

Aoife Hennessey – Business Studies – CIT

What are you studying?

I am currently studying Business Studies in Cork Institute of Technology. Although this wasn't my first choice I am absolutely loving it!! I didn't know what I wanted to do up until the end of sixth year and haven't done business since First Year. Despite this I have settled in so well and feel I am at no disadvantage to my class mates.

How does the work load to college life compare to secondary school?

Although there are many deadlines and assignments it cannot be compared to the Leaving Cert. I am doing something I am passionate about so I don't dread the work as much and obviously there is still time for a social life.

What are the other main differences between 2nd level and 3rd level?

The hours are a huge difference I have a lovely time table and finish early most days. I suppose the most obvious difference however is the freedom and the amount of free time you have. It's great to have the time to join classes and socialise.

Is the image of the 'poor student' a reality or is college life just one big party?

I wouldn't say college is one big party and you do have to be more aware of what you're spending. However, going out isn't that expensive. Keep track of your finances you shouldn't have a problem.

How difficult is it to look after yourself when living away from home?

At the beginning getting used to living away from home was a bit of a challenge but once you fall into a routine and learn to cook a few basic meals you're away.

What is your favourite thing about living in Cork?

The people. I have met so many lovely people and made so many amazing friends. It's great to get out of your comfort zone and meet new people

Do you have any advice for current Sixth Years?

Don't panic. If things don't go your way, they will. Everything happens for a reason. I know it's a cliché and everyone says it but it's so true! I spent the year putting pressure on myself to get my first choice and if I had the option over again I wouldn't change! I am so happy where I am and believe its where I'm meant to be. Don't let stress get the better of you, it's really not worth it.

Evelyn O'Flynn – Commerce – UCC

What are you studying ?

Commerce in UCC – parts of the course are interesting and other parts are boring, but it's grand overall

How does the work load for college life compare to secondary school?

It's very different. I've only 12 hours of lectures a week. There isn't as much work compared to secondary school but in secondary school it's easier to do the work whereas in college there's so many distractions.

What are the other main differences between 2nd level and 3rd level education?

In 3rd level education it's up to you to do well and make the most of your degree whereas in secondary school you are being influenced by parents and teachers to do well.

Is the image of the "poor student" a reality or is college life just one big party?

One big party!!

How difficult is it to look after yourself when living away from home?

It's easy

What is your favourite thing about Cork?

I love the buzz in Cork city, the partying ,the restaurants and bars, the shops. It's a great place to live.

Do you have any advice for current 6th years?

Work hard this year so you can have a good time next year.

It sounds like our Sixth Years have a lot to look forward to!

I wish to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Aisling O'Dwyer – Guidance Counsellor.

Guidance and Counselling Department news.

It has been a busy term in the Guidance and Counselling Department. The CAO forms have been completed online in school and 6th years are considering carefully their options for next year. The REACH + Career Guidance Programme is being undertaken by all Fifth and Sixth Year students and this allows students access to a wide range of online resources relating to various careers. It is mainly focused on promoting career management skills among students. Students complete some parts in a workbook in class and other components online either at school or at home.

Mental Health and Wellbeing are also a core focus of the Guidance and Counselling work within the school. Dr. Julie O'Connor met with Sixth Years in December to offer advice and support on any issues which the students may have throughout the year.

A Mental Health Week will take place in the New Year which will try to look to encourage awareness on Health, Wellbeing and on building resilience.

Career Guidance Events to date:

Sixth Years visited Mary Immaculate College Limerick and the University of Limerick in November. This was followed by a trip to IT Tralee on Friday 27th November with Sixth Years also. The Fifth Years also attended the Careers Fair at the Malton Hotel in Killarney on Wednesday 15th November. These events were successful in helping students gain a better understanding of what college life will be like. It also allowed them the opportunity to seek further information on specific courses and career options.

Where are last year's Sixth Years now?

