

MATURE STUDENT HANDBOOK 2025

Step in a direction uniquely yours



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MATURE STUDENTS ARE WARMLY WELCOMED AND THEIR PURSUIT OF STUDY AT THIS UNIVERSITY IS ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED.

QUESTIONS ABOUT STUDYING AT MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY?

CHAT WITH US NOW WWW.MU.IE/LEVEL8







WELCOME FROM THE

MATURE STUDENT OFFICE



Emer SheerinMature Student Officer

DEAR FUTURE MAYNOOTH STUDENT,

Maynooth University greatly values the particular contribution of mature students to the academic and social environment of the University.

Up to 150 mature students begin their studies here each year. If the opportunity to return to education has presented itself to you, we hope you'll choose Maynooth University.

The Mature Student Office is part of the Maynooth University Access Office. The Maynooth Access Programme (MAP) encourages underrepresented groups to enter third level and provides these groups with support through their time at Maynooth. These groups include under-represented school leavers, mature students, students with disabilities and members of the Traveller community.

The collaborative approach to providing support within the Access Office means there is a huge wealth of resources at our disposal and this in effect means excellent support provision for all our students.

This booklet is designed to provide you with information regarding the entry process to Maynooth University as a mature student and the services available to support you during your studies. It contains advice, tips and information which should answer many of the questions you may have such as:

- Do I need a Leaving Certificate to gain entry to Maynooth University as a mature student?
- How do I apply to Maynooth University as a mature student?
- What supports are available specifically for mature students?
- > What financial supports are available for mature students?
- Is on-campus accommodation available for mature students?

The staff in the Mature Student Office are committed to supporting the learning experience of our students. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to telephone, email or drop in to meet us. We are located in MAP Lodge (W23 F2K8) on the North Campus.

Wishing you every success.

Contact us

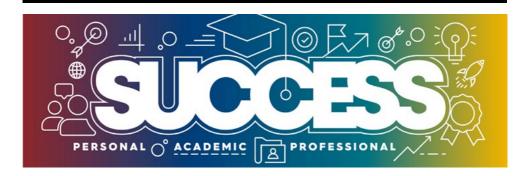
L + 353 1 708 3307 / emer.sheerin@mu.ie



www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office

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LEARNING EXPERIENCE AT MU STUDENT SUCCESS



AT MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY, WE ARE COMMITTED TO EMPOWERING YOU TO FULFIL YOUR POTENTIAL.

The Maynooth University Student Success Strategy outlines our commitment:

Our vision is to develop and embed a university-wide, integrated, and holistic approach to student success so that each student is empowered to recognise and fulfil their potential academically, personally, and professionally.

We deliver this vision through a programme of supports from pre-arrival to graduation.

STARTING OUT

Our online and in-person orientation programme supports you from the time of offer and throughout your first year at Maynooth University. Explore your 'First Steps' with our online orientation and start to become familiar with the Maynooth experience before you arrive on campus. Once here, our in-person orientation will allow you to meet with current students and tour the campus, be introduced to all the supports available, be welcomed to your subjects and start to meet others on your course or who share similar interests.

SETTLING IN AND PERSONALISING YOUR JOURNEY

Our Academic and Programme Advisory provide personalised help and guidance as you navigate your academic journey, make informed decisions about your programme, and achieve your academic goals.

LEARNER SUPPORT

Maynooth University offers a variety of support to help our students succeed, from academic writing skills to exam preparation techniques. Your support will be available as personal appointments, peer-learning, workshops and virtual tools, so you can access them in a way that suits you.

BECOMING FUTURE READY

Our Careers and Employability Service is dedicated to enabling you to develop the skills you need to excel professionally, whether that means exploring future career paths, upskilling, securing an accredited work placement/internship, or networking with potential employers, we are here to support your journey. You can have an individual meeting with a careers adviser, develop your employability skills in class, via workshops or via virtual work experiences. Some programmes also offer the opportunity to complete a placement where you will work in a company on real tasks.

