

Frequently Asked Questions – New Minor Subject:

Who can take a New Minor Subject?

Rising Senior Fresh students on one of the following Single Honours programmes: Early & Modern Irish; Drama & Theatre Studies; English Studies; Film; History; History of Art & Architecture; Mathematics; Music; Religion; and Philosophy may take up a new minor subject. If you are a student on any other programme, it is not possible to take up a new minor subject

When and how do I apply for a minor subject?

You will apply online via my.tcd.ie to take your New Minor Subject as part of the pathway selection process, which is due to open from the 12th of March until the 25th of March. It is important to be aware that some of the available New Minor Subjects will require you to make contact in advance of pathway selection processes to ensure you meet the eligibility requirements for that subject. These requirements are listed per subject at <https://www.tcd.ie/tjh/new-minor-subject/>

Can I take any minor subject?

Unfortunately not, and some minor subjects are not available as they are not **timetable compatible with your Single Honours subject**.

If I apply for New Minor Subject, am I guaranteed a place and when do I know about a place?

Places on New Minor Subjects are subject to availability and will be made available via pathway selection on a first come, first served basis. Students are allowed to make up to **three preferences** for new minor subjects which would maximise your chance of getting at least one of the subjects. It is important to be aware that some of the available New Minor Subjects will require you to make contact in advance of pathway selection processes to ensure you meet the eligibility requirements published towards the bottom of this website <https://www.tcd.ie/tjh/new-minor-subject/>.

What is the advantage of taking a new minor subject and how does it differ to a Single Honour?

There are many different reasons to take up 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 provides you with an opportunity to achieve an award in an additional area of interest to you.

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.

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If I take up a new minor subject what level will my modules be at?

In most cases, students taking up a new minor subject in their SF year will take JF-level modules in the minor. Students who opt to continue with the new minor subject after that will take SF-level modules in JS year and Sophister-level modules in the SS year. The only exception to this is for

Mathematics students who take up Statistics as normally Statistics modules are taken in first year, so it is possible to start with SF-level modules for the new minor subject.

Can I change my mind about my minor subject?

Once you have been granted a place on a new minor subject in pathway selection for Year 2, it is generally not possible to change to a different minor. At the end of Year 2 as part of pathway selection for JS year, 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.

If you wish to change the subject itself or drop the minor outside of Pathway Selection activities, we would recommend that you contact joint.honours@tcd.ie for more information. Please note that requests to change your minor subject or pathway after the second week of the first semester of teaching cannot be granted.

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

No, it is not possible to take up a new minor subject in any year other than the Senior Fresh year. If you do not take it up at that stage you are committed to achieving a Single Honours degree.

As a Single Honours student, do I have to take up a New Minor Subject?

No, you can choose to remain on a Single Honours pathway, however as part of this you will need to take some modules outside of your core subject in your SF and JS years. Students who remain on the Single Honours pathway in SF year will take 20 credits of Trinity Electives and Open Modules instead of a New Minor Subject and then in JS year these students will take a further 10 credits outside of their core subject in Trinity Electives and/or Open Modules. 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 only.

Can I still go on Erasmus/International Exchange 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

Can I take my Capstone in my New Minor Subject?

No. The Capstone Project in Year 4 must relate to your Major.

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Is there more information available?

For general queries, please contact joint.honours@tcd.ie who will also invite JF students to yearly information sessions from the UCAO Team. For queries of an academic nature, we recommend that

you contact the academic or departmental colleague listed for each subject of interest at <https://www.tcd.ie/tjh/new-minor-subject/>

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