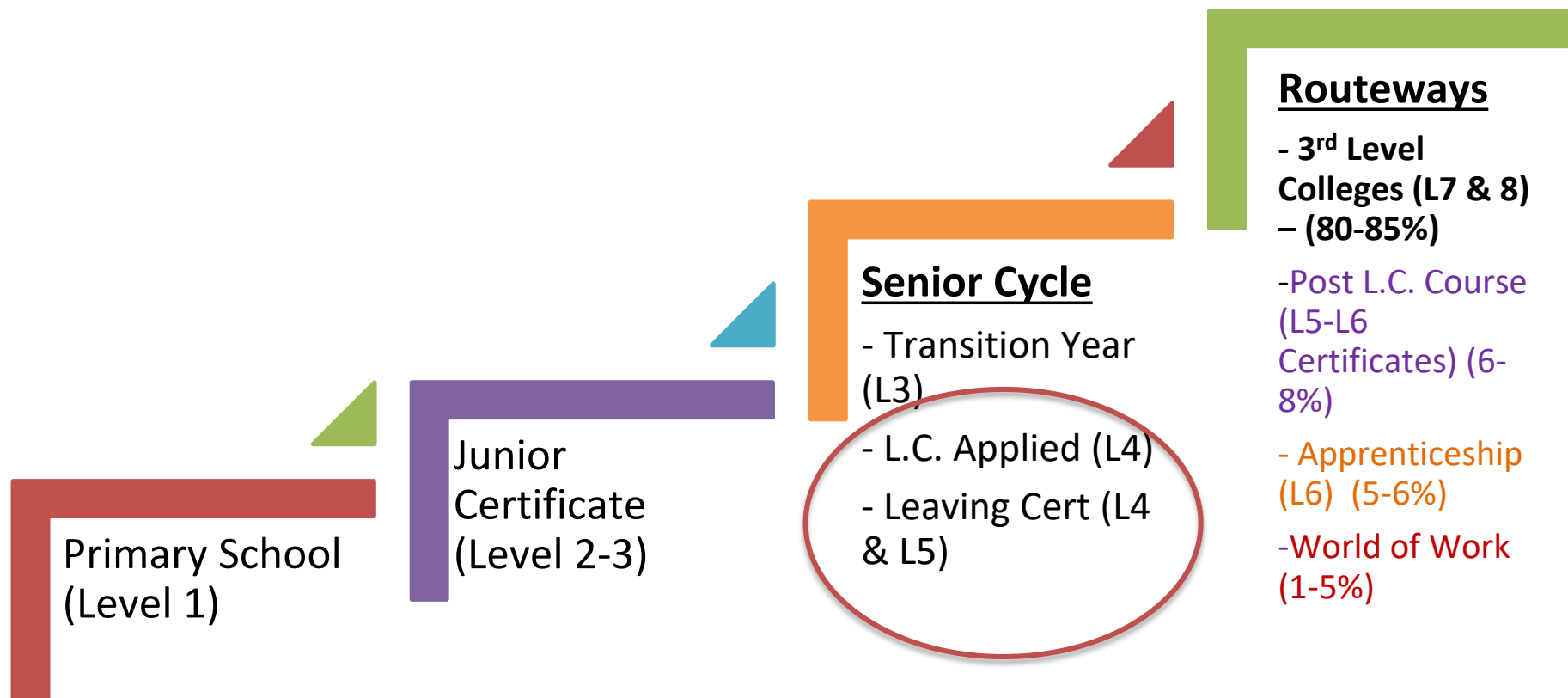




Leaving Certificate Subject Options

Glanmire Community College
2026-2028

Education Progression



You are now entering the **Leaving Certificate Programme**. This provides you with access to a range of options when you graduate from Post-Primary school. Depending on your interests and academic achievements, you choose which routeway you wish to pursue to further your career and future goals.

