



Year 13

Parents' Information Evening

Structure



Mr Gallagher (Principal)

General Overview

Mrs Guiney

Careers, UCAS Process

Mrs McCarry

Student Finance

Ms Marron

A Level Study

Transition to 'A' Level



- A difficult step
- Increased content
- Degree of difficulty
- Independent Study is necessary



'A' Level Examination Routes

- Modular –

CCEA have retained modules, but only available in June.

- Linear –

English boards (OCR, EDEXCEL) have adopted linear model.

AS decoupled from A2

Year 13 AS Exams



- June 2023– sit all units/modules in each subjects (See P.7&8)
 - This year (due to Covid) CCEA are providing students with 'Advance Information' in Feb/Mar
 - A steer towards revision topics
- August 2023– AS results
- June 2024 – only opportunity for AS re-sits

Year 14 A2 Exams



- June 2024 – sit all modules in all subjects
- August 2024 – A2 results

AS and A-level Structure



CCEA Year 13		CCEA Year 14	
AS1	AS grade	Total AS score 40%	Final A-Level Grade
AS2		A2-1 A2-2 60%	



AS and A-level Structure

Year 13 - Edexcel		Year 14 – Edexcel	
AS1	AS grade	AS1 & AS2	A-Level grade
AS2		A2 – 1 & A2 – 2	

BTEC Structure



Year 13 - BTEC	Year 14 – BTEC
Unit 1 External Assessment	External Assessment
Unit 3 Sports / Unit 5 Construction Internal Assessments	Internal Assessment

*Please see
Student
Handbook for
BTEC for
further
information*

How to achieve an A*



Students must meet the following requirements:

80% UMS overall (i.e. the current requirements for an A).

90% UMS overall *in the A2 units*.

Students *do not* get an A* for 90% overall. **Only the A2 units (the units taken in Year 14) count towards the award of an A*.**

Can I get A* at AS level?

No, you can only get it at A2.



Importance of 'AS' Levels

- Platform/gateway for A2
- Predicted grades for UCAS
- University offers based on AS
- Marks generally easier to obtain
- 4 AS = Choice / safety net

‘A’ Level Equivalents



IT & Business Studies

- Level 3 Vocational qualifications
- OCR CTEC (Cambridge Technical)
- All portfolio/coursework based
- Rigorous & demanding
- Accepted by QUB, UU and others

'A' Level Equivalents



A-level Grade	OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Certificate Level 3
A	Distinctions in ALL 6 units
B	3 Distinctions & 3 Merits
C	Merits in ALL 6 units

- QUB will accept **ONE** vocational qualification AND **ONE** applied A-Level alongside an exam-based A-level.
- University of Ulster will accept up to **THREE** vocational courses.
- Not accepted for Medicine, Dentistry or Pharmacy degree course.

Information Sources



www.qca.org.uk

www.jcq.org.uk

www.ccea.org.uk

www.ocr.org.uk

www.edexcel.org.uk

www.aqa.org.uk



Careers
Education,
Information,
Advice and
Guidance

(CEIAG)

Mrs S Guiney
Head of Careers



Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

(CEIAG)





Pathways after A Level

- Higher Apprenticeships
- University/College
- Foundation Degree
- Higher National Diploma
- Employment
- Gap Year



Year 13 & 14





Year 13

- Careers once a fortnight.
- Staff Miss Flannelly, Mrs McBride, Mrs Guiney and Mrs West – Careers Co-ordinator
- Facilitate and offer guidance.
- Research task.
- Google Classroom – Year 13 – **4i7wxkk**
- Email c2k
- Speakers for Schools



Google Classroom



Year 13

Calendar of events

Research task – submit 3rd week
January 2023.

- Visiting speakers – ongoing throughout the year from universities and industry.
- a) Students will have a 2 week window for work experience opportunities: **June 2023** - Students need to be proactive after module exams
 - b) Speakers for schools
 - c) virtual work experience.
- UCAS registration June 2023.
- Summer schools - UU, Queens, Oxford, Employers offering Apprenticeships. Utilise organisation websites and social media – Facebook and Twitter.



Year 14

- Careers once a fortnight.
- Facilitate and offer guidance.
- UCAS:CAO application
- Google Classroom – Year 14 – new code issued at start of the year.
- Email c2k
- Speakers for Schools
- Open Days
- Trial Interviews.
- Student Finance



St Mary's
University College
Belfast
A College of Queen's University





Year 14 Calendar of events

- Early June 2023 - pupils register on-line with UCAS and commence application.
- Early September 2023 - attend UU and QUB Family Open Days and finalise application.
- Late September 2023 – submit printout of UCAS form to Careers teacher.
- Mid October early applicants for Dentistry, Medicine, Veterinary, Oxford and Cambridge are submitted.



