Critical Skills at Maynooth University

Critical Skills is a first-year subject, open to most students, where you will:

Learn Skills to Succeed

Learn research and writing skills that will help you succeed at Maynooth University. Critical Skills uses active learning and hands-on activities to equip you with the library, writing, and research skills essential to your other classes. Learn where to find credible sources and how to use them to construct arguments in essays, exams, and presentations.

Prepare for the Future

Critical Skills will help you build a foundation for professional success. By creating websites, data visualisations, and podcasts, Critical Skills introduces students to important digital tools that are crucial for employment in the 21st-century—skills that are essential to all graduates, regardless of degree programme. Working in teams will prepare you for collaboration with others in a professional environment.

Make Friends in a Supportive Environment

Critical Skills is a small class that offers an accessible, supportive, welcoming introduction to university. Making friends and getting to know your instructor is easy in Critical Skills; we foster a space to practice public speaking, gain confidence in expressing ideas, and share your experiences as a learner.

What Past Students Say

"I think everyone coming into first year from secondary school should have to do Critical Skills. It is without a doubt a large element to how I got through first year."

"I found the classes very easy to understand and found the atmosphere very pleasant. I felt comfortable as a student asking questions and expressing my opinion in the classroom."

"Without a shadow of a doubt I know that critical skills has reshaped my way of thinking. All of the skills I have learned and improved will be essential to carry through in my college and work life."

For more information, contact Dr. Brian McKenzie
Brian.McKenzie@mu.ie

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/critical-skills
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