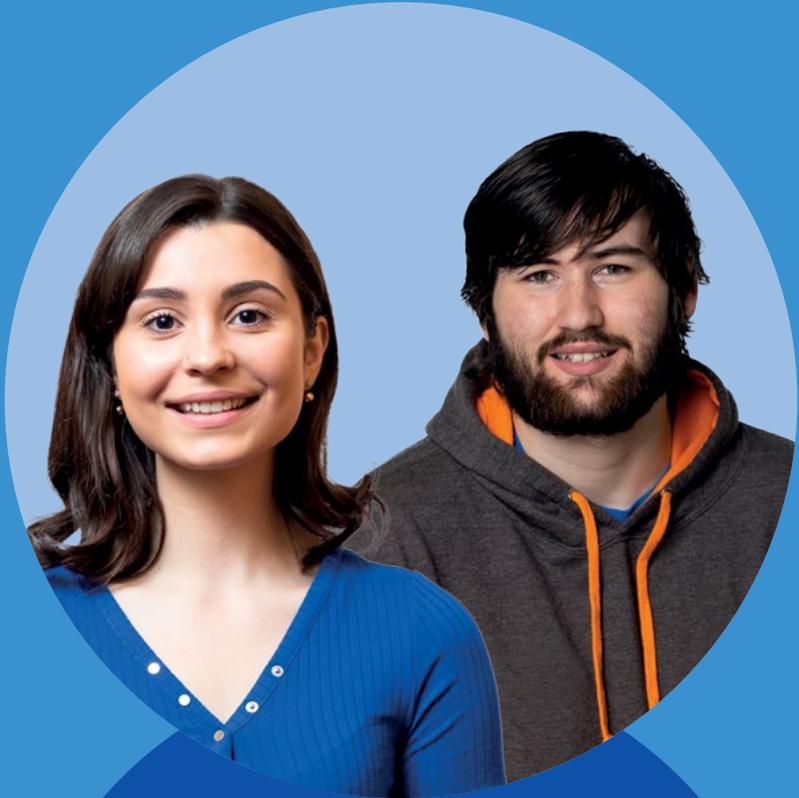




**MAYNOOTH
UNIVERSITY
MATURE STUDENT
HANDBOOK
2023**



QUESTIONS ABOUT STUDYING
AT MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY?
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In this booklet you will find information regarding the application procedure, entry requirements and supports for mature applicants looking to return to learning and complete an undergraduate degree.

MATURE STUDENTS ARE WARMLY WELCOMED AND THEIR PURSUIT OF STUDY AT THIS UNIVERSITY IS ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED.

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY ACCESS PROGRAMME

The Mature Student Office is part of the Maynooth University Access Office. The Maynooth University Access Programme (MAP) encourages under-represented groups to enter third level and provides these groups with support through their time at Maynooth. These groups include under-represented school leavers, mature students, students with disabilities and members of the Traveller community.

MAP is founded on 4 pillars; outreach into the community, promoting pathways into University, easing the transition for incoming students to Maynooth and supporting our current students. MAP's supports are personal, academic and financial in nature and are designed to promote confidence and independence. Maynooth University is a national leader in both attracting and retaining school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, mature students and students with disabilities.

From a national perspective, MAP has taken a leadership role in developing national policy in the area of widening participation. From an institutional perspective, MAP has developed a number of models of academic support that support transition to higher education of under-represented groups and are acknowledged as innovative models of outstanding good practice.

Sometimes students fall into a number of categories, for example a mature student who also has a disability. At Maynooth, a number of mature students are registered with the Disability Office, some with specific learning disabilities. Because of this, the Mature Student Officer works closely with the Disability Office in setting up the provision of an appropriate set of supports that address both the student's disability and their status as a 'mature' student.

The collaborative approach to providing support within the Access Office means there is a huge wealth of resources at our disposal and this in effect means excellent support provision for all our students.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office

WELCOME FROM THE MATURE STUDENT OFFICE



Emer Sheerin
Mature Student Officer

Maynooth University greatly values the particular contribution of mature students to the academic and social environment of the University.

Up to 200 mature students begin their studies here each year. If the opportunity to return to education has presented itself to you, we hope you'll choose Maynooth University.

DEAR FUTURE MAYNOOTH STUDENT,

This booklet is designed to provide you with information regarding the entry process to Maynooth University as a mature student and the services available to support you during your studies. It contains advice, tips and information which should answer many of the questions you may have such as:

- > Do I need a Leaving Certificate to gain entry to Maynooth University as a mature student?
- > How do I apply to Maynooth University as a mature student?
- > What supports are available specifically for mature students?
- > What financial supports are available for mature students?
- > Is on-campus accommodation available for mature students?

The staff in the Mature Student Office are committed to supporting the learning experience of our students. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to telephone, email or drop in to meet us. We are located in MAP Lodge (W23 F2K8) on the North Campus.

Wishing you every success.

Contact us

- + 353 1 708 3307 / ✉ emer.sheerin@mu.ie
- + 353 1 708 4600 / ✉ access.office@mu.ie

 on webchat

 maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office

YOUR MAYNOOTH EDUCATION

We are proud to have provided generations of students with an excellent education. Building on our proud past, we are constantly adapting what and how we teach to better equip you for the many opportunities and challenges you will encounter in your life and in your career. Maynooth University offers a curriculum and an intellectual, cultural and social environment that provides students with opportunities to reach their full potential.

Because you are living in the diverse and ever-changing 21st century, we know we must continuously enhance the Maynooth Education to even better serve the needs of our students. Our revised curriculum, introduced in September 2016, offers you many opportunities to personalise your degree programme throughout your time with us; we have introduced more subject choice than ever before including a dedicated first year Critical Skills subject (available in second year for a number of our science degrees), flexible programme pathways, the opportunity to take an Elective and Experiential Learning opportunities to enhance your degree.

[www.maynoothuniversity.ie/
maynootheducation](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/maynootheducation)



Living in a rapidly changing era, we know we must continuously enhance the Maynooth Education to even better serve the needs of our students. Our revised curriculum, introduced in September 2016, offers you many opportunities to personalise your degree programme throughout your time with us; we have introduced more subject choice than ever before including a dedicated Critical Skills subject, flexible programme pathways and the opportunity to take an Elective and Experiential Learning opportunities to enhance your degree.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/maynootheducation

FIRST YEAR CRITICAL SKILLS COURSES

SECOND YEAR FOR SCIENCE STUDENTS

At third level it is expected that students will develop skills that will not only enable them to successfully negotiate their university experience but which will also help them in other areas of their lives.

Our 15 credit Critical Skills courses are designed to develop these skills early in our students' university experience. These optional courses are designed to help first year students to learn, experience, practice and develop various essential skills that will support their ongoing studies.

Expect small classes and active learning. We want to build student confidence by providing a learning environment that is both supportive and academically challenging. Critical Skills courses are available in second year for science students in a select number of degrees.



See individual degree information for details on the availability of our 15 credit Critical Skills courses in your preferred degrees.

SAMPLE CRITICAL SKILLS MODULES

- > Globalization, Integrating Worlds
- > Universal Critical Skills (multiple classes)
- > Creative Thinking
- > Digital Critical Skills
- > Social Analysis of Everyday Life
- > Critical Skills for Social Science

For more details log on to www.maynoothuniversity.ie/critical-skills or www.criticalskills.ie

FLEXIBLE DEGREE STRUCTURE

At the start of second year, most students will have the option to avail of the University's flexible pathways structure. These flexible pathways allow students to choose how they will study their chosen subjects for the remainder of their degree. The various pathways create significant flexibility within your programme of study. A range of options will mostly be available, although not all options will be available for every subject and every degree.

Students study 60 credits each year at University. Your chosen pathway will allow you to divide the 60 credits between the subject(s) you wish to study for the remainder of your degree.

OUR FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS:

DOUBLE MAJOR:

Studying two subjects equally to degree level

SUBJECT 1: 30 CREDITS

SUBJECT 2: 30 CREDITS

MAJOR WITH MINOR:

Specialising in one subject to degree level, while continuing with a smaller amount of a second subject

SUBJECT 1: 40 CREDITS

SUBJECT 2: 20 CREDITS

SINGLE MAJOR:

Specialising in one subject to degree level

SUBJECT 1: 60 CREDITS

See the degree pages of this prospectus for details of the progression options available in your preferred programme.

GUIDANCE ON PROGRAMME CHOICES AND OPTIONS AVAILABLE UNDER THE MAYNOOTH EDUCATION:

The Programme Advisory Office is available to assist and advise undergraduate students, including incoming first year students, with programme related decisions you may be unsure about during your time at Maynooth University. The Programme Advisory Office acts as a guide to students as you navigate your own way through your programme options.

Incoming first year students will be briefed by the Programme Advisor during Orientation about the programme choices you will be asked to make during your academic journey at Maynooth University. Continuing students may also avail of the service if you are unsure about your programme options, for example if you have any questions about flexible pathways, or whether or not to choose to take an Elective.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/programme-advisory-office

SECOND YEAR ELECTIVES

Elective streams allow you to make more of your university education, and to take better advantage of the world-class lecturers and interesting subject material that Maynooth has to offer. They may help to broaden your perspective, allow you to interact with students from other disciplines, or help you develop transferable skills for the future in a way that complements your main disciplinary studies.

An elective stream amounts to one-sixth of the total course work for the year. Registration for electives is subject to enrolment limitations, and also must be compatible with the timetabling and other requirements of your main subjects. Some combinations of electives and subjects are excluded.

SAMPLE ELECTIVES

- > Accounting in Society
- > Beginning Chinese/German
- > Continuing Chinese/French/German/Nua-Ghaeilge/Spanish
- > Creative Technologies and Digital Prototyping
- > Design Innovation
- > Engaging with Civil Society
- > Film and Screen Studies
- > Global Environmental Change
- > Good and Evil
- > Great Books
- > Influential Ideas in Economics
- > Introduction to Logic and Philosophy in The Digital Age
- > Irish Cultural Heritage
- > Perspectives of Poverty and Development
- > Science Communication
- > Service Innovation
- > Skills for Success

See the degree pages of this prospectus for details on the availability of Electives in the second year of our programmes.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Maynooth students get the opportunity to experience more from their degree programme with an enhanced range of high-impact learning experiences, connecting classroom content with real-world experience, where students learn by doing and reflecting on this experience. These include opportunities in undergraduate research, work and professional development, student leadership, study abroad and community engagement, empowering Maynooth students to develop their skills and competencies for work, life and citizenship.

For more details log on to www.maynoothuniversity.ie/experiential-learning



Our Virtual Learning Environment provides a range of tools and resources that are used to support online learning, teaching and assessment. This includes quizzes, communication and collaboration tools, assessment and feedback tools, and the dissemination of resources such as course files, videos, and links to external resources.

- > We provide a wide range of supports and resources to help you with learning online.
- > We use an online platform that has been invaluable as a digital hub for groupwork, collaboration and classes and we use plagiarism detection software for promoting academic integrity.
- > We use apps to create interactive polls as well as various technologies to create interactive videos and tutorials and to produce short screencasts, lectures, and videos.
- > Staff create podcasts using video editing software and our ePortfolio allows students to record and showcase their learning.

feedback. If utilised well, technology can improve access and support more inclusive participation for all of our students.

In this new learning environment, we find that promoting student engagement and online participation is essential. Our staff are rising to this challenge by using technology to build interactivity into live lectures, by providing a range of media types and activities, by encouraging collaboration and peer learning, and by leveraging technology to provide timely and effective feedback. Dialogue and collaboration with students have been key to our approach.

