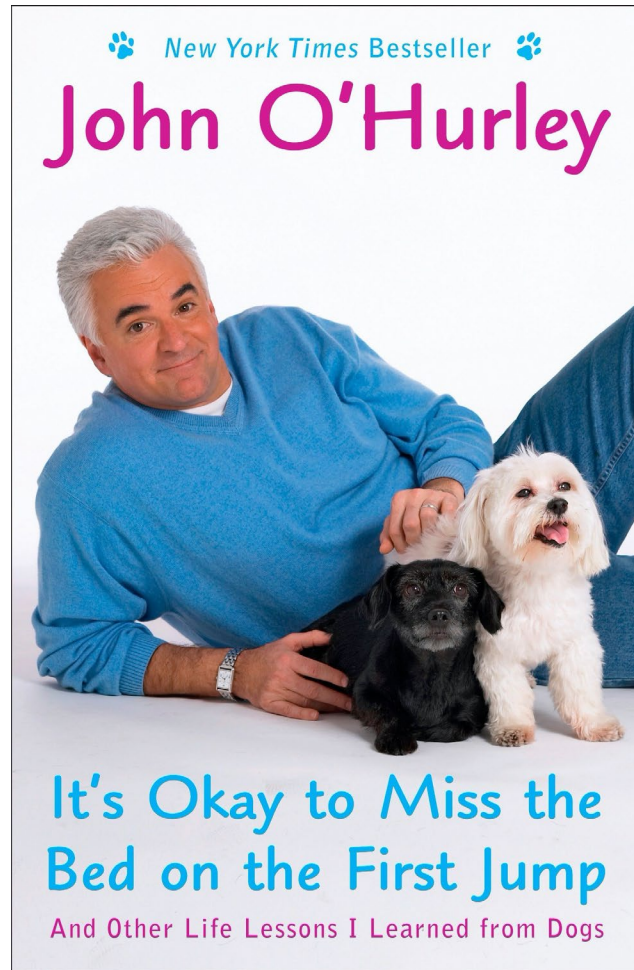




Assessments, Progression and Transfer from Year 1 BA/BCL

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Failure and success

- ▶ “It’s not what happens to us in life, it’s what we do about it that is the true measure of success. How we fail and how we recover says much about the character of our achievements.”
- ▶ “It’s okay to miss the bed on the first jump...It’s okay to try another route. It is not okay to lose sight of the top of the bed and surrender our goal.”



Don't panic!

- ▶ First year is a big adjustment - we realize this! We were once first years too!
- ▶ It's particularly challenging given the lockdowns we recently experienced and the attendant disruption and anxiety
- ▶ Sometimes anxiety freezes us into inaction
- ▶ A good start is half the work - rip off the bandage!
- ▶ Better to try and not succeed than not to try at all.
- ▶ A submitted essay is better than no essay



PLAN

Plan B - try another route

- ▶ If things are going awry and you know you won't make a deadline
 - ▶ Talk to your lecturer
 - ▶ Ask for an extension - give reasons for seeking the extension
 - ▶ Consider delaying completion of the module until the Summer re-sits/supplementals
 - ▶ But don't put everything off - try to get some work done/out of the way

Tips for Assessments and Exams - Clarity of mind and focus

Don't run yourself into the ground - get plenty of breaks and exercise.

Get plenty of sleep.

Reduce or eliminate alcohol, caffeine

Remove or switch off distractions

Plan and schedule - make sure you know what is due when

Don't get bamboozled by the quantity of work you have to do across all modules.

If studying a specific topic, give that topic your focus. Ignore all else for that period of time.

Pomodoro technique -25 minutes focusing on a specific issue, followed by a 5 minute break. Another 25 minutes, another break (maybe longer as you go along)

Studying and preparation

- ▶ Check for the deadlines/dates of assessments
- ▶ Read the instructions carefully. Make sure you are doing what you are being asked to do
- ▶ Read before writing - class notes, recommended readings, text book
- ▶ Do a search on databases (e.g. Westlaw, SSRN, VLexJustis) for relevant journal articles, cases, legislation
- ▶ In law, remember you will almost always need to cite cases and (if relevant) refer to legislation