In G.C.C 80-85% of our graduates pursue 3rd level qualifications

Leaving Certificate Examination Subjects

- Students will study **7 examination subjects** at Leaving Certificate.
- This will be made up of
 - **3 Core Subjects**
 - **4 Optional Subjects**

The purpose of this presentation is to help you to make informed option subject choices

New Subject offered in GCC since September 2025

Drama, Film and Theatre Studies

Students will explore and experience the world of drama, film and theatre; how it can inform their own work and their creative and critical choices, helping them become more aware of their own place in a wider society.

| Assessment component | Weighting | Level |
|--|-------------|---------------------------|
| Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Creativity in Practice Project | 50% Project | Common Brief |
| Written examination | 50% Exam | Higher and Ordinary level |

Changes to Senior Cycle Subjects September 2025 and September 2026

| September 2025 | September 2026 |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Biology● Chemistry● Physics● Business● Drama and Film Studies (New) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Construction Studies● Engineering● Geography● Physical Education (PE) |

**Subjects now have an AAC
(Additional Assessment Component)
worth a minimum of 40%**

Curricular Provision – Leaving Certificate

4 X Core
(Non-
Exam)

- Senior Cycle Physical Education (SCPE)
- Religious Education/Ethics
- Guidance
- SPHE

3 X Core
Subjects
(Exam)

- Irish
- English
- Maths

4 X
Option
Subjects

Choose
Any 4

- | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|
| -French | -History | -Geography |
| -Art | -Music | -Home |
| Economics | | |
| -Accounting | -Business | -Economics |
| -Biology | -Physics | -Chemistry |
| -Technology | -Engineering | -Construction Studies |
| -Design and Communication Graphics (DCG) | | |
| -Leaving Certificate Physical Education (LCPE) | | |
| -Drama, Film and Theatre Studies | | |

Third/Other Language Requirement

Colleges set **minimum entry requirements** for L8 and L6/7 courses.

National University of Ireland (eg UCC)

L8 requirements:

- Two H5's, plus four O6 or H7's
- Passes in English, Irish, Maths and **Third/Other Language**.

[Exceptions for Third/Other Language: Engineering, Science, Food Science, Nursing]

Requirements

Leaving Certificate entry requirements:

At Least six subjects must be presented. Minimum grade H5 in two subjects and minimum grade O6/H7 in four other subjects. English and Irish are requirements for all programmes [unless the applicant is exempt from Irish](#). Applicants will need to meet the following minimum entry requirements:

| English | Irish | Maths | Other Language |
|---------|-------|-------|----------------|
| O6/H7 | O6/H7 | O6/H7 | O6/H7 |

Other Languages Examined

**Note you must register for an alternative language to French in your 6th year.
Before making a decision inform your guidance counsellor.**

You must:

- Be able to speak and write in that language
- Be taking Leaving Certificate English

Can only take one non-curricular EU language

**Languages Examined with Oral,
Aural and Written that follow a
curriculum:**

- **French offered in GCC**
- Spanish
- German
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Polish
- Lithuanian
- Mandarin Chinese
- Arabic
- Japanese
- Russian

**Non-Curricular examined with Written
paper only:**

These are languages do not appear as
part of the normal school curriculum

Bulgarian
Croatian
Czech
Danish
Dutch
Estonian
Finnish
Hungarian
Latvian

Maltese

CAO-Specific Entry Requirements

Often there is a **specific subject (or subjects)** and **grade requirements**.

It is **independent** of the points required for the course

For example:

- A student achieved 625 points. They studied Biology and Physics but **not Chemistry**. Despite their excellent results, they **will not be offered** Pharmacy because Chemistry is a **mandatory subject** for that course.

Some Other Common Examples of mandatory subjects/ grade requirements:

- (UCC) Engineering- **H4 Maths, O6/H7 Lab Science**
- (UCD) Veterinary Medicine- **H5 Chemistry**
- (UCC) Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy- **H4 in Chemistry and Biology/Physics**
- Primary Teaching- **H4 in Irish, O4/H7 in Maths, O4/H7 in English**

Subject Selection Process

- Leaving Certificate Students for September 2026 are required to select **4 Option Subjects** in order of **priority**.
- Students should **also** select *two additional subjects* – 5 and 6, in case its not possible to accommodate one of the first four subjects.
- It is important to note you could be given your 5 or 6 subject choice.
- Parents will receive a text message to log into VSWare account to enter option subject choices. A further guide to entering options subjects on VSWare will issue with this text.

