



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

Mature Student Guidelines 2025



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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 2 November 2024; our College Awareness Week activities running 18 to 24 November 2024; and our Information Evening for Mature Students on Thursday 9 January 2025 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



Clodagh Byrne
Mature Student Officer

Goldsmith Hall
Trinity College Dublin

E: mature.student.officer@tcd.ie

www.tcd.ie/maturestudents



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 2 November 2024; 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 Thursday 9 January 2025. 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 2024

Saturday 2nd November 2024

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
170+ Clubs
& Societies

TAKE ONE OF OUR
Campus
Tours

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

Find out more at

www.tcd.ie/openday

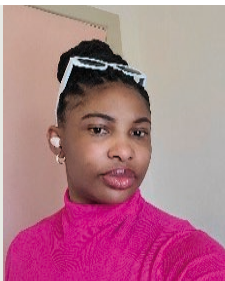


Meet Our Students

Nneka Vivian Durunnodi

Sociology and Social Policy (2nd Year)

As a mature student pursuing a Sociology and Social Policy degree at Trinity College Dublin, I am excited and challenged by the journey ahead. Returning to education after a break brings unique challenges, such as balancing academic responsibilities with personal commitments, adjusting to a fast-paced learning environment, and sometimes feeling out of sync with younger peers. However, these challenges are outweighed by the positive aspects of the experience. I bring a wealth of life experience and a different perspective to my studies, which enriches my understanding of the course material. My passion for understanding societal structures and policies is driven by a personal desire to contribute meaningfully to social change. Trinity's supportive academic community and diverse environment offer a stimulating space for growth. I am optimistic that the challenges I face will lead to personal development, deeper learning, and a rewarding academic experience that will equip me for future roles in social policy and advocacy.



Anthony McGahan

Geography and Geoscience (Graduate)

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 was the icing on life's cake for me. I woke up every day and pinched myself in appreciation of how fortunate I was to be studying there.

Besides the location, the support and encouragement from staff was 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 (Graduate)

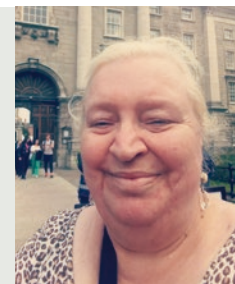
I still can't believe that I was a student in Trinity College. I have just graduated having studied Drama and Theatre Studies. First year was an amazing experience. Due to the world being turned upside down by COVID-19 our classes had to take place online.

I was a mature student. I have just turned 70 years old. All my classmates were in their late teens or early twenties. I wondered, at first, if I would be accepted as a fellow student, given that I was so much older. However, I need not have worried. I was so delighted with my class. They were entirely fabulous. They helped, encouraged and considered me. I had no difficulty in integrating into the class. They tell me that they were delighted to have me, and my different perspectives on life.

My technical abilities were not great, but we had a class chat group, and I could ask for help anytime. We all helped each other as best we could. My lecturers/Professors were great too. They were friendly, patient and good humoured. It was a pleasure to be taught and guided by them. I learned so much.

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

I had a constant gurgle of laughter bubbling inside me since I began my course. Now, having graduated, I wonder why I was so nervous when I started. In all, my time in Trinity surpassed my dreams.



Christine Graves

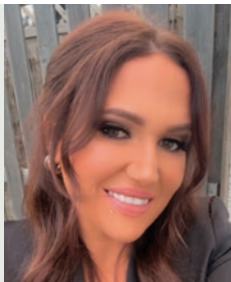
Law (3rd year)

As a 29-year-old single mother to my son, returning to education has been both challenging and rewarding. I started my academic journey with a Level 5 in Criminology at Ballsbridge, which opened my eyes to the possibilities that lie ahead.

Receiving the 1916 Bursary was a turning point for me, providing the financial support I needed. This assistance eased some of the burdens I faced as a parent and student.

Now, as a third-year student in the Single Honors Law program at Trinity College Dublin, I can confidently say that the experience has been transformative. The support from staff and the extensive college network has been exemplary, helping me navigate my studies while being a dedicated mother.

Trinity is genuinely welcoming to everyone, regardless of age, gender, or background. The positive energy you feel as you walk through the arch is palpable and inspiring. Here, the possibilities truly are limitless—only your ambition can hold you back. For anyone considering this journey, I encourage you to embrace the challenges and opportunities that await at Trinity.



Thiago Silva

General Nursing (3rd 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 my third 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 (3rd 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 2025¹. 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 2025.

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 2025. 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	Internet based 90 (with a written score of 21).
5.	University of Cambridge	180+ on Cambridge English scale with no less than 175 in each skill and use of English i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proficiency Certificate, Grade C or better • Advanced Certificate, Grade C or better
6.	IELTS (Academic version)	6.5 (no individual band below 6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Dental courses: IELTS (academic version) 7 (no individual band below 7). • For Clinical speech and language studies: IELTS (academic version) 7 (no in-dividual 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 A: 4 at Higher or Standard Level English B or Ab initio: 4 at Higher Level or 6 at Standard Level (4 at either Level if presenting IB through English).
9.	QQI/FETAC	A pass in Communications module (5N0690).
10.	Duolingo DET	Minimum overall score of 120/160 with no section score below 105. For Dental courses and for Clinical Speech and Language Studies: overall score of 130/160 with no section score below 130.