Technique in writing

- ▶ Write in short sentences - keep it simple and clear
- ▶ No need to swallow a dictionary - small words work as well as big ones.
- ▶ If you use a word, make sure you know what it means
- ▶ Include cases - the facts (briefly), decision and reasons for the decision (the last of these being the most important)
- ▶ Make sure to reference (acknowledge your sources)
- ▶ Write as much as possible in your own words, but write formally
- ▶ If you state an opinion, make sure to back it up with argument
- ▶ Give yourself time to edit and proof-read

Progression and transfer - what we mean

To progress means to get out of one year and successfully progress to the next year of a programme of study e.g. to progress from year 1 to year 2 of the BCL

The basic rule is that to progress from year 1 to year 2, you must pass ALL modules in year 1, i.e. 60 credits. There are some limited exceptions but ordinarily, if you don't pass 60 credits, you'll have to stay in year 1 and repeat what you have failed.

Transfer means to change programme e.g. from year of the BA to year 2 of the BCL or year 2 of the LLB

Progression (passing year 1 and getting into year 2)

To progress, ordinarily you have to pass 60 credits from year 1, i.e. pass all of your year 1 modules

The pass mark is 40% for each module

Exceptions

- ▶ There are some exceptions:
 - ▶ **The pass by compensation rule:** you can pass by compensation and therefore progress if (a) you pass at least half your credits AND (b) you get no less than 35% in every module and (c) you get an average of 40% or higher overall for the year (there is also a mechanism whereby you can pass a subject by compensation - similar rules apply).
 - ▶ **Allowed progression/carrying a deficit (exceptionally rare for law/criminology):** You *may* be able to carry a deficit in modules other than law/criminology modules. You *may* also be allowed to carry a deficit in law or criminology modules if you drop law/criminology and progress with other subjects in year 2 - but you cannot carry more than a 10 credit deficit (deficit means modules you have not passed)

Carrying a deficit

Every year in September, a small number of students learn to their surprise that they cannot progress to year 2 and must repeat incomplete modules from year 1.

They often wrongly assume that they can carry the incomplete modules into year 2 but, often, they cannot do so.

First, it is never possible to progress into year 2 with more than 10 credits in deficit. E.g. if you only pass 40 credits in year 1, you have no option but to re-register for year 1 and complete the remaining 20 credits in a repeat year 1.

Second, ordinarily, you cannot carry a deficit in an LW module (law or criminology) if you are progressing in law/criminology or transferring to the BCL or LLB. Carrying the deficit will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

What if I don't pass my January or May assessments? THE SUPPLEMENTALS!

- ▶ A student who does not pass a module in January or May may take **supplemental assessments ('re-sits')** in that **module (sometimes called re-sits)** in July and August
- ▶ There was no fee for doing so in 2020, 2021, 2022 but that may change this year
- ▶ There is **no cap on your mark** if you re-sit
- ▶ You carry forward any assessment you have already passed - you only have to re-sit the elements/components that you did not pass already
- ▶ You still have the same transfer and progression options if you pass following the supplementals
- ▶ Repeating a module you have already passed - only possible in year 1 if you need extra marks to progress/transfer, or if you did worse than expected because of extenuating circumstances (in each case, you'll need to apply for permission to repeat).



The 'big red hand' point

- ▶ If you are taking any supplemental assessment, you must, must, must register with the Exams Office in late June/early July for re-sits/supplementals
- ▶ If you do not register, your re-sit mark will not be recorded by the Exams Office, even if we correct your paper.
- ▶ This applies even if you are just re-sitting an assignment, MCQ, or part of continuous assessment. Even if the -re-sit does not include an exam, you must register to re-sit.

What about my award/degree classification?