How to Select Your Subject

1. **Review each subject specification:**

- content

- assessment requirements

(e.g. projects/practical/oral/written exams)

Ask yourself if you will be interested and committed to studying this subject?

1. **Research** your career and further education interests

1. **Identify the Course and Entry Requirements** (CAO Points etc.) needed to gain qualification.

1. **Identify the Required Subjects** and level of achievement at Leaving Cert (Higher/Ordinary grades)

Research www.careersportal.ie

Career Guidance tools for all



Join
to create a
Career Profile



Discover
your Career
Interests



Match
your Interests to
Careers & Courses

START HERE!

[MORE INFO](#)

Courses

Careers

Apprenticeships

Jobs

Career Sectors

Site Search

by Course Title or Code...

by College here... 

SEARCH COURSES



School

I am a second level student re-searching my subjects, courses and career options



Graduates

I am an undergraduate / graduate researching career opportunities



Adult Learners

I want to return to education and explore options and supports available



Interested in the
Reach programme
for Junior and/or
Senior Cycle?

Select School

Research www.careersportal.ie

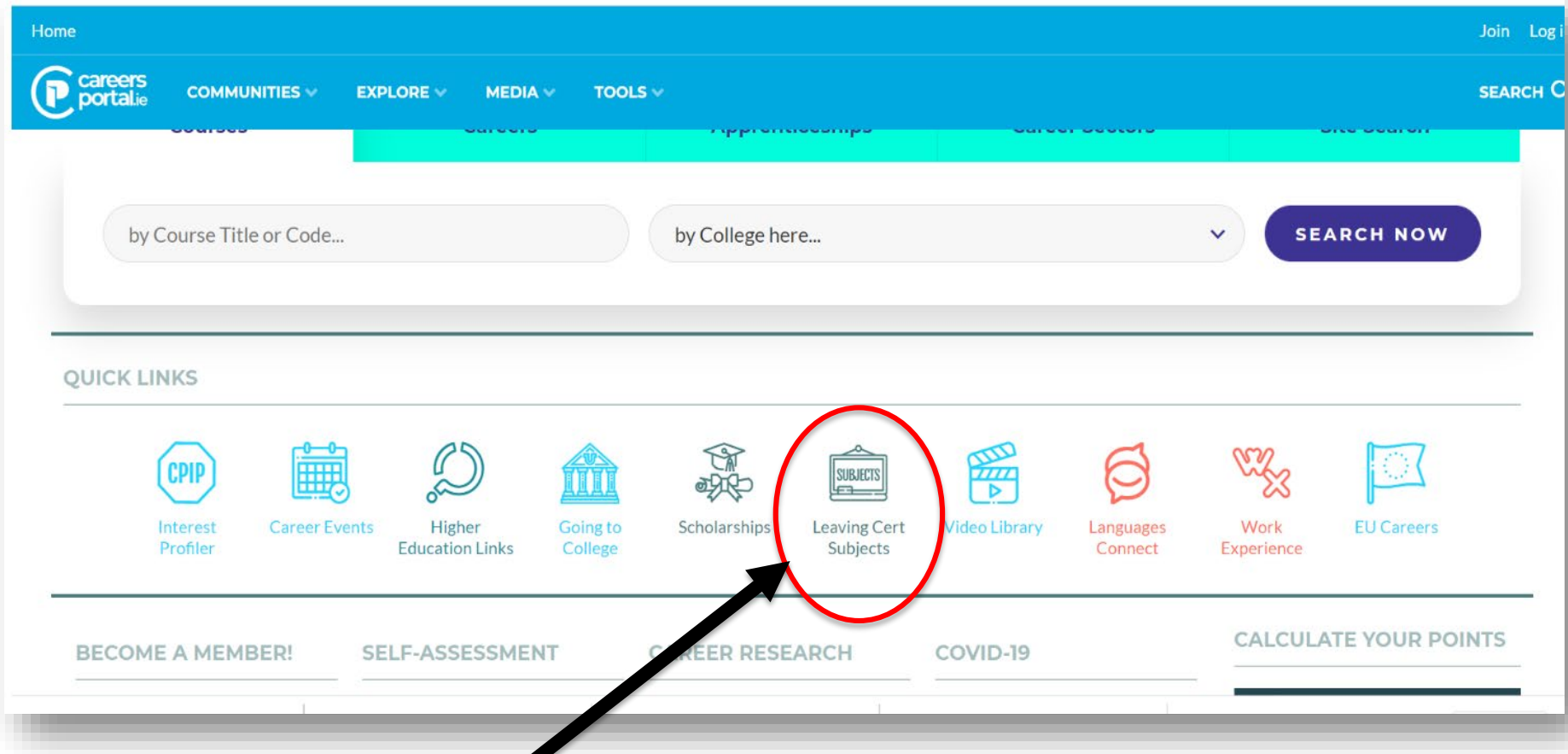
The screenshot shows the CareersPortal.ie website. The top navigation bar is blue with links for Home, COMMUNITIES, EXPLORE, MEDIA, TOOLS, and a SEARCH button. The main content area is titled 'School' and has three sub-sections: 'School', 'Starting your Career Path', and 'What's it like to be a ...'. The 'School' sub-section is active. Below this, there is a section titled 'CareersPortal @ School' with a paragraph explaining the portal's purpose. Below the paragraph, there are three columns, each with a logo and a description:

