



University Access Courses

Part-Time Programme 2024-25



University College Dublin
University for All



Age-friendly
University
Global Network

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IN CELEBRATION OF
DIVERSITY



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Welcome to our University Access Programme

Welcome to Ireland's longest established University Access programme. We are delighted that you are considering studying with us in 2024 to prepare for the exciting prospect of a degree programme at UCD.

UCD welcomes and highly values our students. We are delighted to provide foundation courses to get you started on a life-enhancing educational journey. You will be pleased to hear that UCD Access and Lifelong Learning (ALL) is a leader in the field of lifelong learning and in supporting students in their return to learning, and preparation for university. We aim to provide a stimulating and supportive setting, where you will feel comfortable in approaching members of the Access team for guidance and direction. Our goal is to introduce you to many happy years of learning at UCD. The purpose of these courses is to pave the way for adult learners to progress in their educational journey into UCD. So, join our learning community in the great adventure that is the life of a student, we will be with you every step of the way!



Bairbre Fleming

Dr Bairbre Fleming

Director – UCD Access and Lifelong Learning
Chair of PATH Open Learning group

Welcome from Therese

Access Student Support Officer

Welcome to UCD and thanks for considering us for this step into University life! I am here to provide you with support and guidance throughout the year and to link you in with other services around campus – of which there are many. I'm at the end of an email or phone call at any time during the year, and you can book an appointment for a chat at a time that suits or avail of my regular drop-in hours during the week. You'll also be seeing me at the various events we hold. I really look forward to getting to know you and to see you progress in your education journey!



Therese Fitzgerald

Access Student Support Officer

therese.fitzgerald@ucd.ie

Huge Welcome from OBAAT

The Access Mascot

OBAAT, our elephant access mascot whose name derives from the African proverb 'The way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time', prompts us to take on big tasks by breaking them into manageable pieces. Your first step to realising a long-held ambition to attend university may be reading further here, getting in touch, or applying directly for your place on either Access to AHSSL or Access to SEAM+. Whichever way, I will look forward to hearing from you.

Slán go fóill / bye for now,



OBAAT
our Access Mascot

What are Access courses?

Access courses are year-long, part-time, foundation courses which are designed to introduce students to studying at UCD.

We offer two university Access courses:

Diploma in Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Law – Access to AHSSL

- Open to Mature students
(Applicants aged 22 years or over on Jan 1st, 2024)
- Open to Young Adults who met the required [Access Criteria](#)
(Applicants aged 21 years or younger on Jan 1st, 2024) – (See pg. 14)

Diploma in Access to Science, Engineering, Agricultural Science & Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine – Access to SEAM+

- Open to mature students
(Applicants aged 22 years or over on Jan 1st, 2024)

How to apply?

Apply through our online application system: www.ucd.ie/all/cometoucd/applying/universityaccesscourses

Young Adult applicants (those 21 years or younger on the 1st of Jan, 2024) applying to Access to AHSSL must complete an [additional form](#) regarding the required [Access Criteria](#) (See pg. 14) – please see below link to the form:

https://ucdall2023.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cJaqJLdv3xTuJkW

What next?

Once you have applied for the course, we will be in touch with you to invite you to attend occasional webinars where you will meet staff and former Access students who will give their top tips and tricks and address any pre-entry queries you may have. More information is available in the relevant section for Access to AHSSL and Access to SEAM+.

Scholarships

We are pleased to offer scholarships – known as **Cothrom Na Féinne** – for both Access courses, which offer a substantial reduction in fees, or a free place.

Full information is available at:

<https://www.ucd.ie/all/cometoucd/scholarshipsandfinancialsupport/>

Academic Calendar 2024–25

Dates are subject to change. Be guided by our website and updates closer to the time – www.ucd.ie/all

Event	Date
ALL Welcome and AHSSL Bootcamp	September 2024 – Expect to be alerted closer to the time
Autumn Trimester – Teaching term	Monday, 9 September – Friday, 29 November 2024 (12 weeks)
Exam period	Saturday, 7 December – Saturday, 21 December 2024
Spring Trimester – Teaching term	Monday, 20 January – Friday, 7 March 2025
Fieldwork/ Study period	Monday, 10 March – Sunday, 23 March 2025
Teaching term	Monday, 24 March – Friday, 25 April 2025
Revision	Saturday, 26 April – Friday, 2 May 2025
Exam period	Saturday, 3 May – Saturday, 17 May 2025

**Access to Arts,
Humanities, Social
Sciences and Law
– AHSSL**



Welcome from the UCD College of Social Sciences & Law

As College Principal in the College of Social Sciences and Law, I am delighted to welcome you to Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Law, and to UCD. We are the largest centre for education, research and outreach in social sciences and related disciplines in Ireland. Values are at the heart of what we do. We have a strong culture of excellence, collegiality and collaboration and one of our core goals is to support all to thrive and reach their full potential.