- ▶ There are different classifications or grades:
 - ▶ 1st class honours: 69.1% and higher
 - ▶ 2nd class, upper division (2:1): 59.1% - 69.0%
 - ▶ 2nd class, lower division (2:2): 49.1% - 59.0%
 - ▶ Pass 40-49.0%
- ▶ Your award mark for your degree is calculated as follows:
 - ▶ 1st year and Erasmus/study abroad/placement years **do not count** towards your degree award mark
 - ▶ On the BA/BCL, year 2 contributes 30% of your award mark and the final year contributes 70%
 - ▶ On the LLB, year 2 contributes 10% of your award mark, year 3 = 20%, and the final year contributes 70%
 - ▶ If you take an Erasmus year or placement in year 3 of the LLB, year 2 = 10% and year 4 = 90%

Erasmus/study abroad and work placements

▶ General principles

- ▶ Erasmus involves a year abroad within the EU. Study Abroad involves a year abroad outside the EU e.g. Australia, Canada, US
- ▶ For most students, an Erasmus/study abroad year is optional
- ▶ Erasmus/Study Abroad/Work Placements are for one academic year
- ▶ Unless you are taking a language as part of your degree, Erasmus/Study Abroad options are usually available entirely through English in the host country
- ▶ Entry is competitive; there is no guarantee you will be offered an Erasmus/Study Abroad place or a work placement

Erasmus/study abroad and placements

▶ On the LLB:

- ▶ You can apply to take a placement or study abroad/Erasmus year in year 3 of your degree. Study abroad/Erasmus must be in law.
- ▶ The year is integrated, i.e. part of your degree and you must pass 60 credits to progress to year 4
- ▶ The Erasmus/year abroad/placement mark **does not count** towards your degree award mark
- ▶ If you pass your degree having successfully completed the placement you get an LLB (Clinical)
- ▶ If you pass your degree having successfully completed the year abroad/Erasmus year you get an LLB (International)

▶ On the BCL/BA:

- ▶ You can apply to take a placement or study abroad/Erasmus year between years 2 and 3 of your degree. Study abroad/Erasmus need not be in law.
- ▶ The year is not integrated, i.e. you can still get a BCL even if you fail the year. To pass the year, you must pass at least 45 credits
- ▶ The Erasmus/year abroad/placement mark **does not count** towards your degree award mark
- ▶ If you pass your degree having successfully completed the placement you get a BCL(Clinical)
- ▶ If you pass your degree having successfully completed the year abroad/Erasmus year you get a BCL (International)

Lots of different options in MU Law

Bachelor of
Laws
Law on its
own
LLB - MH501
4 years

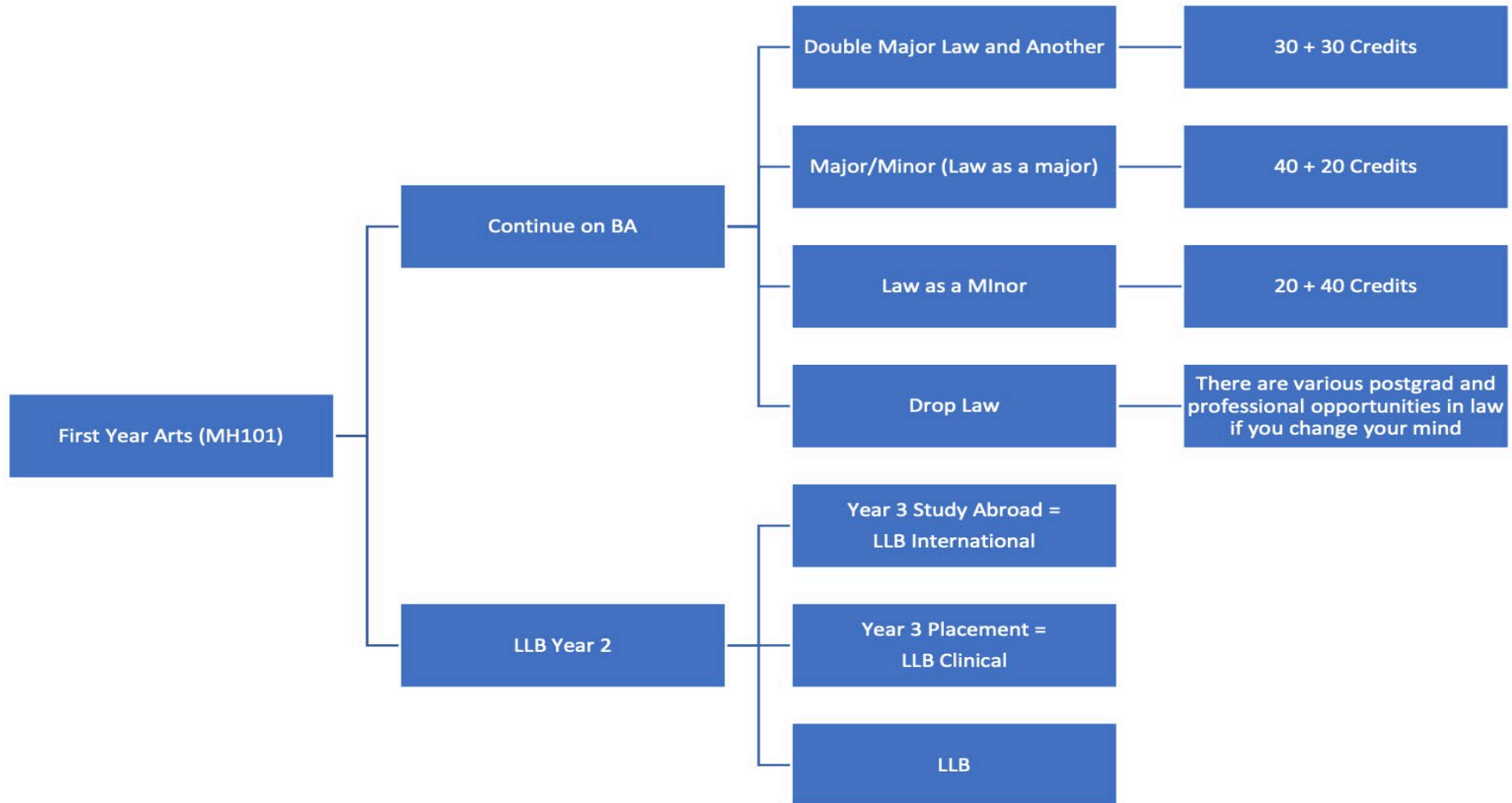
BCL Law and
Business
BCL Law and
Accounting
MH502
3 years