Year 14 Calendar of events

- End October 2023 - **Trial Interviews** based on UCAS application.
- November 2023 – Careers staff finalise forms and forward to UCAS.
- CAO application starts – date to be confirmed.
- Mid January 2024 applications close for St Marys College Belfast, interviews mid-February.



University and College Admissions Service (UCAS)

Secure web-based system- 'ucasapply'

Easy and convenient.

Prevents simple errors.

Speeds up the processing of applications.

Current Fee £27.50

Acts as intermediary between applicants and universities.

Fair for all.



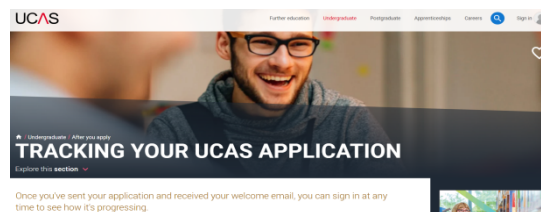
[Undergraduate |
UCAS](#)

[Deadlines for
Accepting University
Offers | UCAS](#)

Codes for offers

UCAS process:

- Applicants have up to five choices initially
- Choices are automatically arranged in alphabetical order not in order of preference.
- If applying for medicine, dentistry or veterinary four of the five choices must be for these courses.
- Once all offers have been received, the five choices are reduced to two – a firm and an insurance choice – May of Year 14.





Central Applications Office (cao.ie)

Points
Available Places
Contact a HEI
Downloads
Mature Applicants
QQI FET Applicants
Advanced Entry
Entry to Medicine
Restrictions
Media and Statistics

The Central Applications Office processes applications for undergraduate courses in Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Decisions on admissions to undergraduate courses are made by the HEIs who instruct CAO to make offers to successful candidates.



Defining Credit Dates and Special Offers

Applicants

Parents / Guardians

Guidance / Schools

Access Routes
DARE / HEAR

Further Education and
Training
& Apprenticeship

CAO Offers

Have a question?

Important Dates

CAO process - Central Applications Office:

Used to apply to universities and Institutes of Technology in the South of Ireland.

Students can apply for up to 10 Degree courses and 10 Diploma courses.

Courses must be listed in order of preference (unlike UCAS).

Closing date for applications 1st February of Year 14

Fee - €45



USEFUL WEBSITES

ucas.com

cao.ie

opendays.com

studentroom.com

studentfinancenews.co.uk

completeuniversityguide.co.uk

esu.org/our-work/secondary-school-exchange

eunicas.co.uk

qub.ac.uk

ulster.ac.uk

Higher Education – Finance

Mrs S. McCarry



University?



Advantages

- Job prospects
- Opportunity to meet professionals
- Transferrable skills
- Socialising
- Life skills – independence
- Further study into an area of interest

Disadvantages

- Cost
- Not always guaranteed a job
- Might change your mind
- Could slow career progression
- Stress – one in four students may experience mental health issues

University or not?



Yes - **IF** you think it's the **right decision for you!**

If the dream job doesn't require a degree, then perhaps university isn't the right route. Learn through experience:

Vocational Courses

Apprenticeships

Recruitment programs may run in some companies – e.g. internships.

*Similarly, struggling with making the leap to independent living and learning, might suggest university is not the path to go – **just yet!** Take time!*

Gap year.



A Degree Costs a lot of Money

Is it worth it?



... Usually!



- Graduates are more likely to be in continuous employment and earn more than non-graduates.
- Research shows that investing in a degree is usually a good investment
 - even on purely financial grounds.

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” – Benjamin Franklin

Do graduates earn more money?



Key graduate salary statistics 2022

Data from the Department of Education shows the median salary for graduates over their entire working career is £34,000 – whereas the median lifetime salary for a non-graduate is £25,000.

If we assume that graduates enter work at 21 and non-graduates at 18, with both retiring when they turn 65, this amounts to a lifetime earnings gap of **£321,000**.

The cost of university falls broadly into **two** categories:

Tuition Fees



Living costs (Maintenance)



Tuition Fees



Country of residence	Studying in Northern Ireland	Studying in England	Studying in Scotland	Studying in Wales	Studying in Republic of Ireland (ROI)
Northern Ireland	£4,630 (£4,530 in 2021-2022)	up to £9,250	up to £9,250	up to £9,250	€3,000*



*Tuition fees are not charged in the ROI.