This programme provides a unique opportunity for you to develop the skills you need to thrive in a university environment and the knowledge in a range of subject areas that will help you better understand, and contribute to, humanity and society.

As a community of scholars, we are proud of our excellent teachers and the collaborative and supportive environment they create in partnership with our students and professional colleagues on campus. My hope is that your participation in this programme will give you a window on to what might be and that, at its completion, you will consider further study with us by progressing on to our degree programmes. We will support you as you take this first step as a university student towards achieving your full potential so that you can become beacons of hope and role models within your communities, families and beyond.



Professor Niamh Moore-Cherry

College Principal, College of Social Sciences and Law,

What is Access to AHSSL?

Access to AHSSL is the oldest Access course in Ireland and is designed to prepare learners for successful study at university. It is a Special Purpose Level 6 Diploma Award.

Our programme is student centred and will offer you support and guidance throughout your Access year. You will experience a range of teaching approaches including group work, case studies, reviews, and in-class discussions in supportive large and small group settings. A variety of assessment methods are used including reflective journals, presentations, essays, and exams to help you discover your learning style.

During your Access year, you will have the opportunity to sample lectures and make informed choices about your CAO application and next steps. As a University Access Student, you will also be welcome to avail of additional academic skills workshops, digital literacy sessions and the range of supports offered by the Access and Lifelong Centre.



Progression

Students who achieve a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.6 or more can apply for a guaranteed minimum number of places on the following degree programmes in UCD. Where there are more qualified applicants for entry (i.e., students with a GPA greater than 2.6) than there are places, the allocation will be made by the highest GPA.

Programme	CAO code
BA Arts	DN520
BA Humanities	DN530
BSc Social Sciences	DN700
BSocSc Social Policy and Sociology	DN750
BCL Law	DN600
BSc Criminology with Psychology	DN620

In addition to meeting the required standard on the course, you make an application through the CAO for your progression.

University Access results are valid for two years only, i.e. results from this year are valid for entry in this year and next year only.

How do you apply?

- Anyone **aged 22 or more on January 1, 2024**, applies through UCD's application system:
www.ucd.ie/all/cometoucd/applying/universityaccesscourses
-

- Anyone **aged 21 years or younger on January 1, 2024**, applies through UCD's application system:
www.ucd.ie/all/cometoucd/applying/universityaccesscourses

AND

- Must complete the Access Criteria Form:
https://ucdall2023.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cJaqJLdv3xTuJkW

“

The Access course was a perfect introduction for me to the academic world, after being away from formal education for so long. Doing the different modules equipped me with an academic foundation in a supportive environment and demonstrated the potential I have which I probably didn't think I possessed. It has provided me with the confidence and self-assurance to pursue a full-time degree and the diverse modules sharpened my focus on which degree would suit my interests best.”

– John Fay, AHSSL



“

The SEAM
Access course
was the best
decision I could
have made
for myself.

– Dorota Fiedor, SEAM



Access Criteria for Young Adults

UCD is delighted to welcome students under 22 to apply for the access course. This is specifically for applicants who have experienced socio-economic disadvantage and/or educational disadvantage. Each candidate is checked at the short-listing stage to determine eligibility for the programme.

Applicants must meet three of the criteria below to be eligible:

- 1.** You have attended a DEIS post primary school for at least two years.
- 2.** Your household income in 2023 must be on or below €55,924.
- 3.** You or your family are in receipt of a medical card/ GP visit card that was in date on 31 December 2023.
- 4.** Your family received a means tested payment from the Department of Social Protection for at least 26 weeks in 2023 (Appendix I: List of Payments).
- 5.** You live in an area of urban or rural disadvantage. To meet this indicator your address must be in an area classified as disadvantaged, very disadvantaged or extremely disadvantaged.
- 6.** Your parents have not gone to college.