BCL Law and
Arts
MH502
3 years

BCL Law and
Criminology
MH502
3 years

Law as part of
an Arts
degree
BA - MH101
3 years

Options after year 1 MH101



First year Arts (MH101)

BCL Year 2

Law and Accounting

Must do 30 credits of Law and 22.5 credits of Accounting in year 1

Must get at least 60% average in Accounting in year 1

Law and Arts

Must do at least 15 credits of Law in year 1

If you do 15 credits of law in year 1, you must take Law as a major (40 credits) in years 2 and 3

Law and Business

You must do 30 credits of law and 30 of Business in year 1

Law and Criminology

You must do 30 credits of law and 15 of Criminology in year 1

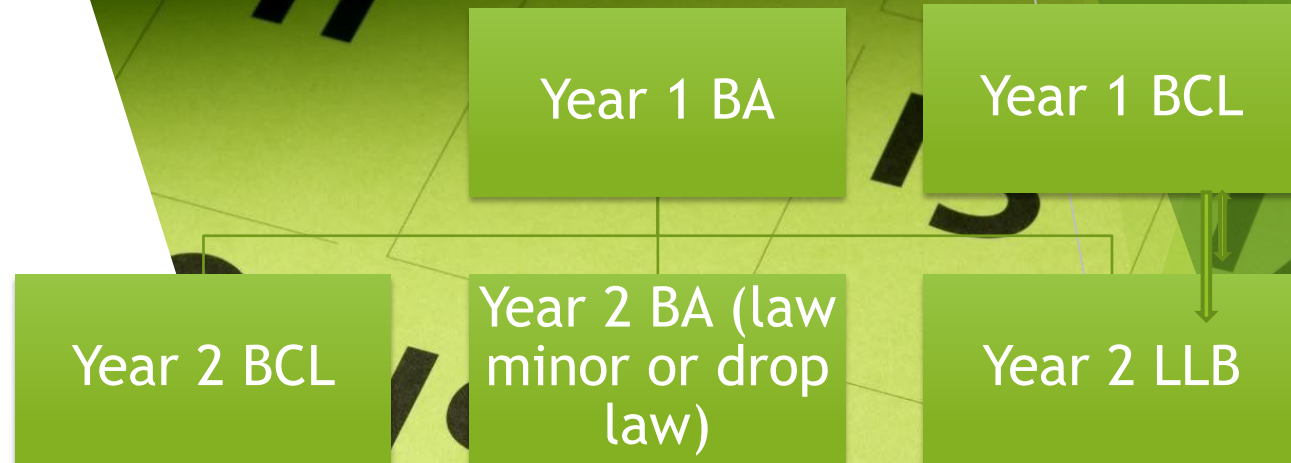
This has changed. You are now recommended to take 30 credits of Accounting in year 1.

