

# SUBJECT CHOICE

**RAMSGRANGE COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL**

**MARY HARRIS – GUIDANCE  
COUNSELLOR**



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A wise choice of subjects requires



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## WHAT FACTORS SHOULD INFLUENCE SUBJECT CHOICE?

**ERA**

Questions to be Asked

Is it **ESSENTIAL**?

Is it **RELEVANT**?

Is it **ATTRACTIVE**?

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## 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR OPTIONS

- IN 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR, STUDENTS HAVE A "TASTE" OF ALL THE SUBJECT OPTIONS
- THREE SUBJECTS ARE THEN CHOSEN AND CARRIED TO JUNIOR CERT
- DESCRIPTIONS OF THE SUBJECTS ARE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.NCCA.IE](http://WWW.NCCA.IE)

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## 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR SUBJECTS TO CHOOSE FROM

- FRENCH
- BUSINESS
- ART
- MUSIC
- HOME-ECONOMICS
- SCIENCE
- MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY (WOOD)
- MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY (METAL)
- TECHNICAL GRAPHICS

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## LEAVING CERT - THE BASICS

STUDENTS TAKE 7 SUBJECTS FOR THE  
LEAVING CERTIFICATE

ENGLISH

IRISH \*

MATHS

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## STUDENTS MUST CHOOSE 4 SUBJECTS FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST

- HISTORY
- GEOGRAPHY
- FRENCH
- GERMAN
- ART
- ENGINEERING
- DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS
- CONSTRUCTION STUDIES/ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY
- ACCOUNTING
- BUSINESS
- MUSIC
- HOME ECONOMICS
- BIOLOGY
- PHYSICS
- CHEMISTRY
- AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

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## REMEMBER

- NO SUBJECTS ARE GENDER SPECIFIC.
- EVERY STUDENT IS UNIQUE (INTERESTS, ABILITIES AND ATTITUDES), HENCE THEY SHOULD CHOOSE SUBJECTS BASED ON THESE AND NOT CURRENT FRIENDSHIPS OR THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS.
- STUDENTS SHOULD BE CAREFUL TO TRY PICK A BALANCE BETWEEN LEARNING AND UNDERSTANDING SUBJECTS.
- STUDENTS SHOULD BE AWARE OF BALANCING SUBJECTS WHICH HELP MAXIMISE POINTS VS. SUBJECTS WHICH MAY BE OF BENEFIT TO THEM IN THE FUTURE.
- IF THE SUBJECT IS NOT AN AUTOMATIC CHOICE FOR YOU IS THE CAREER A GOOD CHOICE?

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### APPLYING TO COLLEGE

- QQI DEVELOPED A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS UNITING ALL QUALIFICATIONS ISSUED BY INSTITUTIONS IN IRELAND
- HETAC - HEIS (HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS) COMPRISE OF THE INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES
- FETAC - PLCs (POST LEAVING CERTIFICATE COURSES/COLLEGES) INCLUDE ALL THE COLLEGES OF FURTHER EDUCATION AND SIMILAR TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS
- BOTH SYSTEMS MENTIONED HAVE VERY DIFFERENT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

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### REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLEGE



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### MINIMUM MATRICULATION REQUIREMENTS

- EACH COLLEGE COURSE HAS ITS OWN MATRICULATION/BASIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.
- FROM 2017 THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A LEVEL 8 DEGREE ARE 2 H5 AND 4 O6/H7 GRADES.
- FROM 2017 THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A LEVEL 6 OR 7 COURSE ARE 6 O6/H7 GRADES.
- IN SOME CASES, A COLLEGE WILL REQUIRE 3 H5 AND 3 O6/H7 GRADES, TRINITY AND FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHING

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### SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE IN ADDITION TO MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.
- THEY ARE SPECIFIC L.C. SUBJECTS / GRADES REQUIRED FOR ENTRY TO PARTICULAR COURSES.
- THEY TEND TO BE IN THE FOLLOWING SUBJECT AREAS:
  - SCIENCE SUBJECTS
  - LANGUAGES
  - MATHEMATICS
- E.G. VETERINARY MEDICINE IN UCD  
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:
  - 2H03 + 4O03, O03 IN ENGLISH, IRISH, MODERN LANGUAGE & MATHEMATICS, H03 IN CHEMISTRY

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## LANGUAGES

- ENTRY TO NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND COLLEGES – GRADE O6
  - ✓ THESE ARE NUI GALWAY, UCD, UCC AND MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY
  - ✓ (EXCEPTIONS ARE SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE, ENGINEERING AND NURSING ALONG WITH BUSINESS AND LAW IN MAYNOOTH)
- STUDENTS WITH A SERIOUS DYSLEXIC CONDITIONS CAN APPLY FOR EXEMPTION FROM 3RD LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR NUI
- A 3RD LANGUAGE FOR ARMY CADET/ AIR CORP(O6)
- UCC SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY H5
- MANY COLLEGES REQUIRE A H3 TO STUDY A LANGUAGE
- HIGHER LEVEL IRISH IS REQUIRED FOR PRIMARY TEACHING (H4)
- DCU, UL, TRINITY WILL ACCEPT IRISH AS A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH.

