

# Common Architecture

## GENERAL REGULATIONS<sup>1</sup>

### *Introduction*

1 The common architecture provides structured but flexible pathways for the delivery of undergraduate degree programme curricula that supports the achievement of programme-level outcomes and the development of the graduate attributes.

### *Principles of the common architecture*

2 The architecture is predicated on a four-year programme comprised of a two-year foundation cycle (first and second years) followed by a two-year sophister cycle (third and fourth years) which determines the award.

3 Students enter a programme that is on one of the following architectures: single honours, joint honours, common entry, multi-disciplinary, professional, science or clinical. Some of these architectures provide students with the opportunity to change pathway during their degree programme within clearly defined parameters.

4 Each architecture has a unique set of requirements and/or pathways to award.

### *Trinity elective modules*

5 Trinity elective modules are stand-alone institution-wide modules made available to the majority of students across the University. They add breadth to a student's curriculum by providing a chance to study a topic completely unrelated to their programme of study. Eligible students normally choose freely from available modules subject to capacity limits and some curriculum requirements. Information on Trinity elective modules can be found at [www.tcd.ie/trinity-electives](http://www.tcd.ie/trinity-electives). Specific programme eligibility information is available from school and course offices.

### *Open modules*

6 Open modules are modules that add breadth to a student's curriculum. They come from outside a student's programme but are often in cognate or complementary areas of study. Eligible students chose their open module(s) in a particular year from the list of modules open to their programme of study. Places on open modules are subject to module size limits and timetable constraints. Information on open modules can be found at [www.tcd.ie/tjh/open-modules](http://www.tcd.ie/tjh/open-modules).

### *New minor subject*

7 A new minor subject is a new subject that may be taken up by students on single honours programmes<sup>2</sup> during their second year of study. Students may then choose to continue taking that subject in their Sophister years and obtain a minor award in that subject. Places on new minor subjects are subject to capacity limits, timetable constraints and pre-requisite requirements that may apply.

8 Allocation of students to the new minor subjects will be made on a first come, first served basis as part of pathway selection activities.

9 In order to achieve the minor award in a new subject a student must complete 20 ECTS credits at Junior Freshman level, 20 ECTS credits at Senior Freshman level, and 20 ECTS credits

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<sup>1</sup>These regulations should be read in conjunction with GENERAL REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION.

<sup>2</sup>The option of studying a new minor subject is not available to students on the Deaf studies programme.

at Sophister level in the new subject, undertaking these modules in their second, third and fourth years, respectively.

10 Information on requirements and the list of available new minor subjects is found at [www.tcd.ie/tjh/new-minor-subject](http://www.tcd.ie/tjh/new-minor-subject).

#### *Award*

11 Information on the award type is communicated within the programme or course sections for each programme of study.

#### *Single honours architecture*

12 The single honours architecture ensures a balance between depth within the subject and some breadth outside the subject area through open modules, Trinity elective modules or an additional new minor subject.

13 In the Senior Freshman year, students will undertake modules in the subject of their single honours programme. They will undertake their remaining modules in either:

- (a) a combination of open modules and Trinity elective modules, or
- (b) a new minor subject<sup>3</sup>

Students who choose pathway (a) will proceed towards a single honours award only.

14 Ahead of commencing their Junior Sophister year, students who have taken up a new minor subject will choose to either:

- (a) continue studies in the new subject in order to achieve a major award in their original subject with a minor award in the new subject, or
- (b) continue studies in the new subject but to a lesser extent (10 ECTS credits in the Junior Sophister year) and proceed towards a single honours award only, or
- (c) cease studies in the new minor subject and proceed towards a single honours award only.

15 Students in programmes within this architecture will undertake a capstone project in the subject of their single honours or major award only.

16 The following programmes are on the single honours architecture: Deaf studies; drama and theatre studies; early and modern Irish; film; English studies; history; history of art and architecture; mathematics; music; philosophy; religion; sociology and social policy.<sup>4</sup>

#### *Joint honours architecture*

17 The joint honours architecture ensures a balance between depth and breadth through the study of two subjects from entry with the option for students to obtain further breadth outside the two subjects through open modules and Trinity elective modules.

18 Students enrolled in programmes on the joint honours architecture may normally engage in Trinity elective modules and open modules depending upon the pathway choices they make in Senior Freshman and Junior Sophister years.

19 Students who wish to achieve a single honours award in a subject must complete 40 ECTS credits in that subject in the Senior Freshman year.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>The option of studying a new minor subject is not available to students on the Deaf studies programme.

<sup>4</sup>The last intake to the sociology and social policy programme was 2020-21.

<sup>5</sup>The option of achieving a single honours award is not available on business and a language, business when studied with computer science, classical languages (Latin or Greek), computer science, linguistics, or social policy programmes. The single honours award pathway is also not available to students who were in their Junior Sophister year of film in 2021-22.

20 Students who discontinue studies in one of their two subjects in the Senior Freshman year will no longer be eligible to achieve an award in that subject.

21 Ahead of commencing their Junior Sophister year, students will confirm their degree award pathway. This pathway cannot be amended once confirmed.

22 Where a student chooses the single honours degree award pathway, they must complete their capstone project in the single honours subject.

23 Students who choose the major with minor degree award pathway<sup>6</sup> will indicate in which subject they wish to take the major and in which subject they wish to take the minor. They will also indicate whether they will cease studies of their minor subject at the end of their Junior Sophister year or continue the study of their minor subject to the end of the Senior Sophister year. Students on this pathway must complete the capstone project in the major subject only.

