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Computer Science Hedge School

*Study Leaving Certificate
Computer Science as an
additional subject with
Trinity College Dublin*

What is it?

The Computer Science Hedge School is a programme offered by The School of Computer Science and Statistics, and the Trinity Access Programmes, at Trinity College Dublin. Students will have the opportunity to take Leaving Certificate Computer Science as an additional subject, outside of school hours.

Who can apply?

The programme is open to students who will be starting 5th year in September 2026. Any student who attends a school where Computer Science (CS) is not offered as a Leaving Certificate (LC) subject is eligible to apply. Students applying from DEIS schools and schools in areas with low progression to 3rd level will be prioritised, but places are open to all students who do not have the option to study LC CS in their school.

What is involved?

- 2-year course during 5th and 6th year
- One Saturday per month for 3 hours in-person in Trinity College Dublin
- One evening per week online for 2 hours (support available to setup online access)
- Occasional midterm/holiday hours
- Lots of hands-on learning.
- It's challenging but very rewarding – an example of what is called “hard fun”!



Students will take the full LC CS course outside of school hours during their 5th and 6th year, through a mixture of in-person and online classes. In-person classes will take place on some Saturdays during the school year. Depending on the school year structure, Saturday classes happen every 3-4 weeks. Online classes will take place one weekday evening per week during the school year (excluding midterms and other holidays). Occasionally, in-person classes will take place on some midterm days.

Students will be expected to attend the in-person classes in Trinity College Dublin for the two-year duration of the course. During the coursework project assessment period in 6th year (see below), students will attend one of our Partner Schools, which act as exam centres for the Hedge School.

If you need extra support to attend the online classes, we will do everything we can to help you get online. Please do not let potential issues with connecting to online classes stop you from applying – please still apply and, if you are successful in getting a place, we will support you.

Information about the LC CS course can be found [on the careersportal.ie website](https://www.careersportal.ie). The course involves three interconnected strands of learning, including engaging in Applied Learning Tasks. This involves students working in teams to solve a problem using a CS approach and create a digital artifact such as an app, game, computer programme, website, etc.

Leaving Certificate Assessment and Exam

Assessment is split between a coursework project (30% of final LC grade) and an exam (70% of final LC grade). The coursework project takes place over 12 weeks, starting in December of 6th year. The exam takes place in May and involves a written component and a computer component. All LC assessments must take place in a recognised exam centre. The Hedge School has partnered with a number of secondary schools, where assessments will take place.

Is this for me?

The LC CS course is challenging but very rewarding – it is one of the most enjoyable LC courses to study as there is lots of hands-on engagement. It could be described as “hard fun”! Taking an extra subject outside of school hours is a big commitment, so students who apply should have lots of self-motivation and be able to show up and engage consistently for two years. We will provide lots of support and help but in general, the drive to succeed must come from the student.

For many college courses, Computer Science counts as a recognised science subject, so if a student thinks they may need an extra science to qualify for college courses they are interested in, this could be a good option.

How much does it cost?

The Hedge School is supported by a philanthropic grant from Google.org so there is no cost to the student, their parent/guardian or the school.

How do students apply?

Apply [HERE](#)

Or use link or QR code: <https://forms.office.com/e/gErZxXzDnb>



Applications are now open. Successful candidates will be offered a place before the end of the 2025/2026 academic year. To stay up to date with Hedge School news sign up to our mailing list [here](#), or use the QR code.

Once a student's application is received, TCD staff will contact the student's school to confirm that LC CS is not offered in the school, and to request a reference letter for the student from the school principal (or another teacher, if appropriate, such as a year head or TY coordinator). The reference letter will be sent directly to TCD and will not be seen by the student. The letter should outline that the student is, in the opinion of the teacher, capable of the commitment in terms of work and time over 2 years to take CS as an extra subject, and any other information that the teacher feels is relevant when determining if the student will be offered a place.

Once a student has applied, the majority of communication will take place directly with the student via the email address provided in the application. The shortlisted students will be contacted so that their parents can complete a consent form before the student's place is confirmed.

Classes will start in late August/early September 2026.

Questions or comments?

Please contact Dr. Jennifer Murphy with any questions or comments:
jennifer.murphy@tcd.ie