- Junior Cycle**: An tSraith Stobaireachy Junior CYCLE. Start exploring some of the amazing careers that your Junior Cycle prepares you for. Learn how to study better and check out Subject Choices for Leaving Cert.
- Transition Year**: TY. Get prepared for your World of Work. Experience and discover the World of Work. Explore the skills you need for a successful career.
- Leaving Cert**: Leaving Cert. Explore all your options after school, including CAO and PLC Courses. Improve your Study Skills to maximise your results.

The 'Leaving Cert' section is circled in red, and a black arrow points from a text box at the bottom to it.

Select Leaving Cert

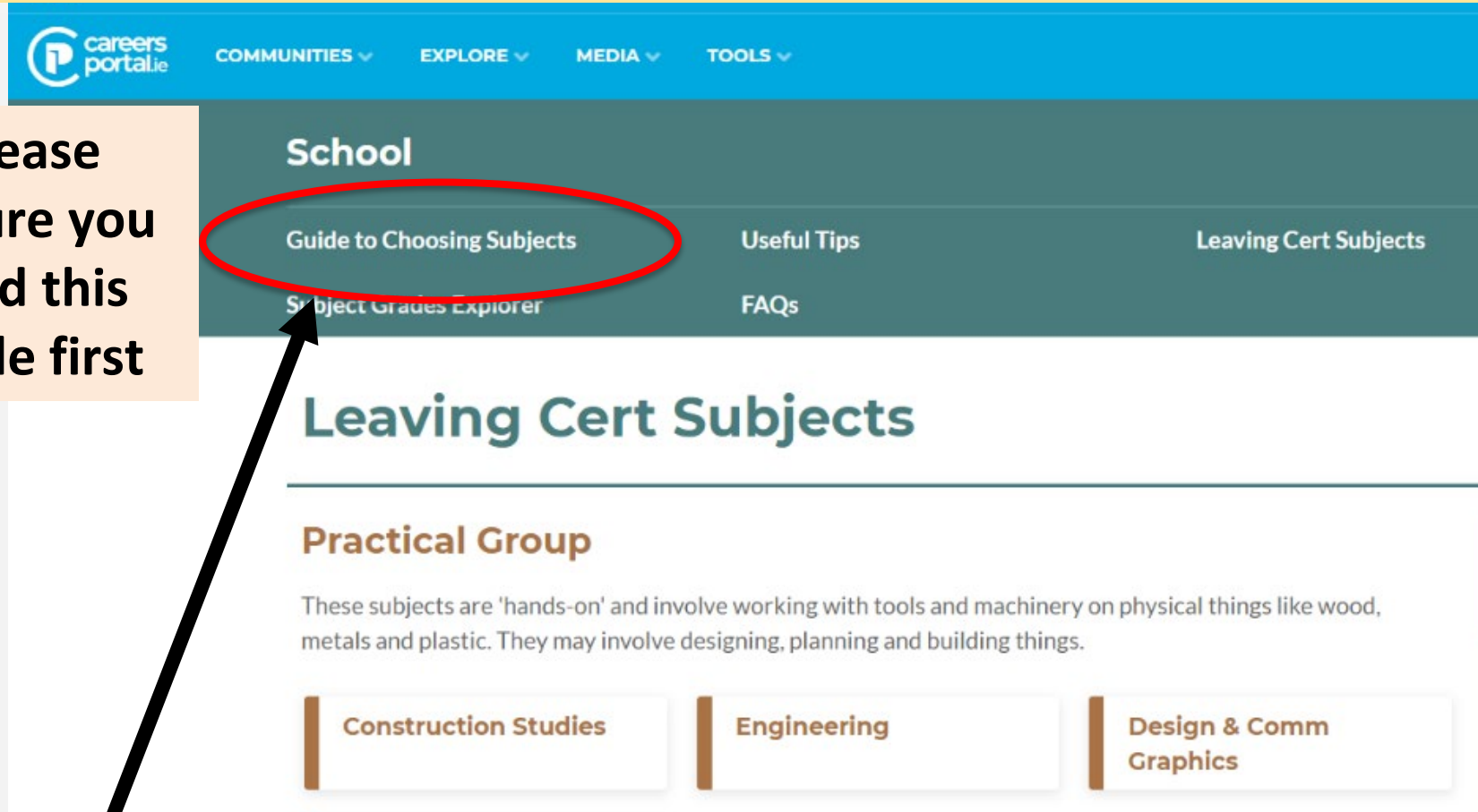
Research www.careersportal.ie



Click on Leaving Cert Subjects

Research www.careersportal.ie

Please ensure you read this guide first



Click on [Guide to Choosing Subjects](#). This will give you good advice, particularly about courses that require a [Third Language](#), [Science subjects](#) and [HL Maths](#) etc.

Research www.careersportal.ie

Leaving Cert Subjects

Practical Group

These subjects are 'hands-on' and involve working with tools and machinery on physical things like wood, metals and plastic. They may involve designing, planning and building things.

Construction Studies

Engineering

Design & Comm
Graphics

Technology

Science Group

These subjects demonstrate how to explore nature using carefully planned methods, and teach the basic methods and findings of scientific investigation.

Agricultural Science

Applied Maths

Biology

Chemistry

Mathematics

Physics

Physics and Chemistry

Computer Science