The students who completed the Leaving Certificate in June 2017 have progressed to college. The statistics on page 2 show where students went to after leaving the school. The areas of study undertaken and the colleges chosen are outlined in the statistics below.

Observations and implications for Whole School Guidance planning.

It must be noted that the Arts courses include courses such as Childcare, Digital and New Media and Early Childhood Studies.

There were no students undertaking any courses within the area of Education which is different to previous years.

The most popular areas of study are Arts, Business and Science followed by Medicine/Health and Nursing and then Law.

While the percentage of students pursuing Science is quite high, number pursuing Engineering is significantly lower.



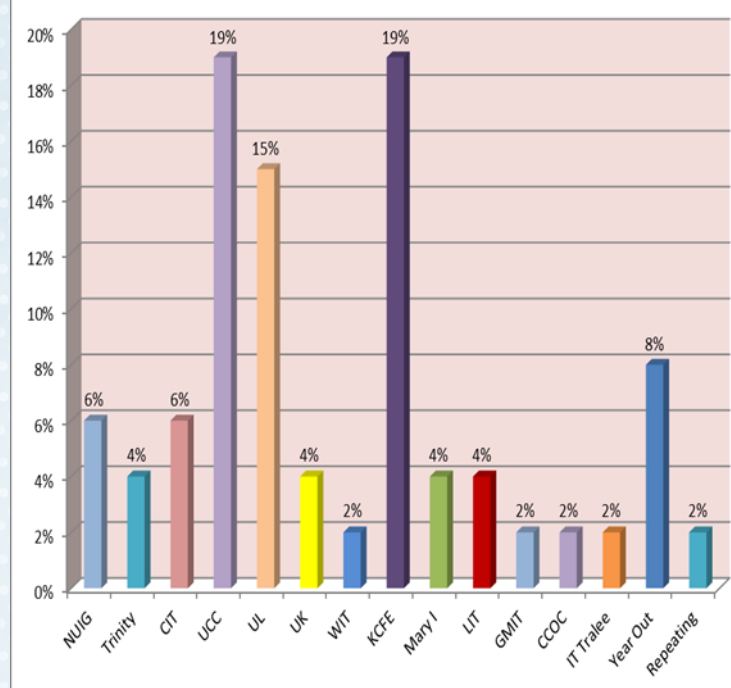
Guest Speakers:

As Sixth Year is a difficult time for students in trying to decide where they will progress to next year. We invited several guest speakers to attend the school and to meet with students to provide information on what their college has to offer. Speakers have included:

- ⇒ Past pupils who completed the Leaving Certificate in 2017 – offering advice and tips on how to survive the year and where they are progressing to for the coming year.
- ⇒ Mary Immaculate College – 20th September
- ⇒ NUIG – 4th October
- ⇒ Shannon College of Hotel Management – 11th October
- ⇒ CIT – 8th November
- ⇒ UCC – Arts Programmes – 16th November
- ⇒ LIT – 29th November
- ⇒ IT Tralee – Pathfinders – 14th December
- ⇒ Dr Julie O'Connor – Tuesday 12th December – Health advice for Leaving Certificate Students