We are committed to your success as you imagine and create a better future.

For more details log on to www.mavnoothuniversitv.ie/student-success

LEARNING EXPERIENCE AT MU YOUR MAYNOOTH EDUCATION

A Maynooth Education offers you many opportunities to personalise your degree programme; our flexible programme pathways include a dedicated Critical Skills subject, the opportunity to take an elective, and real world learning opportunities to enrich your degree.

FIRST YEAR CRITICAL SKILLS COURSES

At third level it is expected that students will develop skills that will not only enable them to successfully negotiate their university experience but which will also help them in other areas of their lives.

Our 15 credit Critical Skills courses are designed to develop these skills early in our students' university experience. These optional courses are designed to help first year students to learn, experience, practice and develop various essential skills that will support their ongoing studies.

In Critical Skills, students will strengthen professional research and writing skills, quantitative reasoning, data visualization, and teamwork skills. They'll also understand the connection between learning and civic engagement, cultivate curiosity and persistence, and develop critical digital literacies for diverse audiences, composing complex digital texts like podcasts.

Expect small classes and active learning. We want to build student confidence by providing a learning environment that is both supportive and academically challenging.

SECOND YEAR FOR SCIENCE STUDENTS

Critical Skills courses are available in second year for science students in a select number of degrees.



For more details log on to www.maynoothuniversity.ie/critical-skills

FLEXIBLE DEGREE STRUCTURE

At the start of second year, some students will have the option to avail of the University's flexible pathways structure. See the degree pages of this prospectus for details on the pathways available.

The Programme Advisory Office is available to assist and advise undergraduate students, including incoming first year students, with programme related decisions.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/programme-advisory-office.

REAL WORLD LEARNING

Maynooth students get the opportunity to experience more from their degree programme with an enhanced range of high-impact learning experiences, connecting classroom content with real-world experience, where students learn by doing and reflecting on this experience. These include opportunities in undergraduate research, work and professional development, student leadership, study abroad and community engagement, empowering Maynooth students to develop their skills and competencies for work, life and citizenship.

For more details log on to

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers/students

SECOND YEAR ELECTIVE STREAMS

Elective streams allow you to make more of your university education, and to take better advantage of the world-class lecturers and interesting subject material that Maynooth University has to offer. They may help to broaden your perspective, allow you to interact with students from other disciplines, or help you develop transferable skills for the future in a way that complements your main disciplinary studies. An elective stream amounts to one-sixth of the total course work for the year. Registration for electives is subject to enrolment limitations, and also must be compatible with the timetabling and other requirements of your main subjects. Some combinations of electives and subjects are excluded.

Visit www.maynoothuniversity.ie/electives for the full list of currently available Elective Streams.



IRELAND'S OLDEST UNIVERSITY TOWN

Maynooth University is located in the heart of Ireland's oldest university town. At just 25 kilometres from the city of Dublin, Maynooth was voted Ireland's Tidiest Town in 2023. Surrounded by the rich heritage and beauty of Kildare, our students enjoy the conveniences of a busy town, a growing university campus, and close proximity to Dublin.



















FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



HAVE A QUESTION? THE MOST COMMONLY-ASKED ARE ANSWERED HERE. IF YOUR QUESTION DOESN'T FEATURE, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

Who is a mature student?

A mature student is at least 23 years of age on January 1st of the year of entry to a full-time degree at our University. There is no upper age limit. Mature students ranging in age from 23 to 75 are currently enrolled at Maynooth. For part-time degree programmes the age requirement is 21.

Are there many mature students in Maynooth University?

Yes! Maynooth University has the highest percentage of mature students amongst all universities in the country. We have a policy of ensuring that 10% of places for new entrants to first year are available for mature students. This translates in numbers to approximately 150 new mature students arriving on campus each year.

How do I apply to Maynooth University as a mature student?

Mature applicants must apply through the Central Applications Office (CAO) which can be done online.

www.cao.ie

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office

ask on webchat

The closing date for receipt of Irish based applications is 1st February 2025.

