



Academic Advising Project

Determination of science student's academic advice needs, and development of living module advisory resources

Project Lead: Associate Professor James Sullivan

Email: James.sullivan@ucd.ie

AIM

All BSc students receive a detailed induction, and several dedicated advisory sessions are held. At these advisory sessions, the importance of module choices to allow progression / keep progression options open is presented and discussed. Given the range of degree majors available (27), and the different prerequisites for each, this can be surprisingly complex and invariably some students end up at the end of Stage 2 without the required prerequisites to allow them to progress to their desired major. This might be because they have changed their minds, or because they had made errors in module selection in attempts to keep several exit majors available. This project **aims** to support students in their module selection by ensuring that they have all the relevant information available to make informed module choices.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the project are to :

- Gather data that can be used to better inform the current advising processes
- Create resources e.g. living document/app/spreadsheet to allow students to see at a glance what majors their current module selection allows them to progress to, how changing module selections will affect this and suggest modules that would increase their options

STRATEGY

The project objectives will be met by:

- Carrying out in-depth surveys and focus groups of all stages of science to determine what advice they feel they are currently missing (stages 1&2), or would have benefitted from in the past (stages 3&4). We will also specifically survey HEAR, DARE, Mature and Access students during this process to determine their needs
- Collecting and collating data on the programme major structures and the UCD timetabling database to generate a living document/spreadsheet/app and series of videos that will allow students to see at a glance what majors their current module selection allows them to progress to. Faculty in future advising roles will use these tools (and they will be available to all students through the Science Programme Brightspace area).