**Scroll down and
review each of
the Option
Subjects that
Interest You.**

Research www.careersportal.ie

Choose a subject
Example:

Subject Choice
Leaving Certificate

French

Career Zone

1 2 3 4 5



NFQ Level

4

Duration

2 Years

Summary

Grades Awarded

Course Overview

Course Content

Exam Structure

Career Possibilities

3rd Level Requirements

Course Content

Course content for higher and ordinary levels is similar. However, oral and written skills are particularly important at higher level. A grade 'C' at higher level in the Junior Certificate is usually a minimum requirement for higher level French at Leaving Certificate.



Modern languages require students to be proficient in the following skills:


Oral/Speaking
Written
Aural/Listening
Reading

Use the Navigation Panel on the left hand side to review the course content, exam structure, career possibilities etc.

Research www.careersportal.ie

Home Join Login


 COMMUNITIES ▾ EXPLORE ▾ MEDIA ▾ TOOLS ▾ SEARCH 

School 











Junior Cert | Transition year | Leaving Cert

Under School, courses can also be researched

Courses **Careers** **Apprenticeships** **Career Sectors** **Site Search**

Engineering University College Cork - UCC  **SEARCH NOW**

QUICK LINKS

 Interest Profiler  Career Events  Higher Education Links  Going to College  Scholarships  Leaving Cert Subjects  Video Library  Languages Connect  Work Experience  EU Careers

Insert a specific or general area of interest – Select the college if you already know of an institution that offers a course in this area. If not, leave the college blank and search all of the institutions.

