



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Mature Student Guidelines 2024

www.tcd.ie/maturestudents



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Welcome from the Mature Student Officer

This is an exciting time as you consider your options and research and identify the many opportunities that Trinity has to offer you.

The University places great value in having a diverse student population. The Mature Student Office is part of Trinity Access. The mission of Trinity Access is to work in partnership with students, teachers, families, communities and businesses to widen access and participation at third level of under-represented groups.

As the Mature Student Officer, my role is to offer advice and guidance to prospective mature applicants while supporting the integration and success of mature students in Trinity. The University has a great history and tradition of encouraging and welcoming mature students to become part of our community and mature students represent an important and valued cohort in the University.

I invite you to attend our Open Day on Saturday 4 November 2023; our College Awareness Week activities running 20 to 26 November 2023; and our Information Evening for Mature Students on Thursday 11 January 2024 to learn more about our courses and to meet our staff and students as you make the important decision about taking up full-time study in the future. Please consult our website for up to date information on all events.

I look forward to meeting you at our upcoming events.

Clodagh Byrne



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Who Qualifies as a Mature Student?

In order to qualify for consideration as a mature student applicant you must:

- be 23 years of age or over by the 1st January of the year in which you wish to begin study
- and**
- qualify as an EU applicant

An EU applicant is a person:

1. who is ordinarily resident in the EU* (see note 1 below)

AND

- who will have received full-time post primary education

AND/OR

- who has worked fulltime in the EU (see note 2 below)
for three of the five years immediately preceding admission to Trinity

OR

2. who has official refugee status (see note 3 below)

OR

been granted humanitarian leave to remain in the State

AND

who has been ordinarily resident in the EU for three of the five years immediately preceding admission to Trinity

Notes:

1. EU or EEA countries (Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein) or Switzerland.
2. Where an applicant can show that they have been in receipt of social welfare payments this may be taken in lieu of fulltime employment.
3. Applicants who have written confirmation that they have been allowed to come to Ireland as part of the family reunification scheme may also be eligible.

Children of emigrants may be assessed as EU applicants if they can provide documentary evidence of having completed 5+ years of primary and/or secondary education in the EU/EEA/Swiss Confederation and have no previous third-level attendance.

The Admissions Office may contact some applicants in order to seek supporting documentation regarding their status. All other applications are considered to be non-EU Applications.



* Residency: If an applicant is over 23 years of age on the start date of the course then the principal residence for the purpose of taxation of the applicant will be examined. A P21 form will be required.

Mature student applicants are not required to meet the University's matriculation requirements or the competitive entry requirements (i.e. points) for undergraduate degree courses. Some programmes do have specific requirements, details of which may be found on page 9.

College Fees

Students who accept an offer of a place from the CAO will be contacted by the University with regard to the payment of fees due. Full information on fees can be found at **<http://www.tcd.ie/academicregistry/fees-payments/course-fees/>**.

Researching Course Options

It is essential that you devote considerable time and thought to investigating and researching the course(s) you wish to pursue. One of the reasons most frequently cited by students who withdraw from college is that they chose the wrong course. It may be that the course did not live up to expectations, that the student was inadequately prepared or that the time and/or financial demands were too great. It is, therefore, important that your decision is made based on facts rather than on impressions.

Information Sources

General information on all undergraduate courses is available in the current undergraduate Prospectus and on the Trinity website: **www.tcd.ie/study**. When you have identified your choices you will be able to get more detailed information from the following:

- *The College Open Day will take place on Saturday 4 November 2023; activities include tours and course information as well as informal discussions with staff.* Full programme available in late October. The Mature Student Officer will also give presentations on the application process.
- *Mature Student Information Evening* – A seminar providing advice and information on making an application to Trinity for prospective mature students will take place on 11 January 2024. Please visit our website for more information: **www.tcd.ie/maturestudents**.
- *Course Handbooks* – you will find departmental guidelines, assignments, timetables, reading lists, etc. in the handbook. Please contact the relevant department directly for more information.
- *Mature Student Website* – For up-to-date information on the Mature Student Office and events please visit: **www.tcd.ie/maturestudents**.