All students pay a contribution charge. For the academic year this is €3,000 (students will receive sterling value of £2,587.80).



Average student monthly costs...

- Groceries £101
- Going out £47
- Takeaways and eating out £41
- Transport £34
- Clothes and shopping £34
- Other £18
- Course materials £17
- Mobile phone £15
- Health and wellbeing £15
- Holidays and events £14
- Gifts and charity £13

TOTAL £349 x 8 (months) = **£2792**





Belfast Halls of Residence Ensuite Room in a shared Apartment

**Overall
annual total
costs:
£13, 318**

**X 3 years =
£39,954**

**X 4 years =
£53,272**

- **2022/23 PRICE**
From £134/Week x 44
week contract = £5896

- **NI Tuition Fees: £4630**



England

Ensuite Room in a shared
Apartment

- Overall annual total:
£20,890

- 2022/23 PRICE – From £182/
Week – 44 week contract =
£8008

- England Tuition Fees: £9250



What support is available?



- **Government Funding**
 - Maintenance Grant for living costs
 - (NON-REPAYABLE)
 - Special Support Grant (NON-REPAYABLE)
 - Student loans for tuition fees and living costs (REPAYABLE)
- **University**
 - Bursaries (NON-REPAYABLE)
 - Scholarships (NON-REPAYABLE)
 - Hardship funding (NON-REPAYABLE)
- **Part-time Work**
- **Help from Family**

SUPPORT





- **Non-repayable** grant for students from lower income households.
- Helps with everyday costs like food, travel or accommodation.
- Worth up to £3,475 a year – depending on household income.
- If your household income falls between £19,203 and £41,065 you may be eligible to receive a partial grant, depending on the level of your household income.



Special Support Grant

- A Special Support Grant is available to students who have an underlying eligibility to Income Support or Housing Executive Benefits (e.g. if you have a disability or a child) (Also £3,475)
- If your household income is more than £41,065 you will not be eligible to receive a Maintenance Grant or Special Support Grant.

Student Loans



The Maintenance Loan is a Student Loan provided by the government, and it's intended to help towards your living costs while attending university...rent, bills, food...

You **apply for the Maintenance Loan** through the same process as **Tuition Fee Loans** and, eventually, you'll **make repayments** on the two as a joint sum.

Students from England, Northern Ireland or Wales can all apply for a Maintenance Loan **online or by post**.

However, the Maintenance Loan and the Tuition Fee Loan are technically two separate types of funding.



Maintenance Loans are paid straight into your **student bank account** in three (almost) equal instalments throughout the year.

Tuition Fee Loans are paid straight to your university.



Maintenance Loans

All eligible full-time students can get a Maintenance Loan, but the exact amount you can borrow will depend on several factors, including

- your household income,
- where you live while you're studying and
- whether you're in the final year of your course.

It's also affected by any help you get through the Maintenance Grant.



The basic student loan for Northern Ireland students is:

£3,750 if you are living and attending college in Northern Ireland

£6,780 if the course is in London

£5,770 if you are overseas

£4,840 if you live elsewhere



Maintenance Loan

You can take out around 75 per cent of the maximum Maintenance Loan regardless of your household income - this is called the 'non income assessed' part of the loan.

Whether you get the remaining 25 per cent - the 'income assessed' part of the loan - depends on your household income.

Maintenance Loans and Grants NI

2022 - 2023



Household income	Maintenance Grant	Maintenance Loan	Total support
£19,203 or less	£3,475	£1,863	£5,338
£25,000	£2,201	£2,199	£4,400
£30,000	£1,215	£2,535	£3,750
£35,000	£689	£3,061	£3,750
£41,540	£0	£3,750	£3,750
£45,000	£0	£3,386	£3,386
£50,451+	£0	£2,812	£2,812



Student Loans for Tuition Fees

- The majority of students take out a Student Loan for their total fees
- Paid directly to the college or university by The Student Loan Company
- No income assessment involved

Repaying Student Loans



No matter where you're from in the UK, you only start repaying your Maintenance Loan from the [April after you've graduated](#). And even then you'll need to be earning over the repayment threshold for your type of loan.

The current repayment thresholds for UK graduates are:

Students from England and Wales – £27,295 a year (£2,274 a month or £524 a week) before tax

Students from Northern Ireland – £20,195 (£1,682 a month, £388 a week) before tax

Students from Scotland – £25,375 (£2,114 a month, £487 a week) before tax.