Late applications from mature students may be accepted after this date (for some courses). Applications may not be made to the CAO after May 1st 2025.

Mature applicants to Primary Education degrees MH001 and MH002 must apply to the CAO prior to February 1st 2025. Candidates meeting the eligibility criteria will receive a supplementary application form from Maynooth University.

Do I need a Leaving Certificate to gain entry as a mature student?

Generally, no. Mature students apply on the basis of their 'mature years'. This means that entry to the University is granted on the basis of experience to date – academic, life experience and work history. However mature applicants do need Leaving Certificate for entry into B.Ed (MH001, MH002) and must meet matriculation requirements (but are not competing on points). In addition, where Mathematics is an intricate part of the course chosen, a Leaving Certificate Mathematics (or equivalent) minimum result may be required.

See the Mature Applicants section of the undergraduate studies website for all application and assessment details.



www.maynoothuniversity.ie/matureapplicants

What preparatory/access courses does Maynooth University offer?

Mature students considering a level 8 degree are sometimes advised to undertake a preparatory course such as the University's Return to Learning course, the University's Certificate in Science/Computer Science or a QQI Level 5 course in a College of Further Education. These courses can assist some applicants in their transition back/into full-time study. For information on the Maynooth University Preparatory/Foundation Year Programmes, please see p. 24.

What undergraduate degrees can mature students apply for?

Places are reserved for mature students in every level 8 degree programme at Maynooth University, and mature students are encouraged to apply. Details of these degrees are in the Maynooth University Undergraduate Prospectus 2025. You can also find a full listing of our level 8 degrees at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/level8

What is the English requirement where English is not a mature student's first language?

All candidates are required to satisfy the English language requirement. Candidates whose first language is not English may satisfy the requirement by obtaining one of a range of qualifications. Full details of these are available at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/howtoapply



FREQUENTLY

ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

How do I research information about degrees at Maynooth University?

- Read the comprehensive information available on all degree programmes in the current Undergraduate Prospectus. See also www.maynoothuniversity.ie/level8
 You can also contact the Admissions and Student Recruitment Office for information on subjects, as well as application and selection procedures for mature students.
- Research the information posted on the academic departments' webpages www.maynoothuniversity.ie/departments
- Contact the Faculty/Department of your area of interest to arrange an appointment to discuss your options and answer any queries you may have.
- 4. Discuss your options with the Mature Student Office in advance of the application deadline. Request a Mature Student Information Pack from the Mature Student Office or download the publications from the website. We also run a series of Mature Student Information Sessions throughout the year. Details of these are posted on our website at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/maturestudents

"I had been out of education and the workplace for several years and just knew I wanted to do something different. I had no idea which direction this would take me, but coming to Maynooth University was the best decision I made." 5. Attend the undergraduate Open Days which are held over two days at the end of November each year, and also in April and in June. Each day includes a combination of tours of the campus, exhibitions, demonstrations, talks and information sessions. Academic departments deliver talks focusing on the degrees and subjects they offer. You can talk to students about their academic experiences and the range of clubs/societies available. Staff are also on hand to discuss admission procedures, degree course details, accommodation, transport and anything else that is relevant to your application. Information particularly relevant to mature students is also available.

How are mature student applicants assessed?

See the Mature Applicants section of the undergraduate studies website for all application and assessment details.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/matureapplicants



Deirdre Byrne
BA Bachelor of Arts Graduate 2024 - Anthropology

What are the fees for taking a degree at Maynooth University?

Once a student registers on a course they immediately become liable to payment of fees for the period of registration up to the date they officially withdraw. The Higher Education Authority pays the tuition element of fees on behalf of an Undergraduate student, if a student is attending their first full-time Undergraduate course; a student who have been ordinarily resident in an EU/EEA/Swiss state for at least 3 of the 5 years preceding their entry to their third-level course and who meet the criteria of the scheme. Details of schemes, eligibility reckoners and relevant links are available on the University Student Fees & Grants Office webpage:

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/student-fees-grants

What financial supports exist for mature students?