OR

You can provide proof that you are eligible for HEAR (Higher Education Access Route) from either the 2023 or 2024 academic year. We have developed a guidebook to help young adults complete the access eligibility form.

We have developed a guidebook to help young adults complete the access eligibility form.

Available at this link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a_8wzhTEgjkQaCIFnDTII6MjamYL9n53/view?usp=sharing

Course fee

Course fee:	€890
Scholarship fee:	€445

Scholarships

For information and to apply see:

<https://www.ucd.ie/all/cometoucd/scholarshipsandfinancialsupport/>

Guidance

Before applying for Access to AHSSL, please take the time to read the material on our website: www.ucd.ie/all

Contact therese.fitzgerald@ucd.ie or all@ucd.ie with any queries.

Applying

Applications are made online, directly to UCD. Please note that **there is no application fee** for Access to AHSSL.

As advised, those aged 21 years and younger on Jan 1st of 2024 must also complete the [Access Eligibility Form](#).

Once you have submitted an online application you will be invited to come and meet with us for a brief, informal interview. During this time, you will also be asked to produce a short-written piece. This written piece will form the basis of a conversation where we can explore how the course meets your needs and expectations. The interviews are an opportunity for you to discuss your study plans, as well as allowing us the space to discuss whether the access course will suit you at this point. After the interview, you will be informed of whether you are being offered a place on the course.

Interviews are typically scheduled during June, July, and August by arrangement.

Deadline for applications to Access to AHSSL:

20 August 2023 (later applications may be considered).

Course Structure

You will take 6 modules over the academic year, with modules available mornings or evenings. You may mix morning and evening modules. The course is divided into core study skills modules and optional modules in academic subject areas. You will be assessed in all six modules; each module carries 5 credits.

You must gather 30 credits to complete the course.

Students register for a maximum credit load of 15 in each trimester.

Core Modules

The core modules in Access to AHSSL are key to your success as a university student. We have been working with Access students for decades and have established that the key to a positive outcome is having good study skills. How you study, and the habits you develop during the year, will sustain and support you as you progress through UCD. Our Study Skills are taught in a positive and accessible way. You will learn the key approaches and skills you need to be an effective and engaged student.

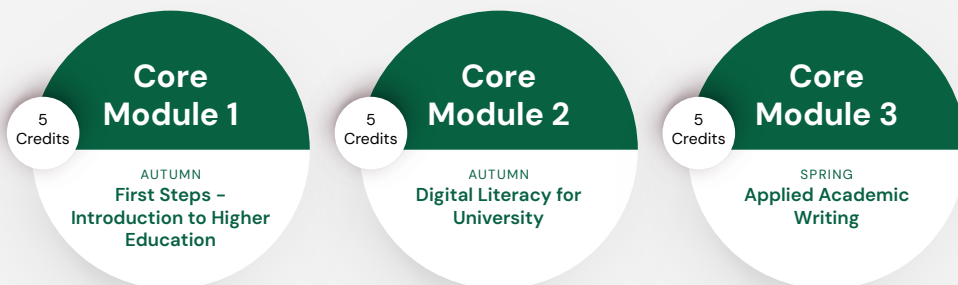
You can then put your skills into practice with your optional subjects. There are additional free academic workshops and supports you can also use to support your learning on the University Access course.

These three core modules are compulsory for all students.

1. First Steps – Introduction to Higher Education – Autumn
2. Digital Literacy for University – Autumn
3. Applied Academic Writing – Spring

In the autumn trimester, you will register for **two** core study skills modules **First Steps in Higher Education** (5 credits) and **Digital Literacy** (5 credits) along with **one** optional module.

Core Modules



Optional Modules

Students must complete three optional modules.

Choose from the following:

Module	Credits
Making History – only available in the autumn trimester	5 credits
Introduction to Archaeology	5 credits
Ways of Reading (English Literature)	5 credits
Introduction to Law in Ireland	5 credits
Introducing our Social Worlds	5 credits

In the spring trimester, you will register for one core study skill module Applied Academic Writing along with two optional modules from the above optional module list.

See Course Structure on our website for more information on the optional modules.