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

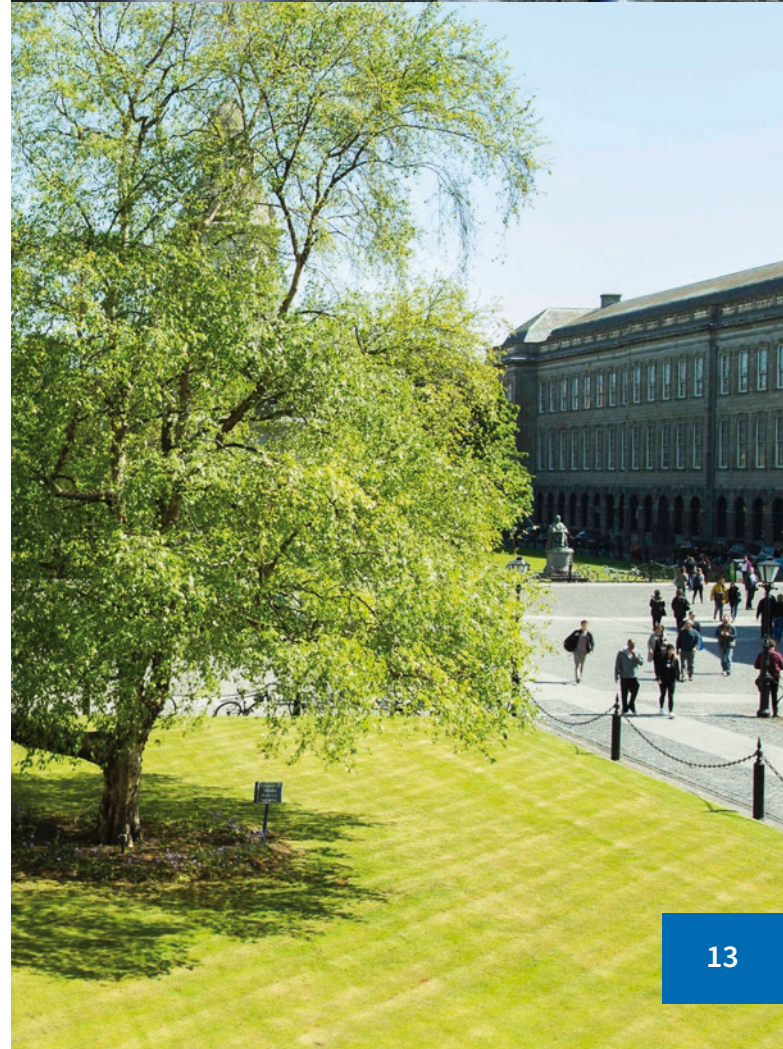
General Information

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 500 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.

Rachel Clinton

Sociology/ Social Policy (1st year)

I grew up in Tallaght during the 80' and 90's. I had a lot of fun back then. But I also suffered many hardships and difficult experiences.

In school, these adversities had a huge effect on my ability to learn, compounded by several undiagnosed learning differences all led to me being flagged and written off as a difficult student. I was forced to leave school after my junior cert feeling less than my peers, with no qualifications, confidence, or belief in myself.

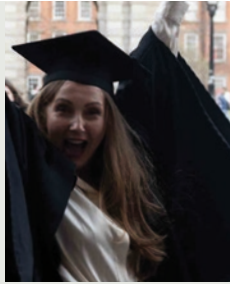
However, my strengths are my resilience, my curiosity, and my hunger for learning. In the past, I have been told I'm too curious for my own good. Nevertheless, those strengths have served me well. They have brought me to where I am today, reading Sociology/ Social Policy at Trinity College!

All that being said, I am under no illusion that I would not be in this privileged, magical place if it was not for the support, care, patience, understanding, and safety of the Trinity Access Programme, or to be specific the beautiful, extraordinary TAP team.

I walked through the doors of Goldsmith Hall in October 2022 knowing what I wanted. An education, and a Ph.D.

But more importantly, I walked out in April 2023 knowing that I could achieve it, and that, right there, is what TAP gives you. It allows you to fill the gaps in your learning and knowledge. It offers you a safe place to make mistakes and a safe place to fail so that you can learn from your mistakes and build your confidence. But it doesn't stop there, it also gives you a support network by way of connections, opportunities, and friends so that you walk through the Arch in Front Square on the first day of your degree knowing that you are not alone.

The Trinity Access Programme has changed many lives during its 30 years. It has given countless people from nontraditional learning backgrounds an opportunity to be all that they have wanted to be. I am one of those people.