Repayment of Loans



Income (pre tax)	Monthly Salary	Monthly Repayment
Up to £18,330	£1,527	£0
£21,000	£1,750	£20
£24,000	£2,000	£42
£27,000	£2,250	£65
£30,000	£2,500	£87

Useful Websites



www.studentfinancenai.co.uk

www.ucas.ac.uk

www.studentfinance-yourfuture.direct.gov.uk

www.moneysavingexpert.com

www.student-support.co.uk

www.neelb.org.uk

www.slc.co.uk

www.delni.gov.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/education

Useful Websites



www.studentfinancenir.co.uk

The screenshot shows the Student Finance NI website. The header is blue with the 'studentfinance ni' logo and a 'Listen with BrowseAloud' button. A navigation bar contains links for 'home', 'faqs', 'contact', and 'feedback'. On the left sidebar, there are links for 'Login', 'Register', 'Find out your login details', 'Search' (with a search box), 'IMPORTANT SECURITY INFORMATION' (with a padlock icon), 'EU STUDENTS' (with the EU flag), and 'About Us'. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail 'you are here... Home' and a 'Welcome to Student Finance ni' heading. Below this, it states: 'Offering information on financial support available to higher education students in Northern Ireland. Whether you're thinking about going to university or already studying, we've got all you need to know about what you can get and how to get it.' A purple box contains a list of links: 'I'm planning to go into higher education', 'I am a continuing student', 'I am the parent or partner of a student' (circled in yellow), 'I want to know about repayment', and 'What happens when you apply?'. At the bottom, there is a link for 'Applications for 2015/16'.

studentfinance *ni*

home | faqs | contact | feedback

Login

Register

Find out your login details

Search

you are here... Home

Welcome to Student Finance ni

Offering information on financial support available to higher education students in Northern Ireland.

Whether you're thinking about going to university or already studying, we've got all you need to know about what you can get and how to get it.

- I'm planning to go into higher education
- I am a continuing student
- I am the parent or partner of a student
- I want to know about repayment
- What happens when you apply?

Applications for 2015/16



Ms Marron – Head of Year 13

A Level Study

What makes a successful A Level student?



“Never regard study as a duty, but as the enviable opportunity to learn to know the liberating influence of beauty in the realm of the spirit for your own personal joy and to the profit of the community to which your later work belongs.”

Albert Einstein

Success in Year 13 depends on:



- Attitude
- Attendance
- Punctuality
- Consistency of effort
- Communication
- Support

Success in Year 14
depends on:



attitude and application
in Year 13



Students need to work from outset.
Hard work and effort will be rewarded.

- Communication
- Consistency
- Balance

= THEIR
FUTURE!!





Study Skills

- Refer to Study Skills booklet – pages 7 and 8 – for listing of examinations.
- CCEA have not as yet released AS provisional dates for Summer 2023.
- Ensure three hours (minimum) per night
- Provide a quiet environment conducive to effective study
- Control of social media - monitor use of PC/mobile phones/gaming etc. at home.
- Check homework diary on a regular basis for deadlines etc.

PRACTICAL ADVICE



- Attendance
- Independent study
- Support and encouragement
- Awareness
 - subjects
 - study habits – not just homework!
 - examination times
 - module results

GENERAL POINTS



- AS and A2 Units may be repeated.
- The College covers all examination fees for a student's first entry.
- Student/parents pay for repeat examinations.
- Each module costs £20 -30 approx.
- Avoid re-sits for many reasons.
- Familiarise with specifications/past papers/ model answers/ examiners' reports/ examiners' advice.



- Y13 can be a difficult year – pages 4-6 gives guidelines on revision tips and stress management.
- We are a Take 5 school! Please encourage young people to have a good balance.

Maintaining high standards...

School uniform



Dates for your diary p3



- Thursday 22nd September Parents' Information Evening
(5.15- 6.15p.m.)
- Week beginning 10th October Mid-Term Assessments; Grades report issued
- Monday 24th October Y13 Retreat
- 30th November Christmas Exams begin
- January 2023 Year 13 Reports Issued
- Thursday 2nd February 2023 Year 13 PTM 3.30-6.30p.m. (provisional)
- Week beginning 6th March Mid-term Assessments
- May AS exams – study leave
- 12th - 23rd June Work Experience and UCAS Applications
- Thursday 17th August Examination Results Issued



And finally...

- The young person's first and most influential teacher is the parent.
- Improving the effectiveness of the home as a learning environment is critical to promoting long-term school success.

Conclusion



- Thank you
- Thanks to staff
- Questions