In partnership with the Maynooth Students' Union, our Enhancing Digital Teaching and Learning (EDTL) team have developed a range of supports and resources to assist students with remote and blended learning, and to help them to develop their digital graduate attributes. www.mu.ie/edtl

Learning via technology can help students develop the digital literacies necessary for their future careers. Technology can enable new opportunities for groupwork and collaborative learning and can generate new opportunities for conducting assessment and providing feedback, for example audio and video



MU Future Ready is a HEA funded initiative, established to empower Maynooth University students to enhance their skills and competencies for work, life and engaged citizenship. It presents an enhanced portfolio of curricular and co-curricular experiences that promote the personal and professional development of Maynooth University students. These include:

CRITICAL SKILLS

A subject dedicated to helping students succeed academically and build transferable skills.

PROJECT LIVE

This initiative provides our students with the opportunity to integrate theory and practice and have a real-world work experience in the classroom, as they engage in high impact experiential learning experiences with our industry, community, voluntary and public sector stakeholders.

RESEARCH LIVE

This Programme provides students with opportunities to undertake engaged research in collaboration with community and industry stakeholders, increasing their understanding of key issues affecting society and offering them the

potential to transform the knowledge gained into practical actions for innovation and social change.

ALUMNI MENTORING

This programme enables students from underrepresented backgrounds to access a professional network and supports them to become more aware of their career interests and opportunities. It also includes an optional work-shadowing opportunity.

MICRO INTERNSHIPS

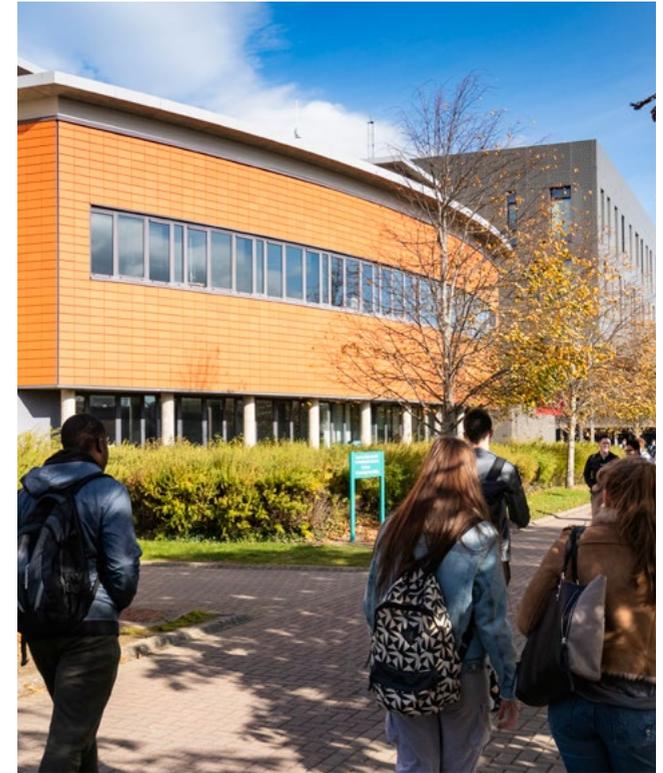
This initiative presents a range of short, flexible work experience opportunities, available to Maynooth University students to complement their academic learning and enable them to get an insight into the world of work, whilst they develop a repertoire of professional skills.

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY PORTAL

MU Future Connect is Maynooth University's online careers and employability portal enabling students to access relevant advice, programmes, events, work-related opportunities and insights, in addition to valuable resources such as CV review and interview simulation tools. Students using the Careers Service can ask questions, book appointments with Careers Advisors and see Graduate jobs using Careers Connect.

Enhancing Digital Teaching and Learning (EDTL) is a cross-institutional project bringing together all seven of Ireland's universities. By promoting best practice in the use of digital technologies for learning, the project aims to enhance the digital attributes and educational experiences of Irish University Students, and a range of staff- and student-facing activities have been initiated at Maynooth in respect of this aim. The student voice is central to the initiative, with our Maynooth EDTL Student Interns working in collaboration with the Maynooth Students' Union to ensure that the project is informed by our students' needs and perspectives. You can access some of the supports and resources developed by the team to assist students with remote and blended learning, and to help them to develop their digital graduate attributes, including online resources, live events and targeted Instagram campaigns. **Visit www.mu.ie/edtl**

IRELAND'S OLDEST UNIVERSITY TOWN



Located in the heart of Ireland's oldest university town, we are just 25 kilometres from the city of Dublin. Surrounded by the rich heritage and beauty of Kildare, the university town has all you could need and all within walking distance.



Have a question? The most commonly-asked are answered here. If your question doesn't feature, please let us know.

Who is a mature student?

A mature student is at least 23 years of age on January 1st of the year of entry to a full-time degree at our University. There is no upper age limit. Mature students ranging in age from 23 to 75 are currently enrolled at Maynooth. For part-time degree programmes the age requirement is 21.

Do I need a Leaving Certificate to gain entry as a mature student?

Generally, no. Mature students apply on the basis of their 'mature years'. This means that entry to the University is granted on the basis of experience to date – academic, life experience and work history. However mature applicants do need Leaving Certificate for entry into B.Ed (MH001, MH002) and must meet matriculation requirements (but are not competing on points). In addition, where Mathematics is an intricate part of the course chosen, a Leaving Certificate Mathematics (or equivalent) minimum result may be required.

See the Applying section towards the back of this booklet for further details.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/matureapplicants

Are there many mature students in Maynooth University?

Yes! Maynooth University has the highest percentage of mature students amongst all universities in the country. We have a policy of ensuring that 15% of places for new entrants to first year are available for mature students. This translates in numbers to approximately 200 new mature students arriving on campus each year.

How do I apply to Maynooth University as a mature student?

Mature applicants must apply through the Central Applications Office (CAO) which can be done online. Alternatively application forms are available from: CAO, Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway.

+ 353 91 509 800

www.cao.ie

maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office

ask on webchat

The closing date for receipt of Irish based applications is 1st February 2023.

Late applications from mature students may be accepted after this date - see www.maynoothuniversity.ie/matureapplicants for updates. Applications may not be made to the CAO after May 1st 2023. Mature applicants to Primary Education degrees MH001 and MH002, who meet the entry requirements, will be requested to submit a supplementary form. There is also a specific interview process involving Maynooth University, DCU and Marino Institute of Education for these degrees.

What undergraduate degrees can mature students apply for?

Mature candidates can apply for all degree courses provided by the University. Details of these degrees are in the Maynooth University Undergraduate Prospectus 2023 and also in the Applying section towards the back of this booklet. Further details are also available at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/level8

Places are reserved for mature students in every degree programme offered at Maynooth University.

What is the English requirement where English is not a mature student's first language?

All candidates are required to satisfy the English language requirement. Candidates whose first language is not English may satisfy the requirement by obtaining one of a range of qualifications. Full details of these are available at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/howtoapply

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

How do I research information about degrees at Maynooth University?

1. Read the comprehensive information available on all degree programmes in the current Undergraduate Prospectus. See also www.maynoothuniversity.ie/level8
You can also contact the Admissions Office for information on subjects, as well as application and selection procedures for mature students.
2. Research the information posted on the academic departments' webpages www.maynoothuniversity.ie/departments
3. Contact the Faculty/Department of your area of interest to arrange an appointment.
4. Discuss your options with the Mature Student Office in advance of the application deadline. Request a Mature Student Information Pack from the Mature Student Office or download the publications from the website. We also run a series of Mature Student Information Sessions throughout the year. Details of these are posted on our website at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/maturestudents
5. Attend the undergraduate Open Days which are held over two days at the end of November each year, and also in April and in June. Each day includes a combination of tours of the campus, exhibitions, demonstrations, talks and information sessions. Individual Departments provide short sample lectures on the degrees and subjects they offer. You can talk to students about their academic experiences and the range of clubs/societies available. Staff are also on hand to discuss admission procedures, degree course details, accommodation, transport and anything else that is relevant to your application. Information particularly relevant to mature students is also available.

Please note that as a mature student applicant, the Leaving Certificate entry requirements in the **Maynooth University Undergraduate Prospectus**, and on the website, do not strictly apply to you. These are for guideline purposes and mature students are encouraged to apply.

What is the University's selection process for mature applicants?

- > Mature entry to many of our degrees is granted on the basis of an assessment of application form and an interview (if required) which explores the applicant's suitability for the degree based on academic qualifications and/or life/employment experience.
- > Our interviews contain a strong advisory element. This enables us not just to assess the applicant's readiness and suitability for a course, but also to offer advice on subject choice, on what to expect in college and on the more practical aspects of returning to education. For applicants requiring further preparation before commencing their degree, we offer comprehensive advice on their options at interview.
- > For degrees with special entry requirements, selection of mature students may be on the basis of a written assessment/test, after which a shortlist for interview is compiled.
- > For some degrees a decision by the University for acceptance or non-acceptance may be

made on the basis of the application form only and so an interview may not be necessary. It is therefore very important that applications are comprehensive and completed correctly and in full. Mature applicants must therefore ensure that they have completed **all relevant sections** of the **CAO** application form.

- > Science degrees at Maynooth University require an aptitude in mathematics and science. Candidates are expected to be able to demonstrate a motivation and aptitude to study science. This may be evidenced by a test and/or interview, in conjunction with previous studies in mathematics and science subjects.
- > For mature students who wish to study for a degree in Engineering/Robotics, a strong aptitude in mathematics is also required. This may be evidenced by a test and/or interview. In addition, Engineering applicants will also be required to pass the Engineering Maths Exam, usually held in August.
- > The Maynooth University Certificate in Science at Level 6 (see p. 36 & 62) provides an excellent foundation for mature students hoping to study Science or Electronic Engineering at degree level in Maynooth University.
- > Some academic Departments also have specific requirements regarding individual subjects that form part of their degree programmes. Full details of the requirements and selection process associated with each degree are in the Applying section towards the back of this booklet. A full list of degrees which require a written assessment can be seen at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/matureapplicants

- > Interviews, where required, generally take place between February and May. Written assessments/tests, where required, typically take place at end March/early April. An applicant may be required to complete a short essay or maths course in advance of an offer being made. These courses are free of charge.
- > Notification of final decisions are issued in June. All communication from the Admissions Office is via email. The official offer of a place is made through the **CAO** during the summer and this must be responded to by the 'Reply Date' indicated on the Offer Notice. It is important that an applicant (or somebody on their behalf) is available to respond to the Offer Notice.
- > Applicants who are not initially successful are sometimes advised to undertake a preparatory course such as the 'Return to Learning' course to assist in their transition back to full-time study. Many of these applicants reapply the following year and are successful in gaining admission. For information on the **Maynooth University Preparatory/Foundation Year Programmes**, please see p. 34 & 62.

What are the fees for taking a degree at Maynooth University?

The Irish Government Free Fees Initiative entitles eligible students to free tuition fees. Irish students who do not already hold a degree, and EU nationals who have been ordinarily resident in an EU Member State for at least three of the five years preceding entry and who do not already hold a degree, should be entitled to free tuition fees. If you are in any doubt as to your eligibility for free fees, check out the 'Free Fees Initiative' under 'Course Fees' at www.studentfinance.ie

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

Registration, exam and student services fee

A Student Contribution charge of €3,000 plus a Student Levy of €150 are payable each year (subject to change). Students eligible for a Student Universal Support Ireland (**SUSI**) grant are only required to pay the Student Levy but must produce, at registration, evidence of grant eligibility from SUSI. For more information see: www.studentfinance.ie or www.maynoothuniversity.ie/student-fees-grants

What financial supports exist for mature students?