Trinity Access Programme: Foundation Course for Mature Students

The Trinity Access Programme (TAP) offers mature students a Foundation Course for Higher Education. This course prepares mature students, personally and academically, to study for a degree.

The Foundation course was set up in 1997 to tackle educational disadvantage. It offers another way to third-level education for mature students whose social, economic and cultural experiences have prevented them from going to college.

Foundation Course students can enter into the Trinity College Dublin undergraduate degrees.

Applications for 2025/2026 academic year will open in November 2024.

Is this course for me?

Students can choose from two broad areas of study: Arts and Social Sciences, or Science.

Throughout the course you have full access to all college supports and services. There are also TAP supports tailored especially for you.

In addition to classes in Study Skills, Educational Guidance and Information Technology, students may choose from the following: English, History, Philosophy, Law, Politics, Psychology, Sociology, Economics, Business, Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science.

What are the eligibility requirements?

To be eligible for this course you must:

- demonstrate a real desire to pursue a third-level course and the ability to do so
- be 23 years of age or older on 1st January of the year you apply
- be resident in Ireland
- come from socio-economic background(s) under-represented in third-level education
- be eligible for the Government Free Fees Scheme
- submit evidence of your English language proficiency, if English is not your first language

Please note:

- *There are no standard educational requirements such as the Leaving Certificate or an aptitude test*
- *One place is reserved each year for an applicant from the Traveller Community who meets the above criteria and who scores 30 or over at interview*
- *One place is reserved each year for an applicant who is a care leaver, meets the course criteria and scores 30 or over at interview*

How do I apply?

- Complete the online application form
- Include a short essay with your online application (maximum 600 words), about any topic that is currently in the news that you are interested in writing about.
- Share link to the online referee forms with two referees.
- Attend an interview if we invite you to do so.
- Use the Application Guidebook to help you with your application and any questions you have
- Applications close on March 28th 2025. The deadline to submit supporting documents and references is March 28th 2025.
- See more information on the Privacy Statement of Trinity College Dublin

If you have any questions please contact us by email: foundationcourse@tcd.ie or phone: (01) 896 3472

Melissa Soady

Pharmacy (1st year)

I was 17 when I finished my Leaving Cert, I did not really know what I wanted to do in life. I became pregnant with my son when I was 18. Two years later he started creche and I started a QQI level 4 Health and Beauty retail course in FAS in Baldoyle, which entailed a 2-month work placement in a Pharmacy. 11 years later I work in the same Pharmacy. In 2017 I completed a 2-year pharmacy technician course. In October 2021, I made the decision to become a pharmacist as I knew this was my dream and I applied as a Mature student through CAO for the Pharmacy course at Trinity College. I had the work experience in a Pharmacy but no strong academic history. Having not been successful in my application, Trinity College recommended the Trinity Access Programme (TAP). I applied and successfully got my place and started in September 2022. I studied the science stream on the programme and received a Distinction on completion of the course. In August 2023 my dream came true when I opened my CAO offer and received the news that I successfully got at place on the Pharmacy Course at Trinity College. I can truly say I am loving it. TAP has completely changed my life. It has given me the confidence and belief in myself that I can do, learn, and achieve anything that I put my mind to, whilst also having made lifelong friends. I was certainly academically challenged during my time on the access programme but there was such a great support system in place to help me through. That support system is still there on my degree.





City of Dublin ETB Partnership Access Courses

Since 2004 TAP has worked in partnership with the City of Dublin Colleges; **Pearse College** and **Plunket College** to maximise the numbers of socio-economically disadvantaged mature students progressing to Trinity College Dublin.

How does the partnership work?

While students are registered to the City of Dublin ETB College in which they are studying, they have access to TCD resources; Trinity College Library and library reading rooms, Writing Resources Centre and Maths Help Room.

Students take part in a range of activities, including TAP orientation programme, Trinity mini week – including a lecture series, Library workshops, study skills, guidance, and writing workshops.

At the end of the course, students receive a certificate of participation in the university access programme from TAP.

On the City of Dublin ETB courses, students study a range of subjects aligned with the content of the TAP Foundation Course subjects such as English literature, History, Philosophy, Psychology, Statistics, Research & Study Skills, Word Processing, Communications, and Personal & Professional Development.





What happens after I finish the Partnership Access Course?

Students who successfully complete the course get a QQI FET Level 5 Major Award in 5M3114 General Studies.

Students who get a full FET Level 5 Award, with a minimum of three distinctions in academic subjects, may compete for places on degree courses in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences in Trinity College.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Pearse College and Plunket College: Applicants must meet the same entry requirements as set out for the TAP Foundation Course for Mature Students.

Applicants may be 22 years of age or older on January 1st in the year they apply.

If you have any questions, please contact us by email: foundationcourse@tcd.ie or phone: (01) 896 3472

Alternatively, you can contact the City of Dublin ETB Colleges directly on:

- Pearse College by email: information@pearse.cdetb.ie or phone: (01) 453 6661
- Plunket College by email: info@plunket.cdetb.ie or phone: (01) 837 1689



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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