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The University of Dublin

Trinity Open Day 2023

Saturday 4th November 2023

Register now for our on campus open day at

www.tcd.ie/openday



MEET OUR
**Professors
& Staff**

FIND OUT
ABOUT OUR
**Undergraduate
Courses**

CHAT WITH OUR
STUDENTS ABOUT
**Trinity
Student Life**

LEARN
ABOUT OUR
**169 Clubs
& Societies**

TAKE ONE OF OUR
**Campus
Tours**

Discover what Trinity
is **REALLY** all about!

Find out more at

www.tcd.ie/openday



Meet Our Students

Deargh Armstrong

Social Studies (Graduate)

Prior to studying in Trinity I did a QQI level 5 in Liberties College Dublin. I chose to study at Trinity because it is Ireland's leading university and it offers an undergraduate degree in Social Work. The small class size allows you to form close relationships with your classmates and Professors which makes for a positive and enriching learning experience.

The vibrant Trinity community alone is a reason to study here. There is always some activity going on. Trinity is invested in your success, in both your academic and personal development.

The aspect I enjoyed most about studying at Trinity is how the College promotes social responsibility amongst the community. I was involved in the PATH Community Mentoring Programme that targets underrepresented demographics in third-level education. We were partnered with students from other institutions to deliver a series of talks on the value of third-level education and to mentor students with similar backgrounds to our own.



Anthony McGahan

Geography and Geoscience (4th year)

Having been born and raised in Dublin, for as long as I can remember, I have always been aware of the college. It was an aspiration of my life to attend college and the college at the top of the list was Trinity. To be part of this wonderful college and its community, and to be studying Science in this incredible and unique historical location is the icing on life's cake for me. I wake up every day and pinch myself to appreciate how fortunate I am to be studying here.

Besides the location, the support and encouragement from staff has been exemplary. The college network is extensive and the resources are provided to help you to reach your potential.

Trinity is genuinely open to everyone, regardless of age, gender or worldview. The aura of positivity greets you as soon as you arrive through the arch. The possibilities are only restricted by your ambition.



Maureen Penrose

Drama and Theatre Studies (4th year)

I still can't believe I am a student in Trinity College. I have just started my fourth year. I'm studying Drama and Theatre Studies. First year was an amazing experience. Due to the world being turned upside down by COVID-19 our classes had to take place on line.

I am a mature student. I am 68 years old. All my classmates are in their late teens or early twenties. I wondered, at first, if I would be accepted as a fellow student, given that I am so much older. However, I need not have worried. I am so delighted with my class. They are entirely fabulous. They help, encourage and consider me. I had no difficulty in integrating into the class. They tell me that they are delighted to have me, and my different perspectives on life.

My technical abilities are not great, but we have a class chat group, and I can ask for help anytime. We all help each other as best we can. My lecturers/Professors are great too. They are friendly, patient and good humoured. It is a pleasure to be taught and guided by them. I am learning so much.

I joined the Mature Student Society and the DU Players. The societies add so much to the College experience.

I have had a constant gurgle of laughter bubbling inside me since I began my course. Now, I wonder why I was so nervous when I started last year. In all, my time in Trinity thus far has surpassed my dreams.



Gilliane Bautista

Intellectual Disability Nursing (Graduate)

Having taken a break from studying, starting a degree was a big step for me. Initially, I found the assignments, exams and clinical placements challenging. However, I felt secure and supported because Trinity College has a number of student services – including a **Disability Service** where I received supports, including extra time and an alternative venue for my exams. I had a Disability Officer and a Personal Tutor who I could contact whenever I need help. At the same time, our course coordinator and lecturers were always there to provide support and guidance.

As a student parent, balancing my time for my daughter and College was not easy. This affected my availability to work. Thankfully, I was a recipient of the **1916 Bursary** which helped me financially. Being a 1916 Bursary recipient meant that paying for training fees, buying College supplies and uniforms for my specialist practice placement in General Nursing was more manageable.

I am now a graduate of Intellectual Disability Nursing. I received consistent student supports from College services, including the **Mature Student Office** who provides advice, help and encouragement throughout my degree.