All students can apply for a grant under the Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) Student Grant Scheme which is means-tested. Students who are on a Social Welfare payment may be eligible to apply for the Back to Education Allowance. Students on the Back to Education Allowance are not eligible for the Maintenance Grant element of the Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) student grant scheme. However, students in this category should still apply to SUSI in order to have the Student Contribution Charge paid, as otherwise they will have to pay the charge of approximately €3,000 each year (subject to change). For detailed information on financial supports for students, visit the website: www.studentfinance.ie

Student Budgeting Advice Service

This service, provided by the University, offers support with budgeting for university, advice on how to manage money, as well as information on fees, grants, social welfare entitlements and all funding options.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/student-services/student-budgeting-advice-service

What time commitment is involved in studying for a degree course?

- > Students should expect approximately 15 – 17 actual class contact hours per week (more for Science, Engineering, Music, Psychology, Media Studies, languages). These are spread out over the week from Monday to Friday (9am – 6pm).
- > In addition to time spent in lectures/tutorials, you will have to plan personal study and research time. Studying for a full-time degree is a full-time commitment.
- > Current timetables can be viewed on our website www.maynoothuniversity.ie/exams/academic-examination-timetable Please note that these timetables do not include tutorials and are subject to change. Timetables are usually finalised in September.

What level of computer skills do I need?

Information technology will play a central role in your time as a student. Skills such as word processing, using PowerPoint, emailing and researching on the internet are very important, as is the ability to access the Library's learning resources and the University's virtual learning environment, Moodle. In order to make the most of the resources here at Maynooth University, it is imperative that students possess at least some basic computer skills prior to starting their degree. IT support is available to help students who need extra training in certain areas. See page 8 for more about online learning at MU.

How can I travel to Maynooth University?

We are accessible by public transport from most parts of the country. Maynooth University is well served by Dublin Bus routes, Dublin commuter and national rail links, Bus Éireann national bus routes, as well as several private daily commuter and weekend coach routes. The University is approximately 30 minutes from Dublin city centre and is easily accessible by car. Further information on bus, train, car travel and timetables is available on the website.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/location

Non-EU/International mature applicants - fees information

Non-EU mature applicants should contact the International Office for details about applying to Maynooth University.

International Office: Fees information for non-EU/International applicants - see the flowchart on the Fees Office webpages.

IS ON-CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE FOR MATURE STUDENTS?

Maynooth University currently offers accommodation to approximately 1,200 students on campus. Prospective students apply through the Accommodation Office for campus accommodation.

☎ + 353 1 708 3322

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/accommodation

Students can also book on-campus accommodation for occasional overnight stays. If there is a function you wish to go to on the campus or if you have to stay late in the Library finishing off an essay, or if you commute long distance every day and would like to stay here one or two evenings a week, accommodation options are available.

📍 www.maynoothcampus.com



SUPPORTS FOR MATURE STUDENTS

The Mature Student Office was established in recognition of the University's commitment to recruiting and supporting mature students.

Emer Sheerin is the Mature Student Officer. Support is provided in the following ways:



ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR MAP STUDENTS

The Maynooth Access Programme (MAP) seeks to assist new Maynooth University students to successfully transition into university life.

The programme begins with Orientation (Launchpad) which takes place in late August / early September, prior to the main body of

students coming to the campus. It aims to provide new mature students with a wide range of information, which will help them cope with the transition to university life and study. New students will be familiarised with the campus and the Library, and will receive information on finance, accessing support, subject requirements and study skills.

ADVISORY SERVICE

The Advisory Team in MAP see students on an individual and confidential basis to help sort out any issues. It may be that you feel you need some help but you are not sure where to go. We can help identify which support service might best meet your needs. You may just feel you want someone to talk to or you may need advice about personal aspects of study that concern you. Students are welcome to discuss any concerns they have or any area in which they feel that their learning may need extra support. Our office is located in MAP Lodge, (W23 F2K8) on the North Campus.

You may call in to reception or make an appointment with your designated MAP Student Advisor by booking an appointment here www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office/map-advisor-calendars

✉ emer.sheerin@mu.ie

☎ + 353 1 708 3307 / + 353 1 708 4600

🗣️ **ask** on webchat

👉 maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office

SUPPORTS WHILE YOU STUDY

In addition to individual support and advice, the University assists mature students in their learning through the following resources:

Moodle

The MAP Area in Moodle provides access to advice, study tips, news and opportunities to communicate important announcements, share study skills resources and provide useful information about our services.

Technology

This will introduce you the latest educational technology (including several really useful tools) and show you how to integrate it into your

learning and into your daily life as a student. The Technology Transition Programme (TTP) was created to help in this area.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office/technology-transition-programme

Library Information Skills Tutorials (LIST)

These 30-minute sessions provide key skills needed in university on topics ranging from Library Databases to essay writing skills.

The Maths Support Centre (MSC)

This is a free service providing informal, friendly additional support to all undergraduate students. During term time the drop-in centre provides a relaxed, friendly and non-judgemental atmosphere for students who need assistance with any aspect of mathematics or mathematics-related subjects. Students are helped on a first come, first served basis. The Department of Mathematics and Statistics lecturer and MSC Manager is Dr Ciarán Mac an Bhaird. See the website at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/mathematics-and-statistics/mathematics-support-centre

Academic Writing Centre

The Writing Centre offers free, friendly, non-judgemental writing help to any student, undergraduate or postgraduate, regardless of course, degree or level. Students (or a small group of students) may book one-to-one appointments to discuss their writing with a peer tutor. We offer both face-to-face and online sessions. In addition, the Centre offers writing workshops, supports writing groups, engages in discipline specific work and carries out research. See www.maynoothuniversity.ie/centre-teaching-and-learning/writing-centre Contact us at writingcentre@mu.ie if you have any questions.

SUPPORTS FOR MATURE STUDENTS (CONTINUED)

Computer Science Centre (CSC)

The Computer Science Centre (CSC) provides support to first and second year Computer Science students. The CSC is aimed at these students regardless of their ability and will help students understand aspects of the modules that they are having difficulty with.

<https://portal.cs.nuim.ie/csc/>

Irish Language Support Centre/Lárionad na Gaeilge

The Centre for Irish Language strives to promote and advance excellence and innovation in the teaching and assessment of Irish, through the various aspects of our work:

- > Professional training courses in translation and in Irish language teaching
- > Irish language classes for our University staff and students, and for the wider public
- > Resources for Irish language learners
- > Proficiency tests in Irish
- > Research on aspects of applied linguistics and the Irish language

MAP (Maynooth Access Programme) Academic Advisors

As part of the mature student support programme at Maynooth, each academic department of the University nominates one of its academic staff members as a source of support and advice for mature students and all students supported by the Maynooth Access Programme. MAP Academic Advisors' experience of the University, and of their own subject, can be drawn upon by a student when they experience subject and study-related problems.

In the establishment of MAP Academic Advisors, Maynooth University recognises that mature students and all MAP-supported students may have particular needs in returning to learning that require extra support.

An updated list of the MAP Academic Advisors is available at the beginning of term each year from the Mature Student Office and is posted on the website www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office

Social Activities

The Mature Students' Society acts as a social and educational support group for mature students. There are over 200 members and a very dedicated committee help organise events, run the weekly meetings and spend the money! Previous events include pub quizzes, wine receptions, annual Christmas get-togethers and Alternative RAG Week. The Society strongly encourages people to join, as this is a great way of meeting other mature students from different years.

Support for Mature Students with Disabilities

There is a wide range of supports for mature students who have a disability. See p. 28 for more details.

Careers Advice

Mature students wanting to explore career ideas, postgraduate study or employment options can avail of the services of the Careers Service.

Academic Advisory Office

Students seeking particular information on University regulations and progression routes through their degree can avail of the services of the Academic Advisory Office.



Counselling Service

The Counselling Service offers a confidential, professional service, free of charge to all students.

Counselling provides a one-to-one opportunity for students to discuss any issues or concerns impacting on their academic performance or personal health and well-being. Service is strictly confidential and is offered free of charge. Self-referral is welcomed and encouraged. A variety of Well-being Workshops are offered each semester. Please see Counselling webpage for details: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/campus-life/student-wellbeing-support/counselling/workshop

Student Budgeting Advice Service

The Student Budgeting Advice Service offers support with budgeting for university, managing

money, as well as advice on fees, grants, and social welfare entitlements. It also provides advice about the financial supports (internal and external) available to full-time and part-time students at Maynooth University.

Crèche Facilities at Maynooth

The Crèche is available to staff and students of the University. Application for a place should be made to the Crèche Supervisor. Contact the Crèche for further details.

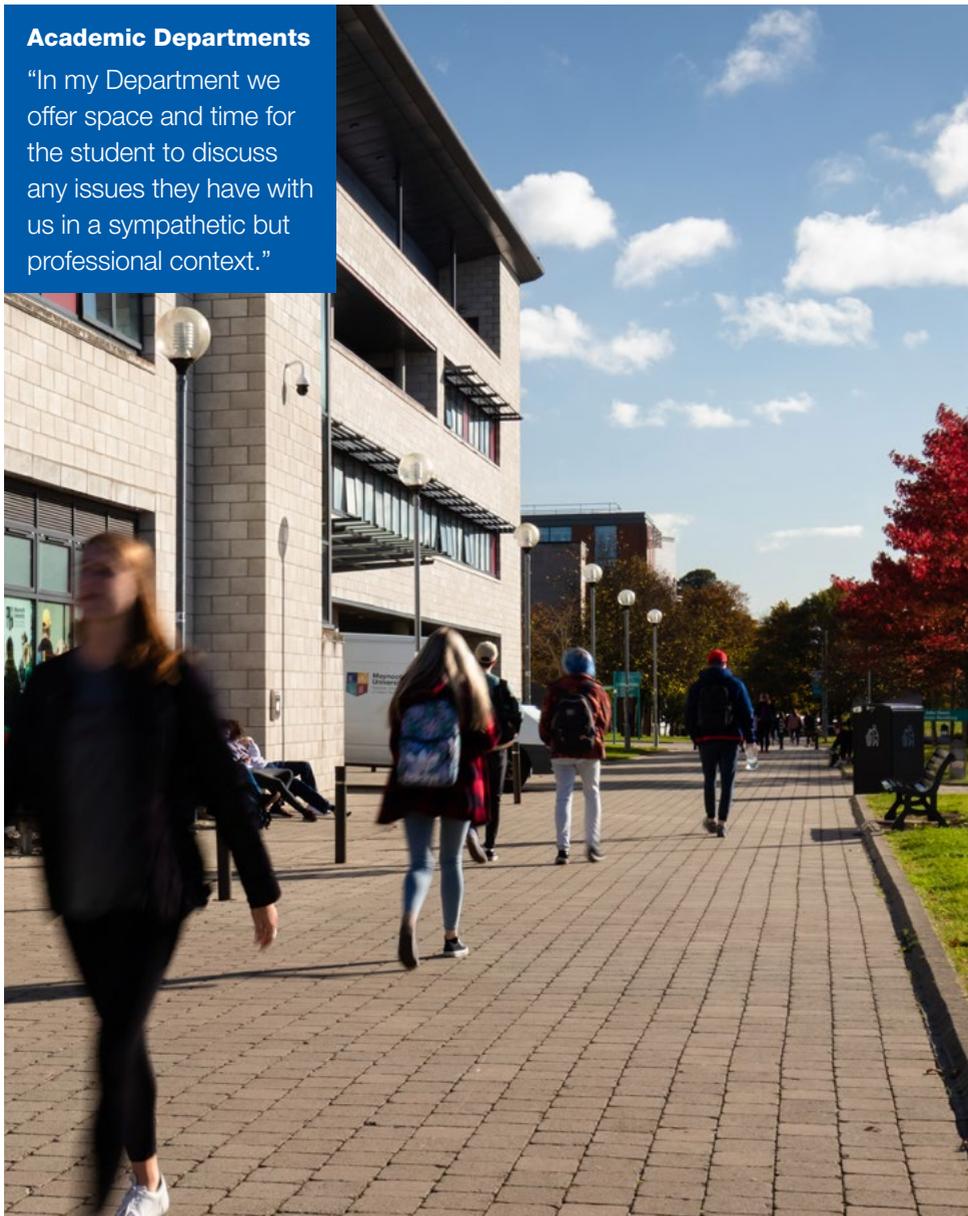
Programme Advisory Office

The Programme Advisory Office, within the Centre for Teaching and Learning, is available to assist and advise students who are unsure about the decisions they must make in relation to their programme including first year subject choice and second year pathways and electives.