SUSI Grant: All students are advised and entitled to apply directly to SUSI for assessment: www.susi.ie, (inclusive of Back to Education and other Social Welfare recipients. Please note that BTEA does not cover any of your fee liability). A SUSI eligibility reckoner is available at: www.susi.ie/eligibility-reckoner-app-irish/

Easy Payment Plan: Students having difficulty in paying fee liability are advised to liaise directly with the University Fees & Grants Office: email EPP@mu.ie, advice will be provided on submitting an Easy Pay payment plan for assessment to the Fees & Grants Office. This scheme can be tailored to the individual need of the student, it allows a student to spread the cost of tuition over a period of time. Please note that full fee liability remains due within the Academic year.



FREQUENTLY

ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

Student Budgeting Advice Service

This service, provided by the University, offers support with budgeting for university, advice on how to manage money, as well as information on fees, grants, social welfare entitlements and all funding options.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/studentservices/student-budgeting-advice-service

Is on-campus accommodation available for mature students?

Maynooth University currently offers accommodation to approximately 1,200 students on campus. Prospective students apply through Student Residences Office for campus accommodation.

4 + 353 1 708 3322

www.mavnoothuniversitv.ie/accommodation

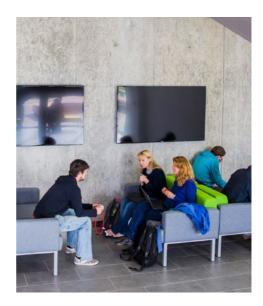
Students can also book on-campus accommodation for occasional overnight stays. If there is a function you wish to go to on the campus or if you have to stay late in the Library finishing off an essay, or if you commute long distance every day and would like to stay here one or two evenings a week, accommodation options are available.

www.maynoothcampus.com

What time commitment is involved in studying for a degree course?

- Students should expect approximately 15 17 actual class contact hours per week (more for Science, Engineering, Music, Psychology, Media Studies, languages). These are spread out over the week from Monday to Friday (9am 6pm).
- In addition to time spent in lectures/tutorials, you will have to plan personal study and research time. Studying for a full-time degree is a full-time commitment.
- Current timetables can be viewed on our website www.maynoothuniversity.ie/exams

Please note that these timetables do not include tutorials and are subject to change. Timetables are usually finalised in September.



What level of computer skills do I need?

Information technology will play a central role in your time as a student. Skills such as word processing, using PowerPoint, emailing and researching on the internet are very important, as is the ability to access the Library's learning resources and the University's virtual learning environment, Moodle. In order to make the most of the resources here at Maynooth University, it is imperative that students possess at least some basic computer skills prior to starting their degree. IT support is available to help students who need extra training in certain areas.

How can I travel to Maynooth University?

We are accessible by public transport from most parts of the country. Maynooth University is well served by Dublin Bus routes, Dublin commuter and national rail links, Bus Éireann national bus routes, as well as several private daily commuter and weekend coach routes. The University is approximately 30 minutes from Dublin city centre and is easily accessible by car. Further information on bus, train, car travel and timetables is available on the website.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/location

Non-EU/International students applying for a level 8 degree (Bachelor)

Undergraduate applicants presenting Non-EU qualifications must apply directly to Maynooth University via the online application portal at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth Applications must be received by 30th June 2025.

International Office: Fees information for non-EU/International applicants - see the flowchart on the Fees Office webpages.





SUPPORTS FOR MATURE STUDENTS

The Mature Student Office was established in recognition of the University's commitment to recruiting and supporting mature students.



EMER SHEERIN IS THE MATURE STUDENT OFFICER. SUPPORT IS PROVIDED IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

ORIENTATION FOR MAP STUDENTS

The Maynooth Access Programme (MAP) seeks to assist new Maynooth University students to successfully transition into university life.

The University's Orientation Programme/ Welcome Week takes place in September for all new students. Tailored information sessions are scheduled for those coming through Mature, QQI, HEAR and DARE entry routes. Orientation aims to provide new students with a wide range of information, which will help them cope with the transition to university life and study. New students will be familiarised with the campus and the Library, and will receive information on finance, accessing support, subject requirements and study skills.