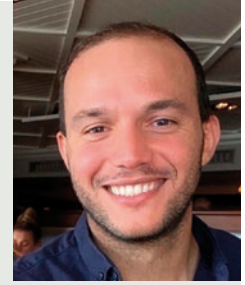
Thiago Silva

General Nursing (2nd year)

The first day I moved to Ireland, I started dreaming of becoming a Trinity College student. I knew it would be a challenge, due to the language barrier - I was born in Spain but lived in Brazil until I was 22 years of age - however, that did not stop me.

In 2022 my ambition was realised. I received an offer to pursue my General Nursing degree. I was quite apprehensive as a mature student, who hadn't attended College in years and because English is not my first language. I attended Mature Student Orientation where I met with other students, who, today, I call my friends. The academic journey itself is not easy, especially if you have caring and work responsibilities, but I feel very well supported by the University. There are many supports and resources available to students, which helped me throughout my first year. The lectures are informative and the lecturers are deeply interested in students and have valuable experiences to share.

I'm in second year now and eager to learn more. I am determined to enjoy my time as a nursing student. I would highly recommend any prospective applicant to pursue their dreams, no matter how challenging they may seem.



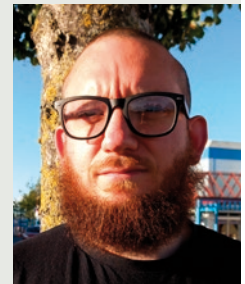
James Carey

Social Studies (2nd Year)

I've always had a strong desire to help others, whether it be my friends, family, or members of my community. I left school after my Junior Cert. I was in and out of education over the years, but never committed myself to anything. I worked as a youth worker for a while and decided that I needed to do something else with my life.

At the age of 31, I returned to education and spent a year at Liberties College doing a level 5 Social Studies course. It was here that I learned about the Social Work degree at Trinity College Dublin. I applied but didn't think I would get an offer of a place. When I got accepted I was over the moon! Being born and bred in the Liberties, you think that there is a stigma around people from disadvantaged areas studying in places like Trinity College.

Looking back now, I can see how wrong I was. I have never felt more at home. Since being here I've seized the many opportunities open to me and joined many student groups, including the Mature Student Society and the S2S mentor program. I have found Trinity College to be open and accepting to all mature students. I would strongly advise anybody with aspirations of doing a degree to go for it. Your life is what you make of it, and you can accomplish everything you set your mind to.





The Application Process

How to Apply to Trinity as a Mature Student

Applications for mature student entry to full-time undergraduate degree programmes in the University are welcome from eligible applicants.

Mature students should apply to the Central Applications Office (CAO) before 1 February 2024¹. Late applications will not be accepted. Trinity course choices must be included by this date. All relevant information on making an application can be reviewed on the **CAO website**.

The **CAO Handbook** is an important document and has been prepared to provide information about the CAO application process. By reading the CAO handbook carefully you will find out the information that you need to assist you with your application.

The normal cost of applying through the CAO is €45. An early application (discounted) rate of €30 applies if you apply before 20 January 2024.

It is important to note the following when completing the CAO application:

- All full-time undergraduate degree programmes are open to mature applicants.
- You may apply for up to ten level 8 degree programmes and up to three level 7 ordinary degree programmes.
- Mature students applying to Trinity cannot use the CAO 'Change of Mind' facility to introduce a new course or subject.
- There is no requirement for mature applicants to sit an externally administered mature student admission test.
- Late applications will not be accepted.

¹ Please note that a mature student application to Trinity is via the CAO only.

Specific Requirements

COURSE/SUBJECT	ASSESSMENT
Computer Science, Engineering and MSISS	To be eligible for consideration for entry to Engineering (TR032), Computer Science (TR033), MSISS (TR034), Engineering with Management (TR038), Computer Science, Linguistics and a Language (TR039) or Computer Science and Business (TR082) mature student applicants are required to have grade H4 or better in mathematics in the Leaving Certificate or the required grade in Maths for STEM (5S2246/5N0556).
Medicine	Medicine Applicants must present a H3 or better in Biology AND a H4 or better in either Chemistry or Physics (Grade B and Grade C in higher level Leaving Certificate 1992-2016), or equivalent exams. All applicants must sit the HPAT-Ireland admissions test. A minimum score of 150 in the HPAT-Ireland admissions test will apply.