24 Students who choose the joint honours degree award pathway may normally undertake a capstone project in either of their two subjects provided they meet any pre- and/or co-requisite requirements.

25 The following programmes are on the joint honours architecture: business studies and a language (French, German, Russian, Polish or Spanish); computer science and business; history and political science; law and a language (French or German); law and business; law and political science; political science and geography; Trinity joint honours programme.<sup>7</sup>

#### *Common entry architecture*

26 The common entry architecture provides breadth in the curriculum through the study of three or more subjects in the first year of the programme, providing a foundation for students to specialise in one subject towards a single honours award or proceed with the study of two subjects towards a major with minor award or a joint honours award.

27 Students enrolled in programmes on the common entry architecture may engage in Trinity elective modules and open modules depending upon the pathway choices they make in Senior Freshman and Junior Sophister years.

28 Students who wish to achieve a single honours award in a subject must complete 40 ECTS credits in that subject in the Senior Freshman year.

29 Ahead of commencing their Junior Sophister year, students will confirm their degree award pathway. This pathway cannot be amended once confirmed.

30 Where a student chooses the single honours degree award pathway they must complete their capstone project in the single honours subject.

31 Students who choose the major with minor degree award pathway will indicate in which subject they wish to take the major and in which subject they wish to take the minor. They will also indicate whether they will cease studies of their minor subject at the end of their Junior Sophister year or continue the study of their minor subject to the end of the Senior Sophister year. Students on this pathway must complete the capstone project in the major subject only.

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<sup>6</sup>This degree award pathway is not available on the business studies and a language programme. Students wishing to achieve a major award in law or mathematics must undertake 40 ECTS credits in that subject in the Senior Freshman year.

<sup>7</sup>The last intake into the following programmes was in 2020-21: computer science and business; history and political science; law and business; law and political science; political science and geography. From 2021-22, entry into these combinations of subjects is through the Trinity joint honours programme.

32 Students who choose the joint honours degree award pathway may undertake a capstone project in either of their two subjects provided they meet any pre- and/or co-requisite requirements.

33 The following programmes are on the common entry architecture: classics, ancient history and archaeology; economic and social studies; political science, economics and sociology.

#### *Multi-disciplinary architecture*

34 The multi-disciplinary architecture provides breadth in the curriculum through the study of three or more subjects across all four years of the programme.

35 Programmes on the multi-disciplinary architecture do not normally engage in Trinity elective modules<sup>8</sup> or open modules.

36 The following programmes are on the multi-disciplinary architecture: ancient and medieval history and culture; computer science, linguistics and a language<sup>9</sup>; European studies; Middle Eastern and European languages and cultures.

#### *Professional architecture*

37 The professional architecture applies to single honours degree programmes which are subject to external professional accreditation or whose curricula are necessarily shaped by the content requirements of professional bodies.

38 Normally students must take 10 ECTS credits of Trinity electives in the Senior Freshman and/or Junior Sophister years only.

39 Normally students must take 20 ECTS credits of open modules across the four years of the programme as determined at programme-level.

40 The following programmes are on the professional architecture: computer science (integrated); engineering; engineering with management; environmental science and engineering; global business; law; music education<sup>10</sup>; psychology; theoretical physics.

#### *Science architecture*

41 The science architecture provides breadth in the core curriculum and appropriate opportunities for learning beyond a given discipline, co-curricular learning, study abroad and internships.

42 Students normally take 10 ECTS credits in Trinity electives in the Junior Sophister year only.

43 Students have the opportunity to take up to 50 ECTS credits in open modules. They may take up to 20 ECTS credits in each of the Junior Freshman and Senior Freshman years, and up to 10 ECTS credits in the Junior Sophister year.

44 The following programmes are on the science architecture: management science and information systems; biological and biomedical sciences; chemical sciences; geography and geoscience; physical sciences.

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<sup>8</sup>Middle Eastern and European languages and cultures students take one Trinity elective in the Senior Freshman year as part of their programme of study.

<sup>9</sup>Prior to 2021-22, this course was called computer science and language.

<sup>10</sup>At present the music education programme is unable to facilitate Trinity elective modules or open modules.

### *Clinical architecture*

45 The clinical architecture applies to degree programmes which are subject to external professional accreditation and statutory bodies whose curricula are necessarily shaped by the content requirements of professional bodies.

46 Programmes on the clinical architecture do not normally engage in Trinity elective modules<sup>11</sup> or open modules.

47 The following programmes are on the clinical architecture: clinical speech and language studies; dentistry; human health and disease; human nutrition and dietetics; medicine; midwifery; nursing; occupational therapy; pharmacy; physiotherapy; radiation therapy; social studies.

### *Study abroad exchanges (including ERASMUS)*

48 Students on programmes within the common architecture are eligible to participate in ERASMUS or other exchange programmes approved by the Vice-President for Global Relations subject to the general regulations (see GENERAL REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION, section II, §82).

49 Where there is optionality related to pathways on the common architecture, students wishing to participate on exchange will finalise their degree pathway and award selection in the spring of their second year, where relevant.

50 Students should make informed choices about exchange opportunities in the context of decisions about their pathways of study and should be aware of any pre-requisites for modules to be taken in their final year.

51 Further information is available from school, programme and/or course offices.

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<sup>11</sup>Human health and disease students will take two Trinity electives in the Senior Freshman year as part of their programme of study.