NB. It is also possible to transfer to BCL Law and Crim with **15 credits of Law** and 15 credits of Crim **but you must take Law as a major in years 2 and 3.**

Summary

▶ **Transfer options/requirements:**

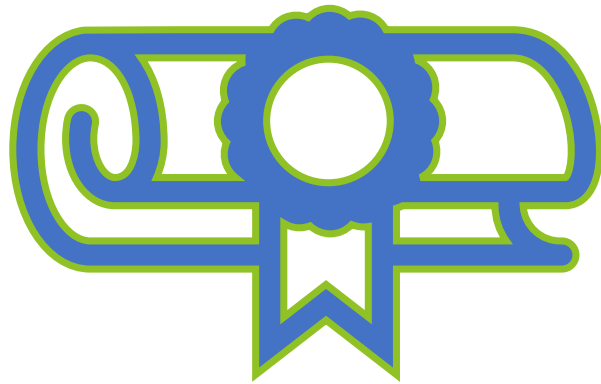
- ▶ From year 1 of the BA (MH101) or BCL (MH502) to year 2 of the LLB (MH501)
- ▶ From year 1 of the BA (MH101) to year 2 of the BCL Law and Arts/Criminology (15 and 30 credit routes)
- ▶ From year 1 of the BA into year 2 BCL Law and Accounting, BCL Law and Business, or BCL Law and Criminology (special conditions apply in relation to your year 1 modules)
- ▶ From the BCL to the BA or LLB
- ▶ From the St Patrick's College BA in Theology and Arts to the BCL/LLB (but **special requirements apply to such a transfer - see below**)



Some core principles and points

- ▶ You cannot progress in or transfer to a subject in year 1 **if you did not take at least 15 credits of that subject in year 1**
 - ▶ E.g. if you take only Law, Irish and Critical Skills in year 1, you cannot take e.g. Psychological Studies or French in year 2
- ▶ **There are no caps on transfers.** There is no limit on the number of students who can transfer from year 1 BA to the BCL or LLB.
- ▶ In *most cases** you do not need to formally apply for a transfer. If you are eligible/meet the requirements, you will be offered the opportunity to transfer at registration in September

*The main exception is if you are transferring from St. Patrick's Maynooth - you must formally apply to the Admissions Office in MU by mid-July at the latest. The same applies to external transfers (transferring from outside MU). Please contact Admissions if you want to transfer from the BCL to the BA.