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## COLLEGES THAT REQUIRE A THIRD LANGUAGE

- MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY \* (EXCLUDING BUSINESS AND LAW)
  - NUI GALWAY (NUIG)\*
  - UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK (UCC)\*
  - UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN (UCD)\*
  - ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, IRELAND (RCSI)
  - ST. ANGELA'S COLLEGE, SLIGO
  - NATIONAL COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN (NCAD) (ART COUNTS AS 3<sup>RD</sup> LANG)
  - SHAMONK COLLEGE OF HOTEL & CATERING
  - CADETS - AIR CORP FLIGHT OFFICER
- \*SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AG SCIENCE - EXEMPTION IN SOME UNIVERSITIES  
PLEASE SEE [WWW.QUALIFAX.IE](http://WWW.QUALIFAX.IE)

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## COLLEGES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE A THIRD LANGUAGE

- UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK (UL)
  - WILL ACCEPT ENGLISH & ANOTHER LANGUAGE
- TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN (TCD)
  - WILL ACCEPT A "LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH" E.G. IRISH
- INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY (E.G. AIT, WIT, UTE ETC)
  - WILL ACCEPT ENGLISH OR IRISH FOR ENTRY PURPOSES
- DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY (DCU)
  - WILL ACCEPT ENGLISH OR IRISH FOR ENTRY PURPOSES

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## SCIENCE

WILL KEEP MANY OPTIONS OPEN:

- SCIENCES
  - ENGINEERING
    - MEDICAL AND PARAMEDICAL
    - ARCHITECTURE
    - NURSING
    - SPEECH THERAPY
    - OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
  - VETERINARY
- DENTISTRY

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CHEMISTRY	BIOLOGY
Dentistry, Pharmacy UCC	Genetics UCC
Veterinary Med UCD	Human Health & Disease TCD
Pharmacy TCD Pharmacy RCSI	*Recommended for Nursing
Human Nutrition & Dietetics DIT	

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- ### A SCIENCE SUBJECT
- SCIENCE
  - ENGINEERING\*
  - MEDICINE
  - DENTISTRY
  - VETERINARY
  - PHARMACY
  - PHYSIOTHERAPY
  - RADIOGRAPHY
  - NURSING
  - NAVAL CADETS
  - ARCHITECTURE
  - OCCUP THERAPY
  - SPEECH THERAPY
  - SPORTS SCIENCE
  - MED LAB SCIENCE
  - DIETETICS
  - OPTOMETRY
  - PRODUCTION MGT
  - IND. DESIGN
  - INFO. TECH

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- ### FINAL SELECTION SYSTEM
- INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS AND/OR PORTFOLIO OR APTITUDE TESTS
  - POINTS SYSTEM - POINTS ARE ALLOCATED TO THE SIX BEST GRADES OF AN APPLICANT.

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- Points are calculated from the student's six best results in one sitting of the Leaving Certificate, maximum 600/625 points
- All subjects (except higher level maths) count equally for entry to college or university
- Entry given to those with the highest points for competitive courses

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## THE NEW POINTS SCALE

Higher	%	Points	Ordinary	%	Points
H1	90-100%	100	O1	90-100%	56
H2	80-90%	88	O2	80-90%	46
H3	70-80%	77	O3	70-80%	37
H4	60-70%	66	O4	60-70%	28
H5	50-60%	56	O5	50-60%	20
H6	40-50%	46	O6	40-50%	12
H7	30-40%	37	O7	30-40%	0
H8	0-30%	0	O8		0

LCVP	Points
Dist	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

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## IMPORTANT

- THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS TO EVERY RULE.
- IF YOU HAVE SOME SPECIFIC AREA IN MIND CHECK IF IT HAS ANY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.
- ASK QUESTIONS
- DO YOUR RESEARCH

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## PLEASE NOTE

- THIS INFORMATION IS GENERAL AND BROAD IN NATURE. THERE ARE ALWAYS EXCEPTIONS TO EVERY RULE. IF YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR AREA OF INTEREST OR ANY QUESTION,
  - **ASK?????**
- DON'T ASSUME AND REGRET STAYING QUIET LATER.

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## DEADLINES

- 3<sup>RD</sup> YR AND TY -- PREFERENCE FORMS WILL BE GIVEN OUT ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH
  - MUST BE RETURNED BY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH
  - TY AND LCA INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD BETWEEN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH
- 1<sup>ST</sup> YR - PREFERENCE FORMS WILL BE GIVEN OUT ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH
  - MUST BE RETURNED BY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL

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**CAO** **USEFUL WEBSITES** **UCAS**


- [WWW.CAO.IE](http://WWW.CAO.IE) – COLLEGE ENTRY SYSTEM IN IRELAND
- [WWW.UCAS.COM](http://WWW.UCAS.COM) – UK/NI COLLEGE ENTRY SYSTEM
- [WWW.QUALIFAX.IE](http://WWW.QUALIFAX.IE) – COURSE/CAREER/SUBJECT RESEARCH
- [WWW.CAREERSPORTAL.IE](http://WWW.CAREERSPORTAL.IE) – COURSE/CAREER/SUBJECT
- [WWW.CAREERSNEWS.IE](http://WWW.CAREERSNEWS.IE) – DAILY UPDATES
- [WWW.ACCESSCOLLEGE.IE](http://WWW.ACCESSCOLLEGE.IE) – HEAR/DARE
- [WWW.APPRENTICESHIPS.IE](http://WWW.APPRENTICESHIPS.IE) – HOW TO REGISTER FOR APPRENTICESHIPS
- ALL 3RD LEVEL INSTITUTIONS HAVE A WEBSITE

**Qualifax** **CAREERSPORTAL**

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**REMEMBER!**

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC COURSES CHANGE REGULARLY SO IT IS ESSENTIAL TO CHECK THE COLLEGE PROSPECTUS FOR INDIVIDUAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS



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**PARENTAL ADVICE**

WHEN CHOOSING LEAVING CERT SUBJECTS, CHOOSE SUBJECTS THAT YOU THINK YOU WILL DO BEST IN - SUBJECTS IN WHICH YOU HAVE THE MOST INTEREST AND WHICH YOU FIND EASIEST! IF YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, CHECK THE COLLEGE PROSPECTUS.

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