Contact details for all services/supports are available on p. 64

Academic Departments

“In my Department we offer space and time for the student to discuss any issues they have with us in a sympathetic but professional context.”



ACADEMIC ADVISORY OFFICE

“We offer supports to all students on an individual basis whether that is exam support, time management, advocacy for extensions, being a ‘soundboard’.”

“We provide information on subject choices and progression routes through degrees. We also offer advice on study issues with assignment preparation/academic writing.”

ACCESS OFFICE

“Students supported through the Maynooth Access Programme, such as mature students, can drop in for advice and guidance on a range of issues.”

ADMISSIONS OFFICE

“We handle your application and support you from application to admission via a range of selection processes.”

CAREERS SERVICE

“In the Careers Service we have a Helpdesk for drop in information, advice and guidance. Our students can book for one-to-one meetings with a Careers Advisor. We also run career-related talks and seminars and set up employer stands.”

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

“We have a Computer Science Support Centre to assist our students.”

CRÈCHE

“We offer a student rate which is cheaper than the staff rate. Most students can avail of the Student Union Childcare Fund.”

“We offer a government subvention scheme run by DCYA called CCS (Community Childcare Subvention) - this subvention is available for parents who are in receipt of a Social Welfare payment.”

DISABILITY OFFICE

“We have in place a range of supports to ensure that students with disabilities have the same opportunities for participation and success in college as the rest of students at Maynooth.”

“We provide advice on the supports available to students with a disability.”

FEES & GRANTS OFFICE

“We provide advice and assistance in relation to all aspects of fees and grants.”

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

“Our Maths Support Centre provides drop-in sessions, workshops and online courses and links.”

MATURE STUDENT OFFICE

“We offer general advice and referrals to other University supports such as SU Welfare Office, Writing Centre, Maths Support Centre, Chaplaincy etc.”

“We act as a signpost to students referring them to appropriate supports - Writing Centre/Library/ Student Services/Academic Departments/Student Health Centre, etc.”

STUDENT BUDGETING ADVISORY OFFICE

“We offer advice on Social Welfare payments and options available, appeal situations. We provide advice also on budgeting and managing money more effectively.”

“We provide information, advice and advocacy service for all finance related matters, support with SUSI grant applications and appeals.”

STUDENT SERVICES

“We link in with other University services such as the Writing Centre, Counselling Service and others.”

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES/RECOGNITION OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (MUSE)



ARE YOU IN?
LET YOUR EXPERIENCE BOOST YOUR CV!

WHAT ARE THE MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY STUDENT EXPERIENCE AWARDS?

Whilst at MU, you are gaining skills from every area of your life. The Maynooth University Student Experience (MUSE) Awards recognise and reward your contribution to non-credit bearing activities such as work experience, volunteering, club and society involvement, student representation and lots more!

As well as being a fantastic addition to your CV, this Award will help you to articulate the skills you develop on your journey towards becoming a distinctive Maynooth student and future graduate.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF COMPLETING AN AWARD?



Helps you to stand out from your peers



Enhances your employability skills



Gives you the confidence to articulate the skills you have gained at MU



Better self-awareness as you reflect on your achievements



Greater career readiness as you prepare for the future

TWO AWARD LEVELS

MUSE AWARD

At least 50 hours of engagement in **one theme**

MUSE AWARD ADVANCED

At least 120 hours of engagement in a minimum of **two different themes**

WORK WITH MAP

There are volunteer opportunities to contribute to the work of the Maynooth University Access Programme (MAP). MAP annually recruits MAP Ambassadors for its outreach and post-entry activities.

MAP AMBASSADOR REQUIREMENTS

- > Current Maynooth University students who are supported by MAP.
- > Enthusiastic, motivated, creative, friendly, and possess leadership qualities.
- > Offer information, advice and guidance to new students to help them settle into life at MU.
- > Represent and promote MAP and Maynooth University at events on and off campus.
- > Encourage students and parents at primary, second level, further education and other communities to go to university by sharing your personal experiences.
- > Be a team player that is willing to take part and learn new skills.
- > Respect the privacy & confidentiality of all.

MAP AMBASSADOR ROLES

Launchpad Orientation Programme

Taking place in September each year, this programme assists all new entrants to Maynooth University coming through the HEAR, DARE, Mature and QQI entry routes. You may be a 1-day, 2-day or 3-day Launchpad MAP Ambassador.

MAP My Way

First semester weekly support programme (beginning September) - you may be involved in facilitating sessions/delivering technology training.

Schools/QQI

MAP Ambassador outreach programme (beginning October) - this role requires additional training and learning how to share your story.

Shadowing Programme

Taking place in February annually, this role involves guiding potential students around sample days on campus and to lectures as they experience a day in the life of a Maynooth student.

Open Days

At the Open Days in November, April and June you will welcome campus visitors and share your experiences as a Maynooth University student.

MATURE STUDENTS WHO HAVE A DISABILITY



We recognise that a disability can impact upon a student's participation in university life. This is why we work with learners to help ensure that the impact is minimised.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/supporting-students-disabilities

ask on webchat

maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Over 8% of the student body at Maynooth comprises those with disabilities. That's one of the highest participation rates in the country, and we're doing all we can to get that figure even higher.

Maynooth University strives to create an inclusive campus community where all students are afforded the same opportunities to learn, socialise, participate and progress. The University has a wide range of supports that put you at the centre of your academic journey.

These supports are designed to help you become independent in your learning, thereby easing the transition from school to university and from university into your career.

STUDENTS WHO TYPICALLY APPLY FOR DISABILITY-RELATED SUPPORT INCLUDE THOSE WITH THE FOLLOWING DISABILITIES:

- > Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Asperger's Syndrome)
- > Attention Deficit Disorder / Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- > Blind / Vision Impaired
- > Deaf / Hard of Hearing
- > DCD - Dyspraxia/Dysgraphia
- > Mental Health Condition
- > Neurological Conditions
- > Speech, Language and Communication Disorder
- > Significant Ongoing Illness
- > Physical Disability
- > Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia or Dyscalculia)

SUPPORTS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES INCLUDE:

- > A dedicated Student Advisor in MAP who will work with you to identify the supports you need to help you achieve your academic goals;
- > A dedicated person in each academic department, known as a MAP Academic Advisor, to help you with any course-related concerns;
- > Technology: introduces students to the latest educational technologies and shows them how to integrate these technologies into their learning;
- > Student Central is an academic support programme for students with significant learning needs. Students who typically avail of this support include those with Asperger's Syndrome, Attention Deficit Disorder or mental health conditions such as depression or severe anxiety. The service is run by three Assistant Psychologists;

- > Support is tailored to meet the individual needs of the student;
- > Your Student Advisor will work with you to identify appropriate examination accommodations. These might include extra time, a smaller venue or use of educational technology;
- > Some students may require support from an Educational Support Worker, such as an academic/personal assistant, a note taker or a sign language interpreter;

Visit the MAP Office website for information on the documentation required, the consultants/specialists that can verify a disability, and the age limits on reports. While you can apply for disability support at any time throughout your studies, early registration is strongly recommended.

EXAMINATION SUPPORTS:

Examination support for Mature/Restricted entrance tests. If you have a disability or specific learning difficulty (e.g. dyslexia) and require examination support for any written tests required when applying as a mature student, you will be required to submit supporting documentation via the online application form on the Maynooth University website. The deadline for making an application for exam accommodations for Mature/Restricted entrance tests is usually March 15th (check website for details). Unfortunately, we are unable to consider applications for exam accommodations for Mature/Restricted entrance test after the deadline. Contact us for further information about the examination supports and documentation requirements.

Maynooth Access Programme

✉ access.office@mu.ie

☎ + 353 1 708 4600

FUNDING FOR UNIVERSITY: GRANTS & SCHEMES



The issue of finance and funding your way through university is clearly very important. Many students are giving up a monthly or weekly wage to go into full-time education. Others may be in receipt of social welfare payments.

Students may be getting financial support through parents or partners, while others may have little or no financial support and are relying on grants or welfare payments to get them through.

Some students find that university has turned out to be more costly than they first anticipated.

There are different sources of funds that students can apply for, but there are a few points that need to be stressed here, particularly for mature students. In reality there are only two main external sources of finance (if eligible) that go some way towards helping mature students sustain themselves through the academic year:

- > Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) Student Grant Scheme: www.studentfinance.ie
There is no such thing as a 'Mature Student Grant'. All students, regardless of age, apply for a grant under (SUSI) Student Grant Scheme. The grant is means-tested and has two elements:
 1. Student Contribution Charge
 2. Maintenance Grant.
- > Back to Education Allowance (apply to your local Social Protection Office). Students on the Back to Education Allowance are not eligible for the Maintenance Grant element of the Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) Student Grant Scheme. However, students in this category should still apply to SUSI in order to have the Student Contribution Charge (formerly Registration Fees) paid, as otherwise they will have to pay this charge which is approximately €3,000 each year (subject to change).

STUDENT BUDGETING ADVICE SERVICE

Students experiencing financial difficulties should avail of the Student Budgeting Advice Service. This service offers supports with budgeting for university, managing money, as well as advice on fees, grants, social welfare entitlements and all funding options.

Internal funding supports include:

- > Student Assistance Fund (SAF);
- > Scholarships;
- > Short Term Loan;
- > Emergency Fund.

Other Possible Funding Options:

- > 1916 Bursary - if you are a first time mature student entering college you need to check out the criteria for the bursary at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office/1916-Bursary-Fund

This bursary is €5,000 per year of study without affecting your SUSI or Social Welfare payment.

- > Uversity - this is a scholarship system aimed at mature students. Check out www.u-versity.eu

College can be expensive so consider all options for financial support. Check around your local area as some government bodies and large companies provide student funding e.g. Dublin Port.

VISIT THE STUDENT BUDGETING ADVICE SERVICE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/money-matters

PROFILE OF A MATURE STUDENT

Jennifer Deane-King BA Psychology

I entered Maynooth University as a mature student, which was my second time in third-level education. Initially I studied a Technician Diploma in Applied Physics (equivalent to a BSc Level 7 qualification) in the College of Technology (Kevin Street). Following this, I worked in Quality Assurance in the microchip and telecommunications industries in Japanese and American companies, eventually progressing to management level. The major commitment of long working hours made me consider a career break to devote my time to care for my small children. I was thankful of the opportunity to be at home with them and I also became actively involved in many voluntary organisations. The break lasted much longer than planned.

I decided to return to education to gain experience in the area of caring, and I completed a FETAC Level 5 course in Healthcare Support and worked in a nursing home, gaining much experience, some of which I applied to my own family members in their last few years of life. I was interested in pursuing a deeper understanding of human mind and behaviour and I completed the Certificate in Psychology in Maynooth University. This spurred me on to think about the BA Psychology course in Maynooth (MH106). Maynooth University was an obvious choice for me as it has an excellent reputation for inclusion, elective modules and flexible degrees and is ranked in the top new universities in the world.

