

A Guide to PLCs

Alternative Progression Routes to College

What are PLCs?

- PLCs are Post Leaving Certificate Courses.
- They are open to all Leaving Cert and Mature students.
- (Interviews are held Feb-May).
- Early application advised.
- Application is through the individual colleges websites.





Stepping Stone Approach to 3rd Level.

- Many courses on the CAO reserves places for PLC entrants.
- Whilst many courses offer places, there are a few caveats/considerations to bear in mind.....
- Not all courses have QQI pathways (i.e. PLC Links)
- Students must obtain certain grades in their PLC course to qualify for applying (It is not a guaranteed route).
- Check with the HEI regarding the CAO course your child is interested in to determine how many places they allocate for PLC entrants. (This can help with expectations).

How do I know what courses have QQI links (PLC link)?

- Go to Careersportal.ie
- Type in the name of the course e.g. Business



Once you see a link under the QQI heading, you know it accepts PLCs as a progression route.



The screenshot shows the CareersPortal website with search results for 'Business' courses. The search filters are set to 'Business' and 'CAO (Higher Education)'. The table lists various courses with their respective details, including a 'QQI Link?' column. A blue arrow points to a chain-link icon in the 'QQI Link?' column of the course 'Business Options - General Entry'.

Code	Course Title	College	Level	Points 2021	QQI Link?	Years
CAO TU772 BIT	Business Options - Business with IT	TU Dublin - Blanchardstown	7	AQA		3 Years
CAO TU772 GEN	Business Options - General Entry	TU Dublin - Blanchardstown	7	AQA		3 Years
CAO SG134	Applied Sport with Business	Institute of Technology Sligo	7	200 ▼		3 Years
CAO MH101	Arts - Business (International)	Maynooth University	8	336 ▲		3 Years
CAO MH101	Arts - Business (Management)	Maynooth University	8			3 Years
CAO MH101	Arts - Business (Marketing)	Maynooth University	8			3 Years
CAO MT847	Automotive Business Management and Technology	Munster Technological University - MTU Cork	8			3 Years
CAO AL650	Business	TUS Midlands - Athlone IT	6			3 Years
CAO BY002	Business	IBAT College, Dublin	7	171		3 Years
CAO AL850	Business	TUS Midlands - Athlone IT	8	309		4 Years

For the purpose of illustration, I clicked on (Arts) International Business in Maynooth, as was listed on the previous slide. This brings you to the course page on Careers Portal. You will see from the arrow below that there is a section for QQI links, click on this.....

Home Join Log in


 SEARCH 

Course Code	Zone	Level	NFQ Type	Duration	Attendance	CAO Points 2021 (Final)	Points Change
MH101	1 2 3 4 5	 QQI	 Level 8 Major	3 Years	Full Time	336	+18

Course Summary

Language Options

Entry Requirements

 **QQI / FET Links**

The Student

Career Progression


Further Research

COURSE SUMMARY

International Business is about conducting business in different countries and managing people and organisations in an increasingly globalised world. To effectively compete in this changing business landscape, organisations must offer goods and services across nations, regions, and continents outside of their home market and must also manage increasingly diverse workforces as nations, cultures, and markets converge.

International Business provides the strategies, insights, and skills to respond to these challenges, enabling organisations to manage diverse people and operations and to compete for customers across the world.

COLLEGE PROFILE



Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth

Maynooth University


Visit College Profile

View Prospectus

Chat with Students

If you click on any of the codes listed below, it will provide a list of courses that will be accepted for QQI (PLC) entry route.

Home Join Log

 SEARCH C

[Course Summary](#) **QQI / FET LINKS** **COLLEGE PROFILE**

[Language Options](#)

[Entry Requirements](#)

QQI / FET Links

[The Student](#)

[Career Progression](#)


[Further Research](#)

PLC courses leading to the following QQI Major Awards may be used for entry into this course.

Search for PLC Courses offering these awards
(Click on the Codes)

Note: Information for 2022 Entry

Award Code	Award Title
5M0528	Media Production
5M0529	Software Development
5M0536	Computer Systems and Networks
5M0828	eBusiness
5M1761	Intellectual Disability Practice

 **Maynooth University**
National University of Ireland Maynooth

Maynooth University

[Visit College Profile](#)

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[View Courses](#)

When I clicked on one of the codes listed on the previous page, it provided me with a list of all the PLC courses options that will satisfy for a QQI entry route to the Arts (International Business course in Maynooth University).



Home Join Log in

Course Finder

Use our CourseFinder to search for Further & Higher Education courses in Ireland. Use the filters to narrow down your preferences. Click on the star to add a course to your favourites. Your favourites will be saved to your Career File if you are logged in.

CourseFinder Help
Progression Routes
Search For courses in



Please note the heading for Progression Routes... this lists all the courses on the CAO that have progression routes.