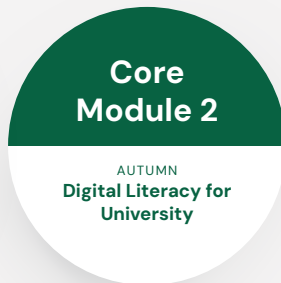
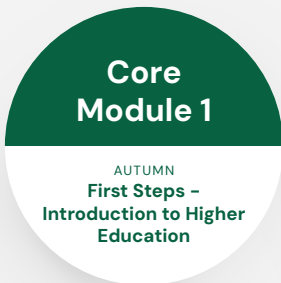
Optional Modules



Course structure – summary

Autumn Trimester

Complete 2
mandatory Core Modules

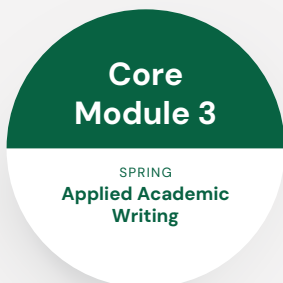


Plus 1
Optional Module

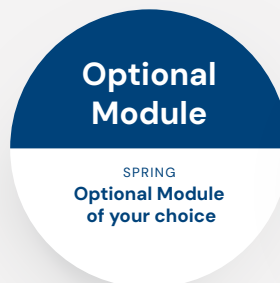


Spring Trimester

Complete 1
mandatory Core Module



Plus 2
Optional Modules



Timetable

Trimester 1

Daytime

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00		First Steps – Introduction to Higher Education (Core)	First Steps – Introduction to Higher Education (Core)		
11:00					Making History (Optional)
12:00		Digital Literacy (Core)	Digital Literacy (Core)		

Evening

18:00		Digital Literacy (Core)		Ways of Reading: English Literature (Optional)	
19:00		First Steps – Introduction to Higher Education (Core)			
20:00					

*The timetable is subject to change.

Timetable

Trimester 2

Daytime

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00		Applied Academic Writing (Core)			
11:00		Introduction to Archaeology (Optional)	Ways of Reading: English Literature (Optional)	Introduction to the Law in Ireland (Optional)	
12:00					

Evening

18:00				Applied Academic Writing (Core)	
19:00				Introduction to our Social Worlds (Optional)	
20:00					

*The timetable is subject to change.

You will find a lot of information about UCD Access and Lifelong Learning, and the courses and services we offer on www.ucd.ie/all

Don't forget, if you are unsure about anything please email all@ucd.ie



SEAM⁺

**Science, Engineering,
Computer Science,
Agricultural Science,
Sustainability,
Medicine and Vet
Medicine**



Welcome Message

A very warm welcome to SEAM+ – the UCD Access programme into Science, Engineering, Computer Science, Agricultural Science, Sustainability, Medicine and Vet Medicine. UCD is a long-established university with a global reputation for excellence, and this is particularly so in these discipline areas. You will find that UCD provides an inclusive environment, in which diversity is embraced and where new ideas to solve global problems are warmly welcomed.

There has never been a better time to study one of the SEAM+ disciplines, and our degrees offer unparalleled opportunities for each of you to develop your knowledge and advance your career ambitions. The time spent at university is also about making new friends, connections and networks, which will serve you well throughout your time with us and beyond. I personally look forward to meeting and teaching many of you, and I wish you the very best as you embark on this exciting journey of discovery.

Best wishes,



Professor Jeremy C Simpson
College Principal & Dean of Science

What is Access to SEAM+?

This Access course is a Special Purpose Level 6 Award. Our programme is student centred and will offer you support and guidance throughout your Access year.

You will experience a range of teaching approaches including lectures, laboratory experience and in-class discussions in a small class group setting. This course is designed to prepare adults, who may not have the formal qualifications, for successful study at university, particularly in the areas of Science, Engineering, Agricultural Sciences, Medicine or Health & Safety. We are delighted to be also offering a progression route to Veterinary Medicine and Sustainability this year.

Our aim is to:

- Facilitate you in finding a degree course that best suits your aptitude and interest.
- Give you the confidence and skills necessary to plan and organise study for your particular needs.
- Provide you with analytical skills to fully understand the material presented in all subject modules.
- Equip you with the skills and confidence to take on a degree course in Science, Agricultural Science, Engineering/Architecture, Medicine, or Veterinary Medicine.

“

Access to SEAM+ has been an incredible journey, I have gained the confidence to change careers, I have made wonderful friends and I have received invaluable advice and support. My advice to someone considering an Access course is to not let self doubt get in your way. You are capable of so much more than you realise and you belong in UCD. Everyone here wants to see you succeed at your dreams and will support you every step of the way.