I made contact with the Mature Student Officer who was very positive and encouraged me to apply. I spent a lot of time researching the content of the courses and the options that were available. The BA Psychology (MH106) only had five mature student places and I felt that my chances were slim, but I decided to give it my best and applied through the CAO. I had a back-up course also on my CAO list, in case my first choice was unsuccessful. The entrance exam consisted of an essay and a mathematics section and to my delight, on the result, I received an invitation to an interview and was finally selected.

Prior to starting the first semester I attended optional summer courses where I met other mature students. I also attended the Launchpad Orientation Programme, providing another chance to meet my peers, learn about the supports that were available and get to know the campus. All this preparation was helpful, so that when the semester commenced, I felt positive and ready for the challenge.

In every assignment and module along the way I felt out of my comfort zone, which probably was to my advantage as it meant that I was learning all the time. Each achievement was a wonderful experience. All your life's difficulties, achievements and experiences are useful in completing your studies.

One concern I had at the beginning was that the timetable might have a negative effect on caring for my family. However, each semester has a different timetable, so studying, and preparation of assignments, can all be managed to suit your own needs. I completed my BA Degree in Psychology after three amazing years. Age does not matter at all. I have met and made friends with wonderful people of all ages throughout the three years. The lecturers are all approachable and they work on very interesting and cutting-edge research. The final year project enables you to apply the methodology and research techniques that you have learned.

Being a MAP Ambassador was a wonderful experience helping and encouraging other mature students. I particularly assisted during the COVID-19 pandemic year when everything was all online, contributing to University Open Days. With practice I was zipping in and out of meetings and groups online. Of course, online communication cannot make up for face-to-face meetings, but as it was the only option, it meant that I had to adapt and move with the changes, which is also part of life and learning. I am currently working as a Research Assistant in the Psychology Department in Maynooth University and am continuing my studies to a higher level in Psychology in Maynooth University in the area of research.



“ I completed my BA Degree in Psychology after three amazing years. Age does not matter at all. I met and made friends with wonderful people of all ages throughout the three years.”

JENNIFER DEANE-KING
BA PSYCHOLOGY

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

PREPARATORY / FOUNDATION COURSES FOR MATURE STUDENTS

Mature students who have been out of formal education for some time often benefit from undertaking a preparatory programme.

Maynooth University offer three such options, all of which have guaranteed offers of places on relevant courses for those performing well and attaining the required grades. The courses are as follows:

- > Certificate in Return to Learning (RTL)
- > Certificate in Science (see p. 36)
- > Think About Teaching (TTT) (see p. 40)

Ann Pepper

“I decided to take on the challenge of third level education when my youngest child was entering secondary school. I hoped to improve my future employment opportunities and to reach my potential in terms of education, as I had not gone to college after leaving school in 1987. The Certificate in Return to Learning course was recommended to me as a way to get onto a degree course once I had achieved a certain grade. I successfully completed my BA and am certain I would not have managed this without the excellent start the RTL course gave me.”

CERTIFICATE IN RETURN TO LEARNING

The Certificate in Return to Learning is aimed at people who have been out of formal education for a number of years and who want to experience a university education without having to commit to a full degree. Students who do progress into undergraduate degrees, often excel in their chosen subjects due to the solid foundation of academic research and writing skills that the course had given them.

This Certificate is run by the Department of Adult and Community Education in Maynooth University who take a very different approach to teaching and learning than many people will have encountered through their previous educational experiences. We value the knowledge that people bring with them from their everyday life and we work with the student to bring them through the learning process. Mature students have life experience that can be very valuable. Anyone who has been working, either formally or as a full-time parent, learns skills along the way. These could be budgeting, time management or conflict resolution. In addition, being older gives you a different way of approaching problems. All of this can be very useful when returning to education.

In 2018, the course was redesigned to encompass Study Skills, Information and Communications Technology, Sociology and Local History. This format enables students to sample subjects from the faculties of Arts and Social Sciences with lecturers who have years of experience in a wide range of academic settings.

The Return to Learning course is more than just about acquiring the mechanical skills that people need to succeed in Higher Education. For many adults the initial step of crossing the threshold of a college can be very daunting.

This can be enough to stop a person from even thinking about going to university. These initial concerns about being different to the majority of the students, being expected to know how to do things like use the library or be competent with computers, are dealt with over the foundation year and this element of personal development and confidence building is of central concern to us as adult educators. What the course does more than anything else is allow the student time to come to terms with university life and begin to understand who they are as a learner. This is another reason why our Return to Learning students, who progress onto degree study, do so well – they have learned how to learn.

Participants need to be at least 21 years of age or over on 1st January of the year in which the course commences. Students who achieve a mark

of 60% in their final overall grade will be accepted onto MH101 and MH803 without interview.

Course duration: 100 hours part-time over one year. There are a number of options from which to choose:

- > Monday and Wednesday mornings from 10.00am - 12.30pm
- > Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10.00am - 12.30pm
- > Wednesday evenings from 6.00pm - 10.00pm

Classes are small and the learning takes place within the classroom between the students and guided by our facilitators/lecturers.

Our courses have been described as life changing, transformational and the best learning experience that people have ever had.



CERTIFICATE IN SCIENCE/COMPUTER SCIENCE: PROGRESSION TO SCIENCE, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING DEGREES



The Maynooth University Certificate in Science/Computer Science is a great option for mature students who don't yet meet all the requirements to begin a science degree.

This Level 6 Foundation Programme for mature students (over 21) is suited to those who are interested in preparing for degrees in science and/or engineering.

The Certificate subjects include: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering Science, Experimental Physics, Mathematics, Mathematical Physics and Study Skills.

Successful completion of the Certificate in Science (with a minimum overall grade of 60%) allows enrolment on the first year of a number of science degree courses. Successful completion of the Certificate in Science (with a minimum overall grade of 60%) AND success in the Maynooth University Special Mathematics Examination, usually held in August, after independent study, allows enrolment on the first year of the Electronic Engineering MH304 degree.

Successful completion of this course will also be favourably considered where application is made for other Maynooth University undergraduate courses where entry is not guaranteed.

Designed specifically for mature students, the Certificate in Science includes the extremely important elements of strong academic and study skills support (small class size of maximum 25 students per class) and provides an opportunity to study on a university campus with world class facilities, prior to embarking on a degree course.

Fees for the course are waived for students who qualify for the Back to Education Allowance Scheme.

Almost 300 people have undertaken the course over the last decade with the majority progressing to degrees courses. A recent review of the programme highlighted some of the benefits as including the **"sometimes life-changing impact of participation"**. Past students shared stories of enriching educational experiences, renewed employment opportunities and progression to postgraduate studies.

Dr Karen Herdman from Kildare was a "stay at home mum with two young sons", and is now a lecturer in Chemistry at Maynooth, having successfully completed her PhD. **"I was informed that the Foundation Course would give me an automatic place on the Bachelor of Science degree if certain grades were attained. I was interviewed for the course and decided to 'strike while the iron is hot'. I did a maths introduction course during the summer and started the Certificate course in September"**.

Dr Colm Bracken from Meath took the course in 2005 and has since worked as a post-doctoral researcher with Maynooth's Physics Department. He is now Lecturer in Experimental Physics lecturing in Computational Optics, Modern Physics, and other topics. Colm is also Research Associate of DIAS (Dublin's Institute for Advanced Studies).

He always had an interest in physics and astronomy in particular. "I thought that it would not be possible to study physics at university, but the Certificate course offered a route to do this, providing me with a foundation in maths and science that was essential to my success in the degree. I believe I would not have handled the degree material without the preparation from the Certificate in Science".

The approach to teaching on the course is very much geared towards adults returning to education. Some of the benefits of the course as highlighted by past students include:

- > Vital academic preparation for study of science/engineering in a university environment with a great introduction to college life;
- > Help with integrating socially, while building confidence and self-esteem;
- > Learning about time management and other techniques that aid study.

More information about the Maynooth University Certificate in Science is available on p. 62 or at:

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/mature-students/foundation-preparatory-courses/

MATURE STUDENTS REFLECT ON THEIR TRANSITION EXPERIENCE (FROM CERTIFICATE TO DEGREE)



What did you think of the Certificate in Science?

"I loved it...very nervous on going back to education...really prepared me especially for maths" – **Alicia, Bachelor of Science**

"Actually fantastic...had my doubts initially... so well prepared for first year in science.." – **Giorgio, BSc Computer Science & Software Engineering**

"Really good... knew maths was going to be a stumbling block.. 'tripped me up' before... but actually got really good at it..." – **John, BSc Computer Science & Software Engineering**

"A great experience... Well worthwhile even if I had not continued to undergrad" – **Kenneth, Bachelor of Science**

How was your transition into the undergraduate degree?

"Definitely not afraid... earned my place... I have never been refused help when I asked for it." – **Alicia, Bachelor of Science**

"...Getting a taste in the Cert course gave me the confidence to take the science subjects on.. I take it one day at a time and do quite well on the exams this way." – **Tomas, BSc Computer Science & Software Engineering**

"During the Cert I got used to using Moodle, and the online resources... got to know campus... put me into the right routine, studying etc." – **John, BSc Computer Science & Software Engineering**

"The biggest difference was going from a class of 20 people into a lecture 400 people... I don't think of the young students as kids anymore, we're all doing the same thing and helping each other." – **Kenneth, Bachelor of Science**

"There are some of those days when you wake up and just don't feel like studying, but you tell yourself it has be done." – **Giorgio, BSc Computer Science & Software Engineering**



What advice would you now give a student starting the Certificate in Science?

"Don't stress too much. Things will work out in the end." – **Giorgio, BSc Computer Science & Software Engineering**

"Keep going. Don't get so worked up about it. Don't need to get 100% everything." – **Tomas, BSc Computer Science & Software Engineering**

"Don't worry about whether you're going to be good enough. When you put the work in, you stop worrying and you enjoy more. Maybe put some more effort into year 2." – **Kenneth, Bachelor of Science**

What are you enjoying most on your university journey?

"I love my lectures... summer internship doing research... received an award for a related competition in Cardiff... joining Pfizer graduate programme." – **Alicia, Bachelor of Science**

"Being here... I am really proud of coming so far, having never studied science in school." – **Tomas, BSc Computer Science & Software Engineering**

"Made connections with people... have new friends that will be there for years even after university... I came back and did not waste the opportunity." – **Giorgio, BSc Computer Science & Software Engineering**

"Learning how to code and the maths behind it. Brainstorming and getting us through the tougher problems, often working with the old friends from Science Cert." – **John, BSc Computer Science & Software Engineering**

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY'S THINK ABOUT TEACHING FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE



THINK ABOUT TEACHING FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE

The **Think About Teaching Foundation Certificate** is a one year, Level 6 university preparation or access course for people who have an interest in teaching as a career path.

The purpose of the course is to allow students to critically reflect on their own educational stories both individually and collectively as they work through educational and career pathways. The course also prepares students for the academic, social and cultural opportunities and challenges of university study.

The course is run by staff from the Department of Adult and Community Education in partnership with the Froebel, Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, the Department of Education (secondary), Maynooth Access Office (MAP), and the Admissions Office.

The School of Education is unique in Ireland in having four academic departments which cover teacher education and development from early childhood, through to primary, secondary and further education.

UPDATE ON THINK ABOUT TEACHING FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE FOR 2022/23

The **Think About Teaching Foundation Certificate** has been very successful with numbers of applications growing year by year. However, in order to ensure that the Foundation Certificate will be able to meet this growing demand for places, we need to take some time in the 2022/23 academic year to re-develop the course.

As a result, we will not be in a position to run the **Foundation Certificate** in September 2022. However, our plan is to return with an enhanced programme in September 2023 which will offer a wider range of pathways for people who are interested in teaching as a career.

If you would like to be kept updated on the developments for September 2023, please email the Turn to Teaching team on turn2teaching@mu.ie.