Specific Assessment

Applicants for the courses/subjects below will be required to undergo assessment after submission of their CAO application. In some cases, all applicants will be called to the assessment. In other cases, only those applicants shortlisted for interview will be subject to the assessment.

COURSE/SUBJECT	ASSESSMENT
Music and Music Education	All applicants must sit a Music Entrance Examination administered by the University.
Drama Studies	Applicants will be required to complete a questionnaire and then may be called to attend a workshop/interview.
Psychology	Applicants will be required to sit one or more aptitude tests in March/April 2024. The test is not a test of general knowledge and most questions are multiple choice. Selection for interview will depend upon performance on the aptitude test(s).
Medicine	All applicants must sit the HPAT-Ireland admissions test. A minimum score of 150 in the HPAT-Ireland admissions test will apply. Applicants to Medicine are required to submit a current Curriculum Vitae to the CAO.

Applicants shortlisted for interview

COURSE/SUBJECT	ASSESSMENT
English	Essay (title given at interview) to be returned within approximately five days.
European Studies	(i) 1500 word essay to be submitted prior to the interview on EITHER a contemporary (social or political) issue OR a historical question of interest. (ii) Your foreign language skills will be tested at the interview.
Dental Science	Students will be short listed based on their application form. Shortlisted candidates will attend for Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) in the Dublin Dental University Hospital. Further details of the MMI process can be found online: http://www.tcd.ie/dental/undergraduate/degree/dental-science/
Dental Technology	Students will be shortlisted based on their application form. Short listed candidates will attend for interview and manual dexterity tests in the Dublin Dental University Hospital. Further details of the selection process can be found online: https://www.dentalhospital.ie/education/undergraduate-programmes/dental-technology

Garda Vetting

Students on courses with clinical or other professional placements may be required to undergo Garda vetting procedures prior to commencing placements.

If, as a result of the outcome of the Garda vetting procedures, a student is deemed unsuitable to attend clinical or other professional placement, he/she may be required to withdraw from his/her course. Students who have resided outside Ireland, after the age of 18, for a consecutive period of 6 months or more, will be required to provide police clearance documentation from the country (including different states) or countries in which they resided.

Students who accept an offer will be informed of the procedures to be followed to complete the vetting process (as part of the student orientation information).

Health Screening

Offers of admission to the following courses are made subject to certain vaccination requirements and/or certain negative test results.

- Clinical Speech and Language Studies
- Orthodontic Therapy, Dental Science, Dental Hygiene, Dental Nursing, and Dental Technology
- Medicine
- Nursing and Midwifery
- Occupational Therapy
- Pharmacy
- Physiotherapy
- Radiation Therapy
- Social Studies (Social work)

Full details are available at: www.tcd.ie/study/apply/admissionrequirements/undergraduate/index.php

Proficiency in English Language

If English is not your first language or you have not been educated through English, you are required to submit one of the following qualifications or notice of your test date with your CAO application before you can be considered for interview. Relevant documents must be submitted before 30 June.

EXAMINATION		REQUIRED GRADE
1.	Irish Leaving Certificate	Grade 6 or better in Ordinary level English.
2.	GCSE	Grade C/Grade 5 or better in English Language.
3.	US High School	Grade C or better in English taken in final year.
4.	TOEFL	1. Paper based 570 (with a TWE score of 4.5). 2. Computer-based 233 (with a score of 4.5 in essay). 3. Internet based 90 (with a written score of 21).
5.	University of Cambridge	Cambridge Proficiency: Grade C Cambridge Advanced: Grade A
6.	IELTS (Academic version)	6.5 (no individual band below 6). For Dental courses and Clinical Speech and Language Studies: IELTS (academic version) 7 (no individual band below 7).
7.	Pearson Test of English (Academic) – PTE Academic	A minimum score of 63 (with no Communication Skills section score below 59).
8.	International Baccalaureate	English A1, A2 or B: 5 at Higher Level (4 at Standard Level if presenting IB through English).
9.	QQI/FETAC	A pass in Communications module (5N0690).

Please note: Examination results are only valid for two years.



Shortlisting for Interview

Applicants are assessed, in the first instance, on the information provided on their CAO application. Any additional requested documentation will be reviewed, this includes Statements of Interest, qualifications, academic transcripts, CVs, etc.