- Aoife McLoughlin

Progression

Students who achieve a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.08 or more can apply for a guaranteed minimum number of places in the following degree programmes at UCD. Where there are more qualified applicants for entry (i.e., students with a GPA greater than 3.08) than there are places, the allocation will be made by the highest GPA.

Programm	CAO code
Bachelor of Science	DN200
Bachelor of Computer Science	DN201
Bachelor of Agriculture	DN261
Bachelor of Engineering	DN150*
Medicine	DN400**
Veterinary Medicine	DN300***
BSc Sustainability	DN240

* Entry to Engineering is also contingent on obtaining an A- or higher in each of the mathematics modules.

** Entry to Medicine is also contingent on obtaining a minimum grade of A- in the module "Introduction to Chemistry, Physics & Biology". Applicants will be required to submit a learning journal and obtain a minimum HPAT Ireland score of 150. Two places will be offered per year and will be allocated on a competitive basis. Applicants to this course should also note the following guidelines: [Access to Medicine](#).

*** Entry to Veterinary Medicine is also contingent on obtaining a minimum grade A- in the module 'Introduction to Chemistry, Physics & Biology'. A minimum of 60 hours of animal experience, with one or more species, will be required. The animal experience should be within the past two years. Applicants will be required to submit a report reflecting on this experience and their interest in the Veterinary profession. Applicants will be interviewed to assess their Critical Thinking, Communication Skills and their Interest and Knowledge of the Veterinary profession and the veterinary course. Two places will be offered per year and will be allocated on a competitive basis.

The above is not an exhaustive list; all applicants are also referred to the UCD Prospectus. In addition to meeting the required standard on the course, you must be eligible to apply on the grounds of mature years and make an application through [the CAO](#). University University Access results are valid for two years only, i.e. results from this year are valid for entry in this year and next year only.

From age 22 to 102!

Anyone aged 22 or more on January 1, 2023, may apply for this Access course. This means that you will meet the age requirement of being at least 23 on January 1, when starting your degree. There is no upper age limit.

Scholarships

For information and to apply see:

www.ucd.ie/all/cometoucdscholarshipsandfinancialsupport/

Course fee

Course fee:	€1,800
Scholarship fee:	€600

Guidance

Before applying for Access to SEAM⁺, please take the time to read the material on our website: www.ucd.ie/all

If you have any further queries, please get in touch: access@ucd.ie

Applying

There are four steps in applying to the Access to SEAM+ course, there is no application fee for Access to SEAM+:

Complete an Online Application

- Attend four pre-entry maths workshops (including a maths assessment)
- Attend a pre-entry science lecture (including a short written assignment)
- Interview

Deadline for applications to Access to SEAM+:

Thursday the 8th of August

Attendance at the workshops, lectures, and interviews is mandatory. These will take place on the following dates:

Event	Date
Maths Workshops – offered online (Including a maths assessment)	Saturday, Aug 10th at 10:00 Monday, Aug 12th at 18:00 Wednesday, Aug 14th at 18:00 Saturday, Aug 17th at 10:00 Maths Exam: Monday 19th Aug at 18.00
Science Lecture (Including a short-written assignment)	Tuesday 20th Aug at 18:00
Interview dates	Week of the 19th and/or 26th of August

Timetable

Access to SEAM+ is offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings (6 – 9pm) and on Saturday mornings (10am – 1pm).

Course Modules

All modules are compulsory for all Access to SEAM+ students, the credit load is 30 credits. To complete the course successfully students must pass all modules and gather 30 credits.

Module	Code	Credits
Flipped Classroom	SCI00010	10 credits
Mathematics I*	MATH00030	5 credits
Mathematics II	MATH00040	5 credits
Intro to Chemistry, Physics & Biology	SCI00020	10 credits

* This module must be passed before a student can progress to Maths II.

See Course Structure on our website for more information on the optional modules. You will find a lot of information about UCD Access and Lifelong Learning, and the courses and services we offer on www.ucd.ie/all

Don't forget, if you are unsure about anything please email: all@ucd.ie



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Rochtain agus Foghlaim ar
feadh an tSaoil UCD
Áras an Leabharlann
An Coláiste Ollscoile Baile Átha
Cliath Belfield,
Baile Átha Cliath 4