APPLYING TO MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

LEVEL 8 FULL-TIME DEGREES 44

LEVEL 8 PART-TIME/FLEXIBLE DEGREES 60

CERTIFICATE FOUNDATION / PREPARATORY PROGRAMMES 62



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Maynooth University
Critical Skills
Scileanna Criticiúla

LEVEL 8 FULL-TIME DEGREES AT MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY



See page 28 if you have a disability or specific learning difficulty (e.g. dyslexia) and require examination support for any written tests which may be required as part of your application.

Where a mathematics or language requirement is stipulated in the **Undergraduate Prospectus** at Leaving Certificate above the pass (O6) level, mature applicants may be required to demonstrate to the relevant Academic Department that they possess the required competency.

OPC = Open choice to any degree stream
If you don't know which sub-option you'd like to take in one of the following degrees:

- > MH212 > MH404 > MH502
- > MH601 > MH602 > MH803

You can choose OPC (Open Choice) on your CAO and make up your mind on your chosen degree stream during the first four weeks of semester one (provided you meet the minimum entry requirements for that stream).

SUMMARY OF MATURE STUDENT APPLICATION INFORMATION TO FULL-TIME LEVEL 8 DEGREES

CAO Code	MH001	MH002	MH003
Sub-option Code	--	--	--
Degree Name	Education - Froebel Primary Teaching	Education - Froebel Primary Teaching - Gaeltacht Applicants	Early Childhood – Teaching & Learning (full-time)
Subjects – First Year	This degree is designed to prepare students to be primary school teachers. You will take education modules and a school-based placement across all four years of this professional teaching degree, as well as a placement in the Gaeltacht for two fortnight blocks in years two and three of the degree. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for more details.	This degree is designed to prepare students to be primary school teachers. You will take education modules and a school-based placement across all four years of this professional teaching degree, as well as a placement in the Gaeltacht for two fortnight blocks in years two and three of the degree. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for more details.	Child, Context and Curriculum. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.
Application Procedure	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO
Selection Procedure	Specific application and interview process involving Maynooth, DCU and Marino Institute of Education.	Specific application and interview process involving Maynooth, DCU and Marino Institute of Education. MH002 is an application route for students who reside in the officially designated Gaeltacht Language Planning area and who use Irish as the normal language of the home.	Interview
Closing Date for Applications	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Those meeting the entry requirements or taking the Leaving Certificate in 2023 will be requested to submit a supplementary information form.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Those meeting the entry requirements or taking the Leaving Certificate in 2023 will be requested to submit a supplementary information form.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for closing date updates.
Additional Relevant Information	Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University ☎ + 353 1 474 7400 ✉ froebel.department@mu.ie 📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/froebel Background check by the National Vetting Bureau and a Health Information Form are required. H4 Irish, O4/H7 English and Maths or equivalent is required.	Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University ☎ + 353 1 474 7400 ✉ froebel.department@mu.ie 📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/froebel Background check by the National Vetting Bureau and a Health Information Form are required. Applicant details are forwarded to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to determine eligibility for this entry route. H3 Irish, O4/H7 English and Maths or equivalent is required.	Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University ☎ + 353 1 474 7400 ✉ froebel.department@mu.ie 📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/froebel Background check by the National Vetting Bureau required.

SUMMARY OF MATURE STUDENT APPLICATION INFORMATION TO FULL-TIME LEVEL 8 DEGREES

CAO Code	MH101			
Degree Name	<p>Subjects available in MH101</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Accounting > Anthropology > Business (International) > Business (Management) > Business (Marketing) > Chinese Studies > Computer Science > Criminology > Economics > English > Finance > French > Geography > German > Greek and Roman Civilization > History > International Development > Law > Mathematical Physics > Mathematical Studies > Mathematics (Pure) > Media & Cultural Studies > Medieval Celtic Studies > Music > Music Technology > Nua-Ghaeilge > Philosophy > Politics > Psychological Studies > Sociology > Spanish > Statistics 			
Subjects – First Year	<p>Choose up to 4 subjects in first year (15 credits each). Arts subjects are organised into 6 groups. Some subjects are available as a double subject (30 credits). Maximum 1 subject per group may be chosen. For full details about subject combinations and double subject options see the Undergraduate Prospectus.</p> <p>First year Critical Skills (15 credits) is available in every group and may be chosen as 1 of your first year subjects.</p> <p>Group 1: Geography, German, Law, Mathematics (Pure - groups 1 & 3), Philosophy.</p> <p>Group 2: Business (International), Business (Management), Business (Marketing), Criminology, History.</p>		<p>Group 3: English, International Development, Mathematical Studies.</p> <p>Group 4: Anthropology, Economics, Finance, Music Technology, Nua-Ghaeilge.</p> <p>Group 5: Computer Science, Music, Sociology, Spanish.</p> <p>Group 6: Accounting, Chinese Studies, French, Greek and Roman Civilization, Mathematical Physics, Media & Cultural Studies, Medieval Celtic Studies, Politics, Psychological Studies, Statistics.</p> <p>Students have four weeks at the beginning of first year to choose their subjects. Subject combination limitations apply. See Undergraduate Prospectus for details.</p>	
Application Procedure	Apply to CAO			
Selection Procedure	Interview			
Closing Date for Applications	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.			
Additional Relevant Information	<p>The following subjects have extra minimum entry requirements/ recommended grades:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Accounting/Business subjects/Economics/ Finance (O4/H7 Mathematics or equivalent recommended). > Music (H5 or equivalent required): Test administered by the Music Department. > Mathematical Studies/Mathematical Physics/ Computer Studies, Music Technology, Statistics (O3/H7 Mathematics or equivalent recommended). > Mathematics (Pure): H2 Mathematics or equivalent recommended. > Nua-Ghaeilge: (H4 or equivalent required). > Non-beginner French, German, Spanish: There is no minimum entry requirement to study these languages although we generally recommend aptitude at H4 Leaving Certificate or equivalent level. <p>> Ab initio (beginners) programmes are available in: Chinese, French, German and Spanish.</p> <p>> Additional 15 credits available in first year in Language and Culture for non-beginner French, German and Spanish.</p> <p>> Students taking Statistics must also take Mathematical Studies or Mathematics (Pure).</p> <p>Subject combination limitations apply. See Undergraduate Prospectus for details.</p> <p>3 year degree (4 years with Erasmus/Study Abroad option). All students have the option of a 4 year BA International degree.</p> <p>Up to 100 places in MH101 are reserved for mature student applicants.</p>			

SUMMARY OF MATURE STUDENT APPLICATION INFORMATION TO FULL-TIME LEVEL 8 DEGREES

CAO Code	MH103	MH106	MH107	MH109
Sub-option Code	--	--	--	--
Degree Name	Music	Psychology	Social Science	Media Studies
Subjects – First Year	At least 45 credits of Music in first year plus one other Arts subject. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Psychology, Psychological Studies and one or two Arts subjects. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Social Policy, Sociology, Critical Skills for Social Sciences plus one of: Anthropology, Geography, History or Philosophy. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	30 credits of Media Studies theory & practice modules & up to 2 additional Arts subjects (or Critical Skills). See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.
Application Procedure	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO
Selection Procedure	Online video audition - details are advised to applicants in March annually by the Department of Music.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Written assessment. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the written assessment.
Closing Date for Applications	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Restricted application course.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.
Additional Relevant Information	Applicants must be able to demonstrate, at audition, a minimum of Grade 6 (ABRSM) on a standard orchestral instrument, piano, organ, classical guitar or voice; traditional Irish instrumentalists of comparable fluency also considered. 3 year degree (4 years with Erasmus/Study Abroad option).	Quota of 5 places reserved for mature students. 3 year degree (4 years with Erasmus/Study Abroad option).	Approximately 30 places reserved for mature students each year. 3 year degree (4 years with Erasmus/Study Abroad option).	Up to 10 places reserved for mature students. 3 year degree (4 years with Erasmus/Study Abroad option).

SUMMARY OF MATURE STUDENT APPLICATION INFORMATION TO FULL-TIME LEVEL 8 DEGREES

CAO Code	MH116	MH201	MH202
Sub-option Code	--	--	--
Degree Name	Community and Youth Work (full-time)	Science: > Biology > Chemistry > Computer Science > Data Science > Engineering Science > Experimental Physics > Mathematical Physics > Mathematics > Statistics	Biotechnology
Subjects – First Year	Community and Youth Work. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Mathematics & 3 Science subjects from: Biology; Chemistry; Computer Science; Data Science; Engineering Science; Experimental Physics; or Mathematical Physics. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics & 1 of: Computer Science; Experimental Physics or Mathematical Physics. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.
Application Procedure	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO
Selection Procedure	Personal statement. Written assessment. Candidates are shortlisted for individual and group interviews on the basis of personal statement and written assessment. Details are advised to applicants in March by the Department of Applied Social Studies	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.
Closing Date for Applications	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Restricted application course.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.
Additional Relevant Information	3-year degree. An offer is subject to a satisfactory background check by the National Vetting Bureau. 50% of places reserved for mature students.	O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent is recommended. Students have the option of taking up Statistics in second year.	O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent is recommended.

SUMMARY OF MATURE STUDENT APPLICATION INFORMATION TO FULL-TIME LEVEL 8 DEGREES

CAO Code	MH203	MH204	MH206	MH207
Sub-option Code	--	--	--	--
Degree Name	Biological & Geographical Sciences	Physics with Astrophysics	Theoretical Physics and Mathematics	Data Science
Subjects – First Year	Geography, Biology, Mathematics & either 15 credits of Data Science or Experimental Physics	Experimental Physics, Mathematics & 2 of: Biology; Chemistry; Computer Science; Engineering Science or Mathematical Physics	Theoretical Physics and Mathematics for each of the 3 years of the degree. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Data Science, Computer Science, Mathematics and 1 of the following: Additional Computer Science (15 credits) or Engineering Science.
Application Procedure	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO
Selection Procedure	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.
Closing Date for Applications	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.
Additional Relevant Information	O4/H7 Mathematics or equivalent is recommended.	O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent is recommended.	H2 in Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. 3 year accelerated degree.	O1/H5 Mathematics or equivalent recommended.

SUMMARY OF MATURE STUDENT APPLICATION INFORMATION TO FULL-TIME LEVEL 8 DEGREES

CAO Code	MH208	MH209	MH210
Sub-option Code	--	--	--
Degree Name	Biological and Biomedical Sciences	Psychology (through Science)	Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Chemistry
Subjects – First Year	30 credits of Biology in 1st year, Mathematics plus 1 other Science or Arts subject. Science subjects: Chemistry, Computer Science, Experimental Physics. Arts subjects: Anthropology, Business (3 subject options), Economics, Finance or Spanish. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Psychology, Psychological Studies, Mathematics & 1 other subject from: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering Science, or Experimental Physics. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics & 1 of: Computer Science; Experimental Physics or Mathematical Physics. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.
Application Procedure	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO
Selection Procedure	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.
Closing Date for Applications	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.
Additional Relevant Information	O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent is recommended.	O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent is recommended. Psychology as a Single Major subject in second year. In third year spend one semester on work placement (subject to availability) or studying abroad and one semester on a research internship. In fourth year Psychology is again studied as a Single Major subject. Quota of up to 5 places reserved for mature students.	O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent is recommended.

