



Frequently Asked Questions – New Minor Subject

What is a New Minor Subject?

A New Minor Subject is a second subject that may be taken by Single Honours students on the majority of programmes in Year 1. By taking this New Minor Subject, you will be provided with the opportunity to develop knowledge in this second subject. Specific sets of New Minor Subjects are available to each of the following Single Honours programmes for students to choose from: **Early & Modern Irish; Drama & Theatre Studies; English; Film; History; History or Art and Architecture; Mathematics; Music; Religion; Philosophy**. See <https://www.tcd.ie/tjh/new-minor-subject/> for further information.

Who can take a Minor Subject? (include the SH/Minor compatibility table)

It is only possible to take up a New Minor Subject if you entered on one of the following Single Honours programmes: **Early & Modern Irish; Drama & Theatre Studies; English; Film; History; History of Art & Architecture; Mathematics; Music; Religion; Philosophy**. Students on Deaf Studies, are not eligible to take up a New Minor Subject due to the professional requirements of their programmes.

You may choose to take up a New Minor Subject in Year 2 – you will be allocated based on your Year 1 end of year results and subject to availability. If you do not get allocated a place on a New Minor Subject, you will take Trinity Electives and Open Modules instead.

If allocated to a new minor subject in Year 2, you can decide to continue with this subject into Year 3 and exit with either a Single Honours degree in your entry subject or with a Major with Minor degree, i.e. majoring in your entry subject plus a minor in your new subject.

When and how do I apply for a minor subject? (include preferences)

You will apply online via my.tcd.ie to take your New Minor Subject as part of the online selection of your pathways and modules, after you get your Year 1 end-of-year results. See the 'Online Enrolment/Selection' section of these [FAQs](#). Some of the New Minor Subjects will require you to make contact in advance of online enrolment to audition (Drama Studies and Music) or confirm your language requirements (Languages). See <https://www.tcd.ie/tjh/new-minor-subject/> for further details.

I want to apply for a minor subject with admissions requirements. What do I need to do?

Please make contact with the relevant department as per the information published at <https://www.tcd.ie/tjh/new-minor-subject/>

When will I know which minor subject I'll be taking?

Students will be allocated to New Minor Subjects soon after marks are published at the end of the academic year – this will usually happen sometime in June.

Can I take any minor subject?

Unfortunately no, the minor subjects that are available to each Single Honours programme vary slightly in order to ensure they are timetable compatible. Please [see this table](#) for information on which new minor subjects are compatible with each Single Honours programme.

If I apply for New Minor Subject, am I guaranteed a place?

No – places on New Minor Subjects are subject to availability and are allocated based on your Year 1 end-of-year results. Some New Minors require that you make contact with the subjects to determine suitability (Drama and Music) and the languages will require a level of language knowledge/experience. For further details, please see <https://www.tcd.ie/tjh/new-minor-subject/>

How are places allocated to New Minor Subjects?

Places are allocated based on your Year 1 final results. Some of the New Minors will require an audition or entrance test (Drama Studies and Music) or have Leaving Certificate requirements. The information for each subject can be found at <https://www.tcd.ie/tjh/new-minor-subject/>

Is it very competitive to get onto a minor or will just a few people miss out?

Some new minor subjects are only able to offer a limited number of places, however where at all possible we do our best to accommodate students in getting into their first preference for the New Minor Subject.

Who can I contact to find out more about the New Minor Subjects?

See the Contacts List on <https://www.tcd.ie/tjh/new-minor-subject/> for the contact for each New Minor Subject. For general queries, please contact joint.honours@tcd.ie

What is the advantage of taking a new minor subject?

The Trinity Education encourages students to experience breadth as part of their programme of learning. One of the ways to achieve this is through taking up a new minor subject, which would allow you to achieve an award in an area of interest to you. It may also increase postgraduate and employment opportunities to you depending upon your areas of study.

What is the difference between graduating with a Major with Minor Degree and a Single Honours Degree?

To graduate with a Major with Minor degree you will concentrate on expanding your knowledge in one subject (Major) and continue to develop knowledge in a second subject (Minor). You will therefore take more credits and complete the Capstone Project in the Major subject and take less credits in the Minor subject. You will continue your second subject as a Minor into Years 3 and 4.

To graduate with a Single Honours Degree you will concentrate primarily on your subject of entry. You can take up a New Minor Subject in Year 2, but decide either to continue it into Year 3 but only take a small number of credits in it (10 credits) and discontinue it in Year 4, or drop it after Year 2 and take 10 credits of Trinity Electives and Open Modules in Year 3 instead. Either of these pathways will lead to a Single Honours degree.

The [Single Honours Explore Your Pathways tool](#) will provide you with a general overview of the pathways available.

What weighting will a minor subject have towards my degree?

Students who entered Trinity on a Single Honours programme from 2019/20 will have their degree award calculated on their Junior Sophister and Senior Sophister results, weighted at 30% and 70% respectively. The New Minor Subject will make up 1/3 of your studies in each of these years and will contribute to your degree accordingly.

Can I change my mind about my minor subject?

Once you have confirmed acceptance of a new minor subject in Year 2, it is generally not possible to change your mind. However at the end of Year 2, if you wish, you may choose to drop the new minor subject. In this case, you will proceed towards a Single Honours degree in your programme of study.

Can we choose to do the minor for only 2nd year?

Yes, students may drop their New Minor Subject at the end of 2nd year.

Can I take up a Minor in JS year?

It is not possible to take up a new minor subject in any year other than the Senior Freshman year.

Will the available minor subjects change?

The available new minor subjects may change year on year and any changes to subjects will usually be updated to reflect this around February. Currently available new minor subjects and the Single Honours programmes they are compatible with can be found [here](#).

If I don't take a New Minor Subject (second subject) in my Year 2 can I still take the Major with Minor pathway?

No, you will need to take up a New Minor Subject (second subject) in Year 2 in order to graduate with a Major with Minor degree. The [Single Honours Explore Your Pathways tool](#) will provide you with a general overview of the pathways available.

Is there any other pathway available to me as a Single Honours student other than taking up a New Minor Subject?

Yes, you may choose to take 20 credits of Trinity Electives and Open Modules in Year 2 instead of a New Minor Subject. You will then graduate with a Single Honours degree in your subject of entry.

Does taking up a New Minor Subject impact the structure of Foundation Scholarship examinations?

No, it does not – you will simply take the examinations related to your Single Honours programme.

Can I still go on Erasmus if I pick up a New Minor Subject?

Yes! This will be most straightforward if you find a host university that will allow you to study both your Major and New Minor Subject while abroad. This link explains how it is working for this year's SF students who hope to go next year:

https://www.tcd.ie/tjh/assets/pdf/erasmus_shmin_student_advice.pdf and further queries can be directed to tjh.erasmus-studyabroad@tcd.ie