Research www.careersportal.ie

The screenshot shows the careersportal.ie website. The top navigation bar is blue with links for Home, COMMUNITIES, EXPLORE, MEDIA, TOOLS, and a SEARCH bar. On the left, a sidebar lists navigation options: Course Summary (highlighted with a black arrow), Language Options, Entry Requirements, QQI / FET Links, The Student, Career Progression, and Further Research. The main content area is titled 'COURSE SUMMARY' and contains text about the first year of engineering at UCC, transfer opportunities, and program selection. To the right, the 'COLLEGE PROFILE' section features the UCC logo and links to Visit College Profile, View Prospectus, View Scholarships, and View Courses. At the bottom, there is a video player for 'Engineering & Architecture' with 'Watch later' and 'Share' buttons.

Home

careersportal.ie

COMMUNITIES ▾ EXPLORE ▾ MEDIA ▾ TOOLS ▾

SEARCH

Course Summary

Language Options

Entry Requirements

QQI / FET Links

The Student

Career Progression

Further Research


COURSE SUMMARY

The first year is common across engineering and provides an opportunity for transfer to the other engineering courses at UCC.

Students who are unsure which preferred engineering programme they would like to go into select CK600NPF (Engineering) at the application stage and make their choice out of Process & Chemical Engineering, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Energy Engineering or Electrical & Electronic Engineering at the end of first year.

Students who successfully complete first year CK600NPF will be offered a place in their first preference programme, subject to availability and first year performance.

COLLEGE PROFILE

 **UCC**
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh


University College Cork

Visit College Profile

View Prospectus

View Scholarships

View Courses

 Engineering & Architecture
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Watch later Share

By clicking on the course in the relevant college, you can review a series of options such as a brief summary of the course.

Research www.careersportal.ie

[COMMUNITIES](#) ▾[EXPLORE](#) ▾[MEDIA](#) ▾[TOOLS](#) ▾[SEARCH](#) ▾[Course Summary](#)[Language Options](#)[Entry Requirements](#)[QQI / FET Links](#)[The Student](#)[Career Progression](#)[Further Research](#)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Points History

487[▲]

Minimum Subjects

2 H5 & 4 O6/H7✓ **O6/H7** IN English✓ **O6/H7** IN Irish✓ **H4** IN Maths OR A ✓ **H6** IN MathsAND A ✓ **H4** IN Applied Maths✓ **H4** IN Agricultural Science OR Biology OR Chemistry OR Physics

OR Physics/Chemistry OR Technology

COLLEGE PROFILE

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

University College Cork

[Visit College Profile](#)[View Prospectus](#)[View Scholarships](#)[View Courses](#)

The Entry Requirements will **identify the CAO points required and specific subjects required** for entry to the course.

You should make a note of these subjects and the achievement required – **particularly for Option Subjects.**

Summary: Factors to consider

If you're unsure where your interests lie, select a broad range of subjects.

For Example:

1 Language, 1 Finance Subject, 1 Science

and

1 from Art/Music, Humanities & Social Science or Practical subject.

- All option subjects carry the **same CAO points**
- Try to **build on skills** learned at Junior Certificate
- Try and pick a subject you **enjoy**
- Try to think **long-term** for third level options/career

To do....

- Complete your Research
- Guidance Classes for TY Groups and
3rd Years Progressing directly to 5th Year










Google Classroom

Next Steps

- Text will be sent to Parents to complete the Options Selection process on your VSWare account.
- **Friday 19th December**- Final date for inputting Option Subject Preferences

The screenshot displays a dashboard with seven cards, each representing a different aspect of student management. The 'Student Options' card is highlighted with a red circle.

| Attendance | Assessment | Behaviour | Timetable | Personal Info |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Attendance Monitor your student's attendance at a glance, view records from an entire year or specific lesson. Learn More → | Assessment View your student's full academic record, track progress over time and download term assessments. Learn More → | Behaviour Keep track of your student's behaviour, monitor progress & teacher feedback. Learn More → | Timetable View your student's timetable, see realtime data for which lesson they are in at any given time. Learn More → | Personal Info Overview of your student's key info. Ensure that this is up to date. Learn More → |

| Fees | Student Options |
|--|--|
|  |  |
| Fees Overview of school fees for the year, pay directly via card online. Learn More → | Student Options Submit next year's subject preferences directly to the school. Learn More → |