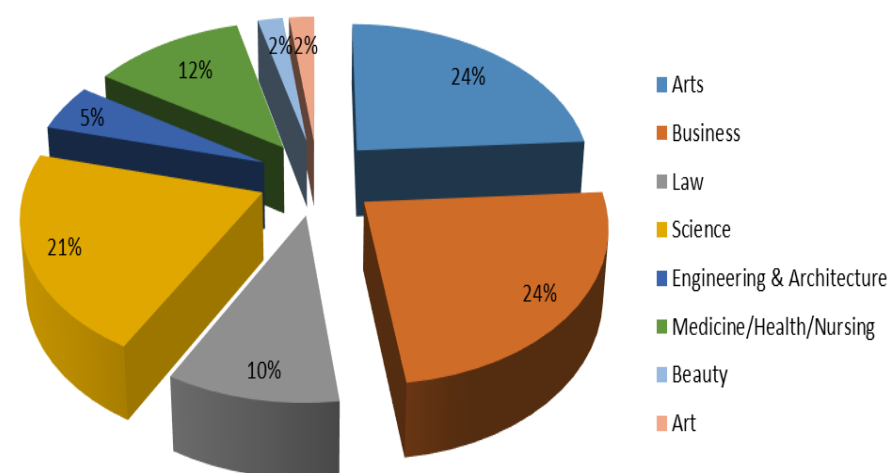


Third Level Progression Routes 2016/17



NUIG (3), Trinity (2), CIT (3), UCC (9), UL(7), UK (2),WIT (1), KCFE (9), Mary I (2), LIT (2), GMIT (1), CCOC (1), IT Tralee (1), Year out (4), Repeating (1).

Areas of Study 2016 2017



Where are they now?

I contacted some of our past pupils who left the school in June. It was interesting to hear about where they are now, what they are studying, finding out if college life is truly one big party and what advice they have to offer our Sixth Year students. Here are some of the replies received.



The courses undertaken by students this year include:

Health and Safety Systems

English

Business and Marketing

Science

Business Studies

Early Childhood Studies

Biomedical Engineering

Arts

Dietetics

Commerce

Arts with Journalism

Biological and Chemical Science

Criminal Justice

Mental Health Nursing

Biological Earth and Environmental Science

Children's and General Nursing

Pharmaceutical and Forensic Analysis

Beauty Therapy

Pre-University Law

Law Pathways

Business and Event Management

Computers and Software Development

Veterinary Assistant

Childcare

Architecture

Law Plus

Digital Media

Dearbhla Canty – Environmental Science NUIG

What are you studying?

Environmental Health and Safety ... harder than what I expected but I'm starting to like it and getting my head around the subjects I've never done before.

How does the work load for college life compare to secondary school?

Big jump from secondary to college, a lot more work and tests and assignments. I'd have about 2/3 assignments a week and 2 tests.

What are the other main differences between 2nd level and 3rd level education?

Living away from home, no parents and having to look after yourself no one is going to chase you for work.

Is the image of the "poor student" a reality or is college life just one big party?

Both – you're poor but you still manage to go out and have fun. You would save your money for going out rather than food.

How difficult is it to look after yourself when living away from home?

At the start it was hard but by week 3 or 4 I got used to it and I settled in and made a routine.

What is your favourite thing about Galway?

The city and the people you get to meet and NUIG campus.

Do you have any advice for current Sixth Years?

Have fun and don't regret doing anything but just keep up with your work and you'll have no stress and everything happens for a reason. Don't stress over the leaving. Do your best. At the end of the day no one asks what you got no one really cares, there only being noisy.

Rebecca Long – Early Childhood Studies – UCC

What are you studying

BA Early Years and Childhood Studies in UCC, with the intention of going on to do Primary School Teaching.

How does the work load for college life compare to secondary school?

There is a big difference. While there is considerably less work, each assignment is a lot longer than a piece of writing for Leaving Cert. Each assignment would be about 1500-2000 words on average (about the length of the RSR for history). This will increase as you progress.

What are the other main differences between 2nd level and 3rd level education?

The hours. For example, on a Monday, I have a lecture at 1pm, a tutorial at 2pm, and then I'm finished for the day. I generally go to the library after this as in my course we have online lectures in addition to the lectures we attend in person.

Is the image of the "poor student" a reality or is college life just one big party?

There are definitely weeks where you have less money, but overall I seem to be managing well. But at the same time it kinda is one "big party". In Cork every Tuesday and Thursday is student night in clubs, but there also bars on campus and around the campus where we go other nights of the week.

How difficult is it to look after yourself when living away from home?

Not too bad. I miss home but you get used to it.

What is your favourite thing about Cork?

The people and the freedom. I've already met people I know I will be friends with for life.

Do you have any advice for current Sixth Years?

Do the work as you get it. The mocks are good to give you an overall picture, but don't get bogged down by them.