SUMMARY OF MATURE STUDENT APPLICATION INFORMATION TO FULL-TIME LEVEL 8 DEGREES

CAO Code	MH212	MH304
Sub-option Code	SED or MCS or MED or OPC	--
Degree Name	Science (with Education) or Mathematics and Computer Science (with Education) or Mathematics (with Education)	BE Electronic Engineering with specialisms in one of: Computer Engineering, Electronic Engineering or Communications Engineering (choose specialism at the end of year 3)
Subjects – First Year	BSc Science (with Education): Biology, Chemistry, Experimental Physics and Mathematics or BSc Mathematics and Computer Science (with Education): Computer Science, Mathematics, Mathematical Physics and Experimental Physics. or BSc Mathematics (with Education): Mathematics, Mathematical Physics, Experimental Physics, Computer Science. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	First, second and third year programmes are similar for each of the degree streams. All Electronic Engineering students complete the same modules over the first 3 years, including a work placement/design exercise module in 3rd year. Students choose their final degree stream at the end of year 3 and also choose their final degree path. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.
Application Procedure	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO. Broad entry with unrestricted choice to pursue engineering degree options in any of the following streams: Computer, Electronic or Communications Engineering. In third year all students decide which of the above streams they wish to take.
Selection Procedure	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test. Candidates will also be required to take a mathematics test if they do not meet the mathematics requirement.
Closing Date for Applications	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.
Additional Relevant Information	BSc Science (with Education): O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. BSc Mathematics and Computer Science (with Education): H4 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. BSc Mathematics (with Education): H4 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. These programmes are taken over five years. Graduates are awarded a level 9 Professional Master of Education (PME). Vetting by the National Vetting Bureau required. Quota of 5 places reserved for mature students. OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.	H4 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent is required. A Mathematics Exam is available in late August/early September annually for students who have not attained a H4 in Mathematics. In 4th year students specialise in 1 of the following 3 options: Electronic Engineering with Computers, Electronic Engineering or Electronic Engineering with Communications, completing the degree after year 4 with a BE honours. or Students with a minimum of 2:2 grade in year 3 may complete years 4 & 5 resulting in an ME in Electronic Engineering. Industrial work experience is only available to students in year 4 of the 5 year Masters. Students may alternatively choose an Erasmus trip or a research internship (subject to availability).

SUMMARY OF MATURE STUDENT APPLICATION INFORMATION TO FULL-TIME LEVEL 8 DEGREES

CAO Code	MH305	MH306	MH401
Sub-option Code	--	--	--
Degree Name	Product Design and Innovation	Robotics and Intelligent Devices	Finance - Double Major or Major with Minor
Subjects – First Year	Design, Marketing, Creative Thinking and Engineering. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	The first year programme is a blend of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	1st year – semester 1: 15 credits each of Economics & Accounting & 7.5 credits of Mathematics. 1st year - semester 2: Option to take a further 7.5 credits in Mathematics, or to take 7.5 credits in Accounting. The remaining 15 credits are completed with another subject chosen from groups 1, 2 or 5. Students can switch to MH403 Accounting and Finance degree at the end of 1st year provided 22.5 credits of Accounting are taken in 1st year, and students attain 60%. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.
Application Procedure	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO
Selection Procedure	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.
Closing Date for Applications	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.
Additional Relevant Information	O3/H7 in Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended.	O3/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent required. 2nd & 3rd year - Robotics & Intelligent Devices, work placement (subject to availability) or a Design Challenge in 3rd year. 4th year choose between Robotics & Intelligent Device thematic large projects.	O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. 3 year degree (4 years with Erasmus/Study Abroad option). Students who have completed this course have been given exemption from two papers (Financial Accounting and Finance) at Chartered Accountant Proficiency (CAP 1) Examinations. OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.

SUMMARY OF MATURE STUDENT APPLICATION INFORMATION TO FULL-TIME LEVEL 8 DEGREES

CAO Code	MH402	MH403	MH404
Sub-option Code	--	--	BMA
Degree Name	Quantitative Finance	Accounting and Finance	Business and Management
Subjects – First Year	15 credits of Economics, Computer Science, Maths/ Statistics and one other subject or Critical Skills.	Economics, Finance and Accounting. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Foundations of management and business in first year. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.
Application Procedure	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO
Selection Procedure	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.
Closing Date for Applications	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.
Additional Relevant Information	O1/H5 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended.	Students who complete this degree are given full exemptions from the Chartered Accountancy Proficiency (CAP 1) Examinations. O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. 3 year degree. Optional internship/study abroad year between second and third year (subject to availability). In second and third year you study Accounting, Finance, Law and the parts of Economics important to Finance.	O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. 3 year degree. Optional internship study abroad year after 2nd year (subject to availability). Functional disciplines in 2nd year and strategic aspects of business in 3rd year. OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.

SUMMARY OF MATURE STUDENT APPLICATION INFORMATION TO FULL-TIME LEVEL 8 DEGREES

CAO Code	MH404	MH404	MH404	MH407
Sub-option Code	INB	MKT	BGC/IGC/MGC	- -
Degree Name	International Business	Marketing	Business and Management or International Business or Marketing and Global Cultures	Business and Accounting
Subjects – First Year	Foundations of international management and marketing in 1st year. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Foundations of marketing and management in 1st year. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Foundations of Business and Management or International Business or Marketing with Global Cultures in 1st year. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Business and Accounting. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.
Application Procedure	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO
Selection Procedure	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.
Closing Date for Applications	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.
Additional Relevant Information	O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. 3 year degree. Optional internship/ study abroad year after 2nd year (subject to availability). OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.	O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. 3 year degree. Optional internship/ study abroad year after 2nd year (subject to availability). OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.	O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. 3 year degree. Optional internship/ study abroad year after 2nd year (subject to availability). OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.	Students who complete this degree course are given full exemptions from the Chartered Accountancy Proficiency (CAP 1) Examinations. O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended.

SUMMARY OF MATURE STUDENT APPLICATION INFORMATION TO FULL-TIME LEVEL 8 DEGREES

CAO Code	MH409	MH411	MH412	MH415
Sub-option Code	- -	- -	- -	- -
Degree Name	Business and Languages	Entrepreneurship	Business with Sport Science (NEW)	Economics
Subjects – First Year	Foundations of Accounting/Business Management/ International Business or Marketing with a beginner or non-beginner language. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Fundamentals of business, innovation, the digital economy and enterprise. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Business, Sports Science and 1 Arts subject or Critical Skills.	Economics (30 credits) with two other subjects from the Arts groups other than groups 2 and 4. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.
Application Procedure	Apply to the CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to the CAO
Selection Procedure	Test. Candidates are selected for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are selected for interview on the basis of the test.
Closing Date for Applications	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.
Additional Relevant Information	All combinations of Business streams and any language (Chinese, French, German, Spanish) except Accounting with French or Chinese. O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. Study abroad in 3rd year.	O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. 3 year degree. Optional internship/ study abroad year after 2nd year (subject to availability).	O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. 3 year degree. Optional internship/ study abroad year after 2nd year (subject to availability).	O1/H5 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended.

SUMMARY OF MATURE STUDENT APPLICATION INFORMATION TO FULL-TIME LEVEL 8 DEGREES

CAO Code	MH416	MH501	MH502
Sub-option Code	--	--	LWA
Degree Name	International Economics (NEW)	LLB Law	Law and Accounting
Subjects – First Year	15 credits each of Finance & Mathematics & choose 1 subject from Chinese*, French*, German*, Spanish* or Computer Science and 1 other subject (*beginners language programme available - French, German & Spanish beginners require 30 credits). See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Four year Single Major law programme. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Law and Accounting. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.
Application Procedure	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO
Selection Procedure	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test	Test
Closing Date for Applications	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.
Additional Relevant Information	O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. 3 year degree. In second year students study Finance and Economics and can opt to continue their language or take more Mathematics modules. There is an international placement in third year with the final fourth year at Maynooth, taking Finance, Economics and optional language modules. Placement in a company in third year is subject to availability. OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.	This degree is listed on the schedule of approved degrees by The Honorable Society of King's Inns.	This degree is listed on the schedule of approved degrees by The Honorable Society of King's Inns. Graduates are also given full exemptions from the Chartered Accountancy Proficiency (CAP 1) examinations. O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.

SUMMARY OF MATURE STUDENT APPLICATION INFORMATION TO FULL-TIME LEVEL 8 DEGREES

CAO Code	MH502	MH502	MH502	MH601
Sub-option Code	LWB	LWC	LWD	CSA
Degree Name	Law and Business	Law and Criminology	Law and Arts	Computer Science and Software Engineering (through Arts)
Subjects – First Year	Law and Business. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Law and Criminology. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Law plus one or two Arts subjects under MH101 - excluding Group 1. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Computer Science (30 credits), Mathematical Studies & 1 Arts subject under MH101 - excluding Groups 3 & 5. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.
Application Procedure	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO
Selection Procedure	Test	Test	Test	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.
Closing Date for Applications	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.
Additional Relevant Information	This degree is listed on the schedule of approved degrees by The Honorable Society of King's Inns. O4/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.	This degree is listed on the schedule of approved degrees by The Honorable Society of King's Inns. OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.	This degree is listed on the schedule of approved degrees by The Honorable Society of King's Inns. OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.	O3/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. Four year degree. Placement in third year subject to availability. OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.

SUMMARY OF MATURE STUDENT APPLICATION INFORMATION TO FULL-TIME LEVEL 8 DEGREES

CAO Code	MH601	MH602	MH602	MH603
Sub-option Code	MWA	CSS	MWS	--
Degree Name	Multimedia, Mobile and Web Development (through Arts)	Computer Science and Software Engineering (through Science)	Multimedia, Mobile and Web Development (through Science)	Computational Thinking
Subjects – First Year	Computer Science (30 credits), Mathematical Studies & 1 Arts subject under MH101 - excluding Groups 3 & 5. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Computer Science (30 credits), Mathematics & 1 Science subject under MH201. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Computer Science (30 credits), Mathematics & 1 Science subject under MH201. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Computer Science, Mathematics and Philosophy. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.
Application Procedure	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO
Selection Procedure	Test. Candidates are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the test.	Test. Candidates are selected for interview based on the test.	Test. Candidates are selected for interview based on the test.	Test. Candidates are selected for interview based on the test.
Closing Date for Applications	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.
Additional Relevant Information	O3/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. Four year degree. Placement in third year subject to availability. OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.	O3/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. Four year degree. Placement in third year subject to availability. OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.	O3/H7 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. Four year degree. Placement in third year subject to availability. OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.	H2 Leaving Certificate Mathematics or equivalent recommended. A science subject is not required. Three year accelerated degree.

“Keep in touch with your fellow mature students and discuss things, helps a lot and you will have some fun too, while sweating out that essay.”

Iveta

“Join a club or society, be part of what’s going on, no matter age - everyone fits in at Maynooth”

Louise

“You might be overwhelmed and doubt your own ability to learn, but please remember, that you have years of experience behind you, motivation and purpose! Give yourself a chance, give yourself a gift of education, you deserve it!”

Eliza

“1. Find out if you are entitled to the ‘back to education allowance’ as this will make life easier financially.

2. Talk to current students in the course and lecturers to gauge whether you will have enough of an interest to pursue a 3-4 year commitment to your chosen field of study.

3. Take advantage of Maynooth University’s fantastic selection of services, clubs and societies and green space.”

Anthony

“Make sure to go to the orientation for mature students. It’s a great help knowing what supports are out there and where everything is on campus.”