ADVISORY SERVICE

The Advisory Team in MAP see students on an individual and confidential basis to help address any issues. It may be that you feel you need some help but you are not sure where to go. We can help identify which support service might best meet your needs. You may just feel you want someone to talk to or you may need advice about personal aspects of study that concern you. Students are welcome to discuss any concerns they have or any area in which they feel that their learning may need extra support. Our office is located in MAP Lodge, (W23 F2K8) on the North Campus.

You may call in to reception or make an appointment with your designated MAP Student Advisor by booking an appointment here www. maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office/map-advisor-calendars

**** + 353 1 708 3307 / + 353 1 708 4600



maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office

SUPPORTS WHILE YOU STUDY

In addition to individual support and advice, the University assists mature students in their learning through the following resources:

Moodle

The MAP Area in Moodle provides access to advice, study tips, news and opportunities to communicate important announcements, share study skills resources and provide useful information about our services.

Technology

This will introduce to you the latest educational technology (including several really useful tools) and show you how to integrate it into your

learning and into your daily life as a student. The Technology Transition Programme (TTP) was created to help in this area.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office/ technology-transition-programme

Library Information Skills Tutorials (LIST)

These 30-minute sessions provide key skills needed in university on topics ranging from Library Databases to essay writing skills.

The Maths Support Centre (MSC)

This is a free service providing informal, friendly additional support to all undergraduate students. During term time the drop-in centre provides a relaxed, friendly and non-judgemental atmosphere for students who need assistance with any aspect of mathematics or mathematics-related subjects. Students are helped on a first come, first served basis.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/mathematicsand-statistics/mathematics-support-centre

Academic Writing Support

Free, friendly, non-judgemental writing help to any student, undergraduate or postgraduate, regardless of course, degree or level. Students (or a small group of students) may book one-to-one appointments to discuss their writing with a peer tutor. We offer both face-to-face and online sessions. The service also offers writing workshops, supports writing groups, engages in discipline specific work and carries out research. See www.maynoothuniversity.ie/centre-teaching-and-learning/writing-centre
Contact us at writingcentre@mu.ie if you have any questions.

SUPPORTS FOR

MATURE STUDENTS (CONTINUED)

Computer Science Centre (CSC)

The Computer Science Centre (CSC) provides support to first and second year Computer Science students. The CSC is aimed at these students regardless of their ability and will help students understand aspects of the modules that they are having difficulty with.

https://portal.cs.nuim.ie/csc/

Irish Language Support Centre/Lárionad na Gaeilge

The Centre for Irish Language strives to promote and advance excellence and innovation in the teaching and assessment of Irish, through the various aspects of our work:

- > Professional training courses in translation and in Irish language teaching
- > Irish language classes for our University staff and students, and for the wider public
- > Resources for Irish language learners
- > Proficiency tests in Irish
- > Research on aspects of applied linguistics and the Irish language

MAP (Maynooth Access Programme) Academic Advisors

As part of the mature student support programme at Maynooth, each academic department of the University nominates one of its academic staff members as a source of support and advice for mature students and all students supported by the Maynooth Access Programme. MAP Academic Advisors' experience of the University, and of their own subject, can be drawn upon by a student when they experience subject and study-related problems.

In the establishment of MAP Academic Advisors, Maynooth University recognises that mature students and all MAP-supported students may have particular needs in returning to learning that require extra support.

An updated list of the MAP Academic Advisors is available at the beginning of term each year from the Mature Student Office and is posted on the website www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office

Social Activities

The Mature Students' Society acts as a social and educational support group for mature students. There are over 200 members and a very dedicated committee help organise events, run the weekly meetings and spend the money! Previous events include pub quizzes, wine receptions, annual Christmas get-togethers and Alternative RAG Week. The Society strongly encourages people to join, as this is a great way of meeting other mature students from different years.