**As CareersPortal.ie is a Third Party site, I would double check everything on the CAO site to ensure it is 100% accurate.

Filter by: Clear All

Course Name or Code clear

Example: "ani" will find animal and mechanical.

My favourites ★

Course Type

- PLC (Further Education)
- CAO (Higher Education)
- Northern Ireland (Higher Education)
- Direct Entry (Higher Education)
- Apprenticeship Courses

Found **40** courses Sort by Course Title ▼

Print

	Code	Course Title	College	Level	Points 2021	QQI Link?	Years	
☆	5M0529 ASDX	App & Software Development	Limerick College of Further Education	5			1 Year	▼
☆	5M0529	Computer Game Design & Development	St. John's Central College	5			1 Year	▼
☆	5M0529	Computer Game Design & Development (Clash Road)	Kerry College	5			1 Year	▼
☆	5M0529 CGPX	Computer Games Design	Limerick College of Further Education	5			1 Year	▼
☆	5M0529 CI061CR	Computer Games Programming	Cavan Institute	5			1 Year	▼



Summary

- You apply directly to each individual course/college through their website.
- If accepted, they will usually require a deposit, which varies between colleges. (Usually it is about €40-€50). Many colleges refund this , should you decide not to accept your offer in September.
- You can still qualify for the SUSI maintenance grant. (I.e. the monthly payment to help with the cost of studying).
- It is not a guaranteed entry route.
- If you do not satisfy the 3rd language requirement for an NUI college, this can be a way of bypassing this rule....PROVIDING the course has a QQI link and you achieve the necessary grades.

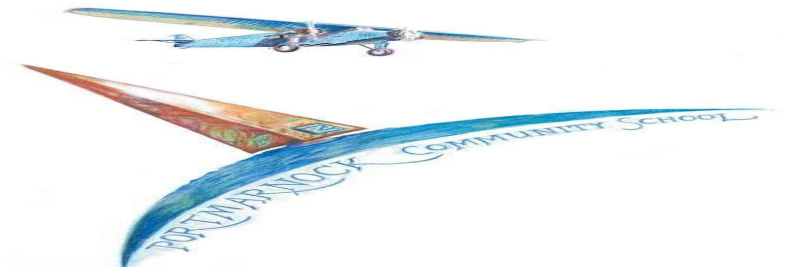
Higher Education Links



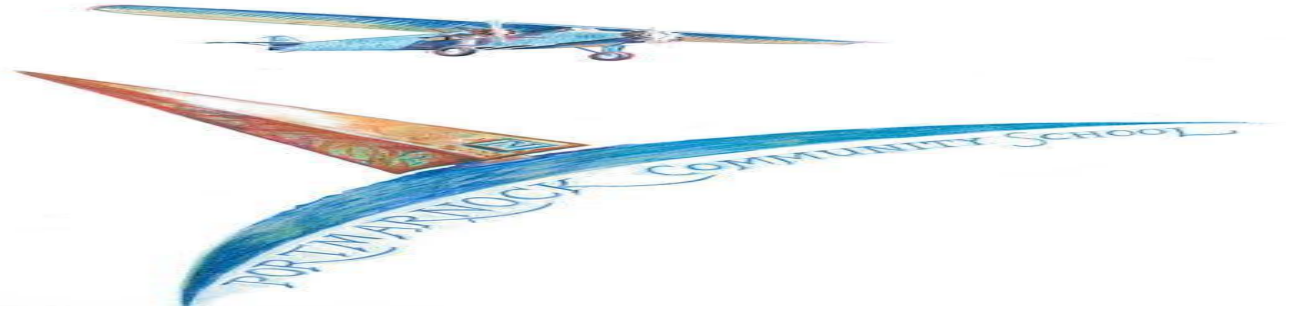
- Some HEIs have specific courses that are linked to Level 5 & 6 PLC courses.
- Full award from single sitting - 8 components – minimum 5 distinctions with specific component requirements.
- These are added up to give a total of 390 points. Places reserved for FETAC (PLC Entrants) are then awarded a place based on their results, in order of merit.
- (Please note that some colleges, such as NCI do not require any distinctions for their level 6/7 courses and in some cases accept ANY PLC course for entry to their courses).

Qualifax.ie

- Qualifax.ie –Students/Useful Tools/Minimum Subject Requirements/ Leaving Certificate, and this will bring you to the section that shows you which courses require specific subjects, as shown in the presentation on Monday night.
- You can copy this link into your browser to bring you directly to it either: https://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=77



Questions?



- If you have any questions regarding any of the information from Monday Night's Talk or from the information in this Powerpoint, then please do not hesitate to contact either:
- bcoggins@portmarnockcommunityschool.ie
- ffarrell@portmarnockcommunityschool.ie
- Many thanks for joining us for the Subject Options talk on Monday. We hope you found it helpful.