Transferring from the MU BA MH101 to the LLB MH501

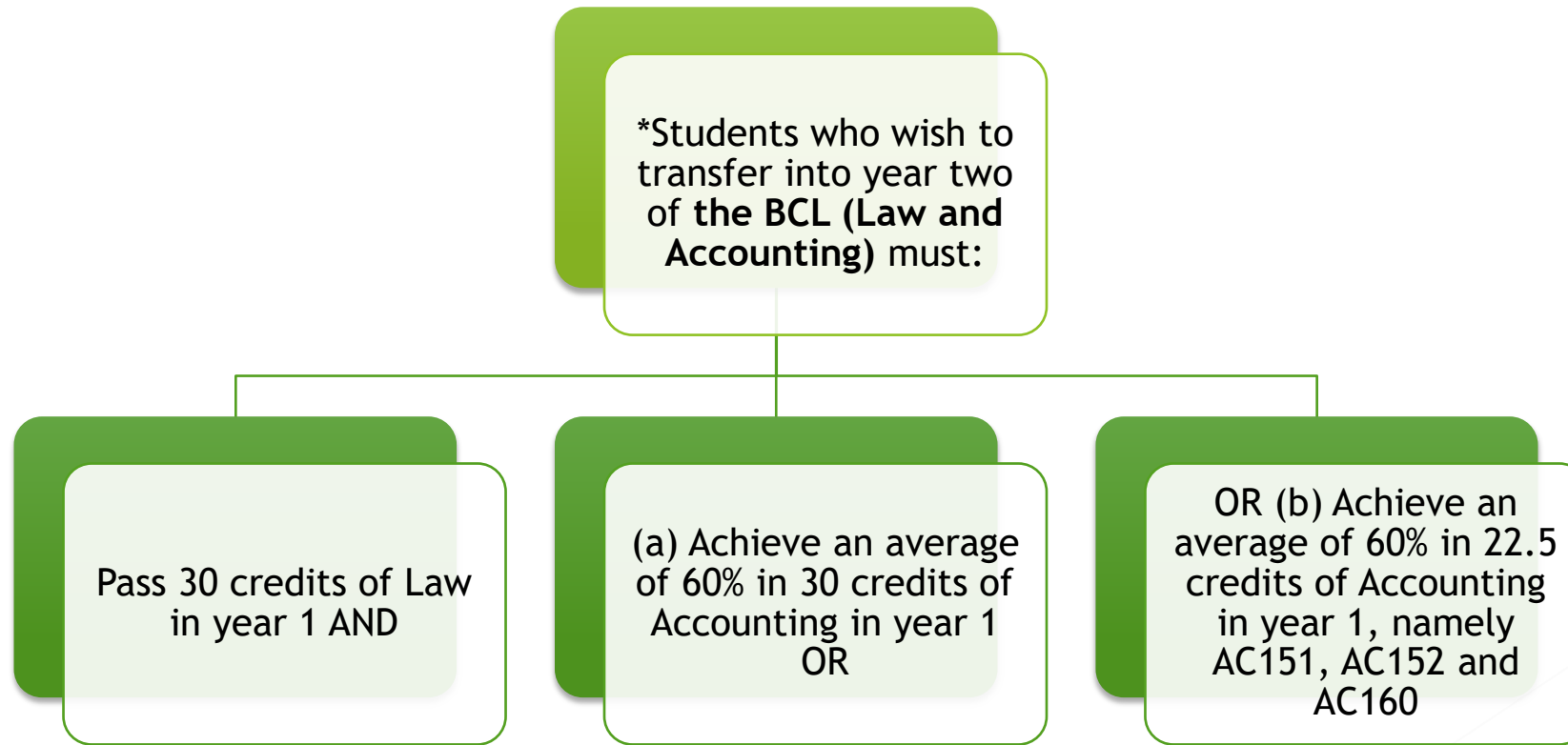
- ▶ To transfer to year 2 of the LLB (Bachelor of Laws), students must :
- ▶ **1. Take at least 15 credits of law in year 1 and pass all their law modules**
- ▶ **AND**
- ▶ **2. Maintain an average of 40% across all year 1 Law modules**
- ▶ **AND**
- ▶ **3. Pass all other first year subjects** (there are some very limited exceptions where you may be allowed to 'carry a deficit' into year 2)
- ▶ **N.B. The LLB is 4 years in total, as opposed to the BCL programmes, which are 3 year programmes.**



Transferring from year 1 MU Arts into year 2 BCL MH502 - 30 credit routes

- ▶ Students in Arts (MH101) who complete **30 credits of Law** in year 1 and pass year 1 also have the option of transferring into year 2 of the:
- ▶ **BCL Law and Accounting***
- ▶ **BCL Law and Arts**
- ▶ **BCL Law and Business****
- ▶ **BCL Law and Criminology*****
- ▶ if they successfully complete first year (and complete the requirements of Accounting, Business, Criminology)

Transferring from year 1 MU Arts into year 2 BCL Law and Accounting



Transferring to year 2 BCL Law and Business/ Criminology

****To transfer into year 2 of BCL (Law and Business), students must take 30 credits of Law and 30 credits of Business (either stream of Business) in first year. The 30 ECTS Business subject can be MN1MV30, MN1KV30 or MN1IV30, and includes four modules: MN155, AC151, EC101M and one of MN151/MN152/MN159.**

*****To transfer into year 2 of BCL (Law and Criminology), students must take at least 15 credits of Law and 15 credits of Criminology in first year (and up to 30 credits of any other subject(s)).**

Transferring from year 1 Arts into year 2 BCL - 15 credit routes (i.e. if you did fewer than 30 credits of law in year 1)



Arts (MH101) students who complete at least 15 ECTS of Law in first year may transfer into the BCL (Law and Arts) or the BCL (Law and Criminology) or the LLB.