Celeste

TIPS FOR MATURE STUDENTS



See the **Undergraduate Prospectus** or the website for further details about entry requirements and programme content.

www.mu.ie/level8



LEVEL 8 PART-TIME/FLEXIBLE DEGREES AT MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

SUMMARY OF MATURE STUDENT APPLICATION INFORMATION TO PART-TIME/FLEXIBLE LEVEL 8 DEGREES

CAO Code	MH004	MH803	MH803
Sub-option Code	--	BLS	BCS
Degree Name	Early Childhood – Teaching and Learning (flexible)	BA in Local Studies	BA in Community Studies
Subjects – First Year	Child, Context and Curriculum. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	History; Geography; Folklore, Archaeology; Anthropology; Sociology. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.	Adult and Community Education; Anthropology; Applied Social Studies; Sociology; History; Geography. See the Undergraduate Prospectus for details.
Application Procedure	Applications for the BA Early Childhood - Teaching & Learning (flexible) degree (CAO Code MH004) must be made through the Advanced Entry portal on the CAO application website.	Apply to CAO	Apply to CAO
Selection Procedure	Interview	Interview	Interview
Closing Date for Applications	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.	Apply to CAO before February 1st. Check Admissions Office website for application closing date updates.
Additional Relevant Information	<p>Applicants with a Level 6 Early Childhood qualification or equivalent may be given advanced entry admission to the second year of this four year programme.</p> <p>Vetting by the National Vetting Bureau required.</p> <p>4 year degree (flexible)</p> <p>Important note: application is via the Advanced Entry portal on the CAO website.</p>	<p>All applicants must be 21 years or older on 1st January of the year of entry. Mature student intake only.</p> <p>OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.</p>	<p>All applicants must be 21 years or older on 1st January of the year of entry. Mature student intake only.</p> <p>OPC (Open Choice) option available. See p. 44 for details.</p>



CERTIFICATE FOUNDATION / PREPARATORY PROGRAMMES

CERTIFICATE FOUNDATION/PREPARATORY COURSES		
Course Title	Maynooth University Certificate in Return to Learning (Humanities)	Maynooth University Certificate in Science/Computer Science
Duration	100 hours part-time over one year. Taught two mornings or one evening per week.	Full-time one year course. Delivered over two 12 week semesters with an additional pre-semester preparation week focusing on Mathematics and Study Skills.
Subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Study Skills > Introduction to degree subjects e.g. Sociology 	<p>Science Strand: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering Science, Experimental Physics, Mathematics, Mathematical Physics, Study Skills</p> <p>Computer Science Strand: Computer Science, Mathematics, Experimental Physics, Mathematical Physics and Electronic Engineering.</p>
Fee	€1,000 approx.	€1,000 approx. Students eligible for the Back to Education Allowance do not have to pay fees and are advised to contact their local Social Protection Office.
Application & Selection Procedure	Apply online at https://v2.pac.ie/institute/2	Online application available in mid February for entry in September. Check the University website for details.
Closing Dates for Applications	To ensure a place on the daytime course students are requested to submit an application as early in the year as possible.	Application period normally closes at the end of May.
Additional Relevant Information	<p>Students must be aged 21 years or more on 1st January in the year they wish to commence the University Certificate.</p> <p>Students who obtain a final grade of 60% or more will be automatically offered a place on the Bachelor of Arts (MH101 or MH803) degree programmes at Maynooth University.</p> <p>Both daytime and evening options are available.</p>	<p>Students must be aged 21 years or more on 1st January in the year they wish to commence the Foundation Certificate. Students must be educated to Junior Certificate level (or equivalent) to include Mathematics. Successful completion of the Maynooth University Certificate in Science/Computer Science (with a minimum overall grade of 60%) allows enrolment on the first year of a number of Science degree courses. Successful completion of the Maynooth University Certificate in Science/Computer Science (with a minimum overall grade of 60%) PLUS successful completion of the Maynooth University Mathematics Examination expected to be held in August 2024, after independent study, allows enrolment on the first year of Engineering degree courses.</p>
For more Information Contact	<p>The Return to Learning Programme Department of Adult and Community Education ☎ + 353 1 708 6062 ✉ adulteducation@mu.ie</p>	<p>Science and Engineering Foundation Programmes Mature Student Office ☎ + 353 1 708 3307 / +353 1 708 4600 ✉ emer.sheerin@mu.ie / access.office@mu.ie</p>

This table is for guideline purposes only. Courses may be subject to change.

CERTIFICATE FOUNDATION/PREPARATORY COURSES	
Course Title	Think about Teaching Foundation Certificate
Information	<p>The Think About Teaching Foundation Certificate is a one year, Level 6 university preparation or access course for people who have an interest in teaching as a career path.</p> <p>The purpose of the course is to allow students to critically reflect on their own educational stories both individually and collectively as they work through educational and career pathways. The course also prepares students for the academic, social and cultural opportunities and challenges of university study.</p> <p>The course is run by staff from the Department of Adult and Community Education in partnership with the Froebel, Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, the Department of Education (secondary), Maynooth Access Office (MAP), and the Admissions Office.</p> <p>The School of Education is unique in Ireland in having four academic departments which cover teacher education and development from early childhood, through to primary, secondary and further education.</p> <p>Update on Think about Teaching Foundation Certificate for 2022/23</p> <p>The Think About Teaching Foundation Certificate has been very successful with numbers of applications growing year by year. However, in order to ensure that the Foundation Certificate will be able to meet this growing demand for places, we need to take some time in the 2022/23 academic year to re-develop the course.</p> <p>As a result, we will not be in a position to run the Foundation Certificate in September 2022. However, our plan is to return with an enhanced programme in September 2023 which will offer a wider range of pathways for people who are interested in teaching as a career.</p>
Closing Dates for Applications	If you would like to be kept updated on the developments for September 2023, please email the Turn to Teaching team on turn2teaching@mu.ie .

This table is for guideline purposes only. Courses may be subject to change.

INDEX OF USEFUL CONTACTS

ACCESS OFFICE

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office
✉ access.office@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 708 6025

ACADEMIC ADVISORY OFFICE

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/centre-teaching-and-learning
✉ advisory.office@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 708 3368

ACCOMMODATION OFFICE

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/accommodation
✉ accommodation.office@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 708 3322

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers
✉ careers@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 708 3592

CHAPLAINCY

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/chaplaincy
✉ chaplaincy@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 708 3320

CRÈCHE

✉ creche.care@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 708 3319

COUNSELLING SERVICE

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/counselling
☎ + 353 1 708 3554

DISABILITY OFFICE

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/supporting-students-disabilities
✉ access.office@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 708 6025

HOMEFINDER SERVICE (OFF CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION)

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/accommodation/z-guide-services
✉ homefinder.service@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 708 4729

MATURE STUDENT OFFICE

Mature Student Officer:
Emer Sheerin
✉ emer.sheerin@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 708 3307

MAYNOOTH STUDENTS' UNION

📍 www.msu.ie
✉ frontdesk@msu.ie
☎ + 353 1 708 3669
☎ + 353 1 474 7565

PROGRAMME ADVISORY OFFICE

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/programme-advisory-office
✉ programme.choices@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 474 7428

SPORTS OFFICE

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/campus-life/student-life-sport/sports
✉ paul.davis@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 708 6406

STUDENT BUDGETING ADVICE SERVICE - MONEY MATTERS

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/money-matters
✉ student.budget@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 708 4729

STUDENT HEALTH CENTRE

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/studenthealthcentre
✉ healthcentre@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 708 3878

STUDENT HELP DESK

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/studenthelp
✉ studenthelp@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 474 7444

STUDENT SERVICES OFFICE

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/student-services
✉ student.services@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 708 4729

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS OFFICE

📍 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/matureapplicants
✉ admissions@mu.ie
☎ + 353 1 708 3822

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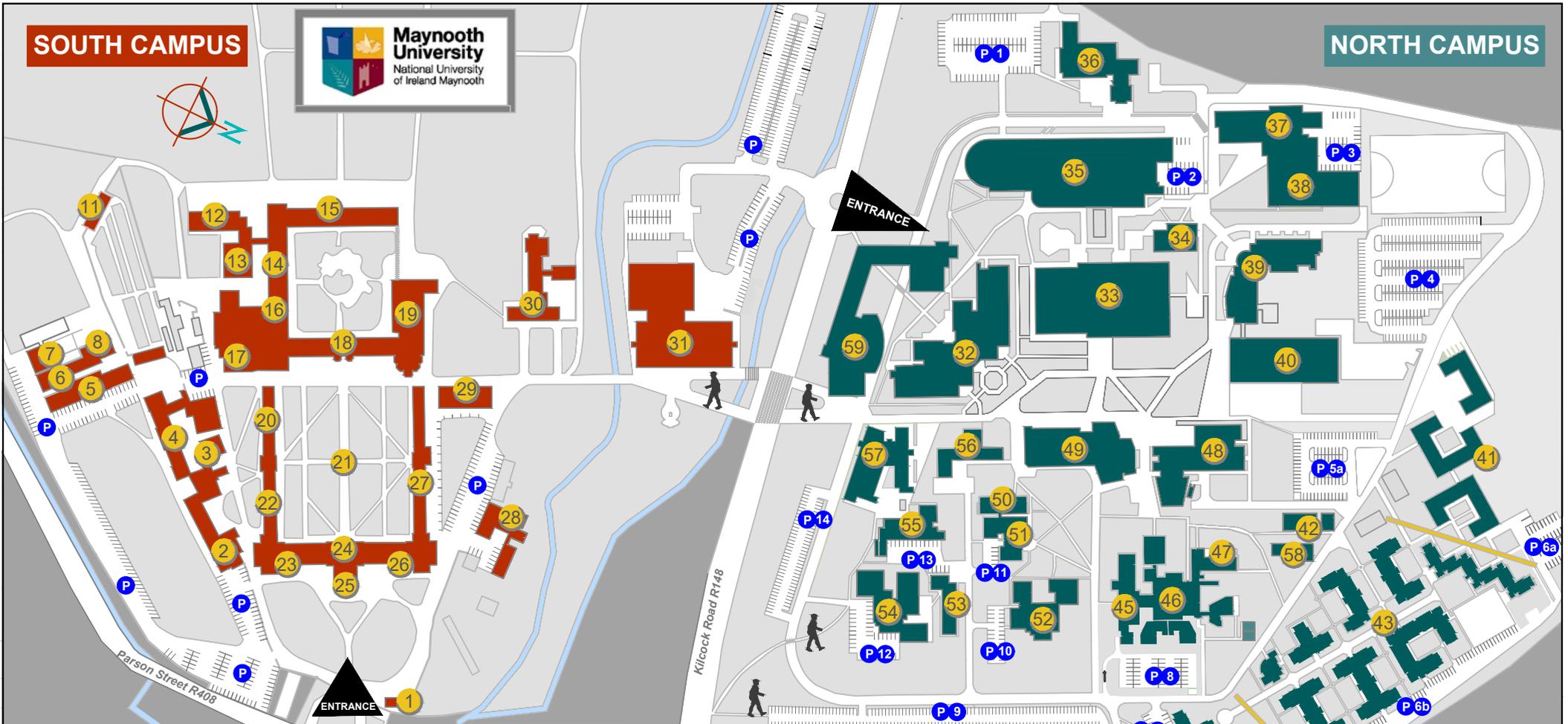
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Car parking on campus offers a mix of spaces for students, staff and visitors. Please check www.maynoothuniversity.ie/location for details about restrictions.



UNDERGRADUATE EVENTS 2022–2023

EVENT	DATE
Open Days	Friday 25th November 2022 Saturday 26th November 2022
CAO Information Evening	Wednesday 11th January 2023
Spring Open Day	Saturday 22nd April 2023
Summer Open Day	Saturday 24th June 2023
Information Day for School Principals and Guidance Counsellors	Tuesday 12th September 2023
Campus Tours	Contact admissions@mu.ie
Schools' Liaison	We offer a range of in-person and virtual information events to our education partners.

For details of the locations and times of all undergraduate events check www.mu.ie/undergradevents



visit our
open days

For all your Maynooth and CAO level 8 degree questions visit: www.mu.ie/level8



Maynooth University Admissions Office
Humanity House, South Campus,
Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland, W23 X021

+ 353 1 708 3822
admissions@mu.ie
www.mu.ie/level8



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