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.

PLCs- Why apply?

- Specialised courses
- Job Focused
- Many include work experience and have links to industry
- Stepping stone to I.Ts/TUs and Universities

(Provides students with opportunities to attend college/university if they do not have the required number of subjects to attend college directly).

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.

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………

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.

careers
portal.ie   SEARCH

Course Summary

Language Options

Entry Requirements

QQI / FET Links

The Student

Career Progression

Further Research

QQI / FET LINKS

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	

COLLEGE PROFILE

Maynooth
University
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

Maynooth University

Visit College Profile

View Prospectus

Chat with Students

View Scholarships

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).

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.

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
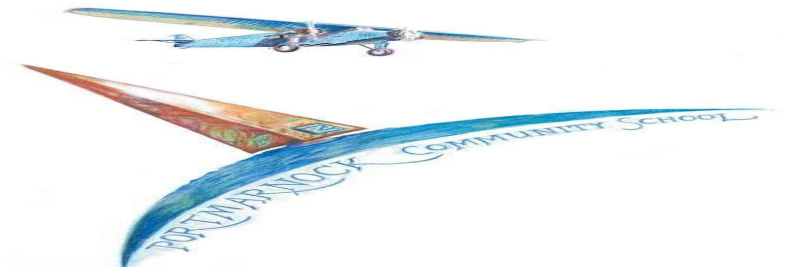
Questions?
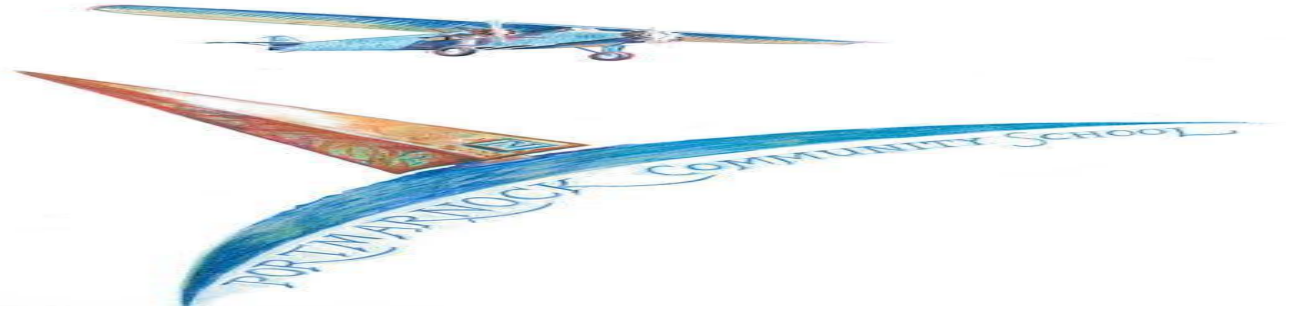
- If you have any questions regarding any of the information from Monday Night's Talk or from the information in this Powerpoint, then please do not hesitate to contact either:

- bcoggins@portmarnockcommunityschool.ie

- ffarrell@portmarnockcommunityschool.ie

- Many thanks for joining us for the Subject Options talk on Monday. We hope you found it helpful.