Students with just 15 or 22.5 credits of law from year 1 who transfer to the BCL must major in Law (40 credits of Law each year) in years 2 and 3 in order to graduate with a BCL



If students who did fewer than 30 credits of law in year 1 do not want to major in Law in year 2, they can instead undertake a BA Double Major, which is not an approved Law degree for the purpose of becoming a Barrister (the BCL and LLB are both approved law degrees)



BA students may take law as a Minor in year 2 (20 credits)

Transfer and the Supplementals/Re-sits: Resitting does not disadvantage you in relation to transfer options



To be eligible to transfer, it doesn't matter whether you have passed what you need to pass in January and May, or whether you pass the remaining modules as part of the Supplementals



To be eligible to transfer, it doesn't matter whether you meet the requirements after the first sitting exams (in January and May) or after the re-sits. A student can still transfer if they meet the requirements following the re-sits.



Therefore, if you have to re-sit a module and then pass it over the Summer, you should be eligible to transfer (once you have passed law and passed year 1 by the end of the supplementals.)

Special transfer arrangements

- ▶ BCL to BA? Yes. For instance, if you are on the BCL Law and Criminology, taking Irish as your third subject, you may be able to apply to transfer to the BA and take a double major in Criminology and Irish or a major/minor in these subjects but you need to contact transfers@mu.ie to arrange this
- ▶ BCL to LLB? Yes -this is possible
- ▶ BA Theology and Arts (St Patrick's University) - you may apply to transfer, but you must apply for an external transfer through transfers@mu.ie by June at the latest - not automatic, must be approved, and there may be a limit on numbers

If I'm on the BA, can I continue on the BA, and still take Law?

Yes. In some cases, some students continue into year 2 of the BA with law.

In such a case you can take law and one other subject from year 1 as a major/minor or as a double major.

This is your only option if you want to take law as a minor (law as a minor is not available on the BCL or LLB)

You may have a bit more flexibility in doing law on the BA

But remember the BA is not an approved law degree if you are thinking of becoming a barrister

In general, if you wish to continue with law as a major or double major, you are better off switching to the BCL/LLB



**Maynooth
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

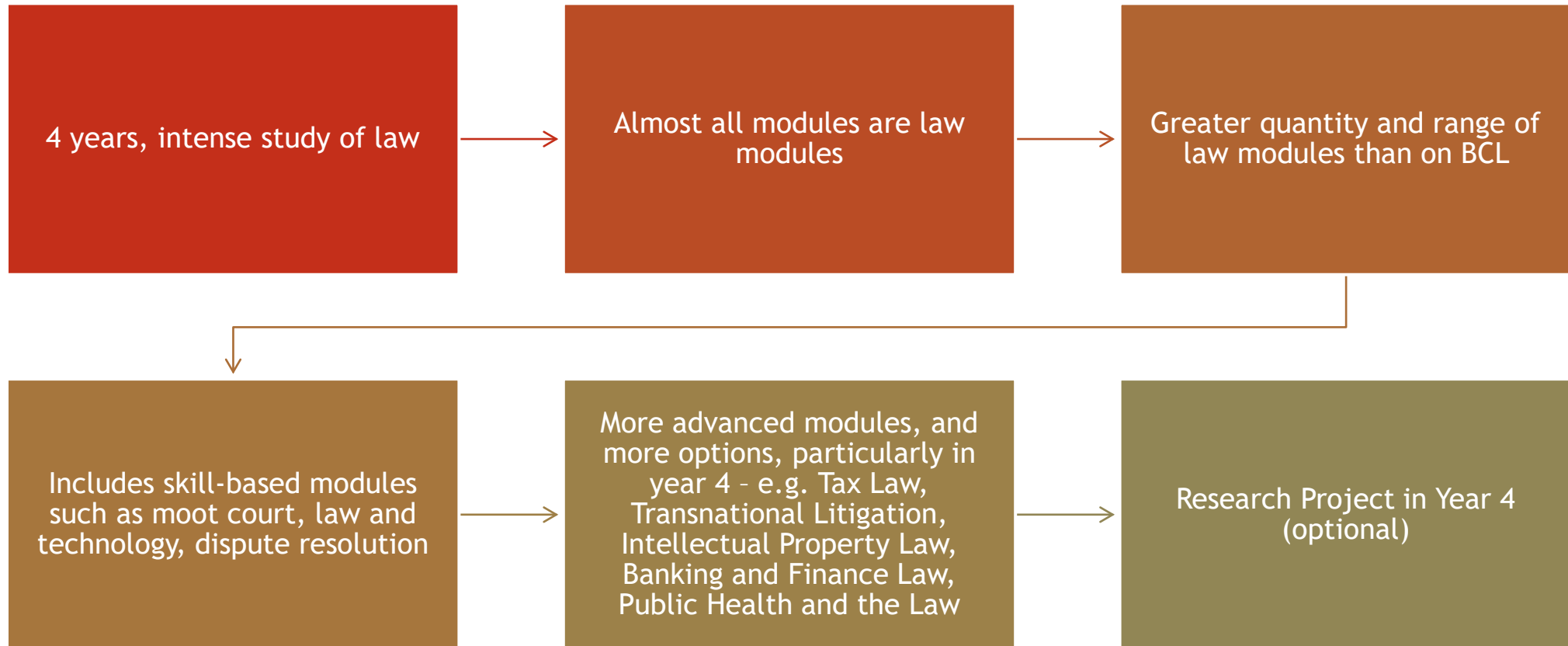
TRANSFER OPTIONS: LLB OR BCL?