Following consideration of all applications a department will make one of the following recommendations:

- That you are to be called for interview.
- That you are to be offered a place.
- That your name is to be put on a waiting list.
- That your application has been unsuccessful.

Due to the time required to assess each application it may be several weeks from the time of application before you are notified of a decision regarding interview.

Interview

It is important that you are available throughout the interview period.

Interviews normally take place between mid-March and the end of May. A very high number of applicants are interviewed each year and, because of this, **alternative interview dates cannot be arranged.**

Notification of Outcome of Application

A formal offer notice will be issued through the CAO in early July. This offer must be accepted in line with the CAO regulations to secure your place.

Please be aware that the mature student application process is a competitive one and that interviews and/or offers are not guaranteed.



Completing the CAO Application Form

General Information

To apply as a mature applicant, you must tick Box 8 on the Qualifications and Assessment Summary section. This is on the first page of the CAO application. The mature applicant section on the CAO application consists of 11 sections as per below:²

1. Highest Qualification to Date
2. Current Studies
3. Post-secondary
4. Second Level Education
5. Non-certificate Courses
6. Employment or Voluntary Work
7. English Language Proficiency (if applicable)
8. References
9. Statement of Interest (see **page 14** for guidance on completing this section)
10. Hobbies/Interests
11. Additional Information

As this is a highly competitive process, please ensure that you devote the time necessary to completing your application form to the highest standard possible.

² Mature applicants for Nursing/Midwifery are not required to complete Mature Applicant Sections 1-11 UNLESS they are also applying for other courses and wish to be considered on the grounds of mature years for those courses.





Statement of Interest

Part 9 of the Mature Applicant section on the CAO application form asks you to provide a Statement of Interest. The space allocated here is approximately 200 words. This space is not sufficient to allow the academics assessing your application to make a decision on whether or not to call you for an interview. We ask that you provide **up to 1,500 words for each Trinity course** that you apply for, addressing the following questions:

What aspects of the course interest you the most?

In this section you are asked to state what specifically interests you about the subject/course that you are applying for. Before completing this section, it is important that you have undertaken significant research into the course. See **page 4** for suggestions on how best to research your options.

What has led you to this point where you have decided to return to education as a mature student?

You are also invited to highlight the relevance of your educational, work and life experience, as outlined in previous sections of the application, to the subject/course you are applying for. For example, your interest in a course could have arisen as a result of your having just completed a related QQI course or Leaving Certificate subject; family circumstances such as fostering; or your experience of working in another country.

Please include any other information that you deem relevant to your application.

You may find the template **HERE** helpful in when recording this additional supporting information.

Supporting Documents

Supporting documents form an important part of a mature student application. Examples include:

- Evidence of any qualifications that you have indicated on your application form (no originals/certified A4 photocopies only as CAO will not return documents)
- Any document requested by assessors to support your application
- If English is not your first language you must provide evidence of English language competence and details of the English Language Qualification(s) that you hold. See **page 11** for more information)
- Statement of Interest
- CV (Applicants to Medicine)

Please include your CAO number on all supporting documents sent to the CAO. All supporting documents must arrive in the CAO within 10 days of registering your application. Please note that the CAO will not check that the documents supplied meet with relevant requirements. It is **your responsibility** to submit the required documentation.

Mature Nursing/Midwifery Applicants

Mature applicants for Nursing/Midwifery are ranked based on their score in an assessment test which is required by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI). Full details about the assessment are publicised on the NMBI website **www.nmbi.ie**.

For further information, please email **careersinformation@nmbi.ie**.

Please be reminded that mature applicants for Nursing/Midwifery are **not required to complete** Mature Applicant Sections 1-11 UNLESS they are also applying for other courses and wish to be considered on the grounds of mature years for those courses.



Useful Links and Information

Free Fees Initiative

Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI)

Student Finance and Bursaries

Fund for Students with Disabilities

Citizens Information

University Scholarships for Adult Learners

1916 Bursary



Disclaimer

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin has sought to ensure that the information given in this Mature Student Guidelines Booklet, either in print or online, is correct at the time of publication but does not guarantee its accuracy and furthermore Trinity does not accept any liability for omissions, errors or changes in its content.



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