WHAT THE BCL AND LLB HAVE IN COMMON

- ▶ Both are level 8 honours degrees
- ▶ Both are King's Inns approved law degrees (provided you cover the required modules as part of your degrees)
- ▶ Both cover all the examinable subjects for the Law Society of Ireland
- ▶ Study Abroad/Work Placement options (year 3 LLB/ between years 2 and 3 BCL)

LLB



BCL

- ▶ Law and one other of your year 1 subjects for 2 more years (3 if you do a placement or study abroad)
- ▶ Usually shorter than LLB
- ▶ Opportunity to combine law and another discipline
- ▶ Less law but you keep your options open
- ▶ Fewer options in law, and no access to advanced options of year 4 LLB (but you can take similar options on an LLM)
- ▶ No research project option in law
- ▶ Approved by King's Inns and covers you for FE1 exams (though BCL probably won't cover you for the New York Bar)
- ▶ Employers sometimes like to see students with a mix of skills

Merits of the LLB v BCL

- ▶ Clearly, if you are very interested in and focussed on law, there may be benefits in doing the LLB over the BCL
- ▶ If you want to keep your options open, the BCL may be a better bet, particularly if you like your other subject and have done well in it
- ▶ Remember that the LLB is three more years of *just* law.
- ▶ There are more options on the LLB, more skills-based modules, and more advanced modules (particularly in year 4)...but you graduate quicker and with more focus on core modules on the BCL
- ▶ Employers don't necessarily favour the LLB over the BCL. Some law firms say that they prefer well-rounded graduates with good transferable skills (i.e. they are not necessarily looking for someone who is just good at law; they also value business and IT skills, good communication, languages, and teamwork skills)

Transferring to the LLB

- ▶ A good idea if
 - ▶ You really like law and you are sure you want to study it in depth
 - ▶ You like the idea of doing advanced study in law
 - ▶ You're not pushed about the other subjects you took in year 1
 - ▶ You want to stay at least 3 more years in university after year 1
 - ▶ You have performed reasonably well in year 1 law
- ▶ Might be best to avoid if
 - ▶ You want to keep your options open
 - ▶ You like one or more of your other year 1 subjects as much as or more than law
 - ▶ You want to finish your degree as soon as you can.
 - ▶ You have struggled with law or did not enjoy it in year 1

Transferring to the BCL

- ▶ A good idea if
 - ▶ You like law, but you want to keep your options open
 - ▶ You like one or more of your other year 1 subjects
 - ▶ You want to finish your degree as soon as you can.
- ▶ Might be best to avoid if
 - ▶ You have struggled with law or did not enjoy it in year 1
 - ▶ You performed much better in your other two subjects than in law.



THANK YOU