Supports for Mature Students who have a Disability

There is a wide range of supports for mature students who have a disability. See p. 20 for more details.

Careers Advice

Mature students wanting to explore career ideas, postgraduate study or employment options can avail of the services of the Careers and Employability Service.

Academic Advisory Office

Students seeking particular information on University regulations and progression routes through their degree can avail of the services of the Academic Advisory Office.



Counselling Service

The Counselling Service offers a confidential, professional service, free of charge to all students.

Counselling provides a one-to-one opportunity for students to discuss any issues or concerns impacting on their academic performance or personal health and well-being. The service is strictly confidential and is offered free of charge. Self-referral is welcomed and encouraged. A variety of well-being workshops is offered each semester. See the Counselling webpage for details: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/campuslife/student-wellbeing-support/counselling/workshop

Student Budgeting Advice Service

The Student Budgeting Advice Service offers support with budgeting for university, managing

money, as well as advice on fees, grants, and social welfare entitlements. It also provides advice about the financial supports (internal and external) available to full-time and part-time students at Maynooth University.

Crèche Facilities at Maynooth

The Crèche is available to staff and students of the University. Application for a place should be made to the Crèche Supervisor. Contact the Crèche for further details.

Programme Advisory Office

The Programme Advisory Office, within the Centre for Teaching and Learning, is available to assist and advise students who are unsure about the decisions they must make in relation to their programme including first year subject choice and second year pathways and electives.

OTHER MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY SUPPORTS

Academic Departments

"In my Department we offer space and time for the student to discuss any issues they have with us in a sympathetic but professional context."

ACADEMIC ADVISORY OFFICE

"We offer supports to all students on an individual basis whether that is exam support, time management, advocacy for extensions, being a 'soundboard'"

"We provide information on subject choices and progression routes through degrees. We also offer advice on study issues with assignment preparation/ academic writing."

ACCESS OFFICE

"Students supported through the Maynooth Access Programme, such as mature students, can drop in for advice and guidance on a range of issues."

ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT RECRUITMENT OFFICE

"We manage your application and support you from application to admission via a range of selection processes."

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY SERVICE

"In the Careers Service we have a Helpdesk for drop in information, advice and guidance. Our students can book for one-to-one meetings with a Careers Advisor. We also run career-related talks and seminars and set up employer stands."

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

"We have a Computer Science Support Centre to assist our students."

CRÈCHE

"Our modern and friendly purpose built crèche is located on the North Campus directly across from the student apartments.

The crèche is available to staff and students of the university, we cater for children aged from 1 year up to school going age."

FEES & GRANTS OFFICE

"We provide advice and assistance in relation to all aspects of fees and grants."

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

"Our Maths Support Centre provides drop-in sessions, workshops and online courses and links."

MATURE STUDENT OFFICE

"We offer general advice and referrals to other University supports such as SU Welfare Office, Writing Centre, Maths Support Centre, Chaplaincy etc."

"We act as a signpost to students referring them to appropriate supports - Writing Centre/Library/Student Services/ Academic Departments/Student Health Centre, etc."

STUDENT BUDGETING ADVISORY OFFICE

"We offer advice on Social Welfare payments and options available, appeal situations. We provide advice also on budgeting and managing money more effectively."

"We provide information, advice and advocacy service for all finance related matters, support with SUSI grant applications and appeals."

STUDENT SERVICES

"We link in with other University services such as the Writing Centre, Counselling Service and others."

Experienced staff are available, across a range of services, to provide advice, support and guidance. Visit www. maynoothuniversity.ie/campus-life/student-wellbeing-support

FUNDING FOR UNIVERSITY: GRANTS & SCHEMES

The issue of finance and funding your way through university is clearly very important. Many students are giving up a monthly or weekly wage to go into full-time education. Others may be in receipt of social welfare payments.

Students may be getting financial support through parents or partners, while others may have little or no financial support and are relying on grants or welfare payments to get them through.

Some students find that university has turned out to be more costly than they first anticipated.

There are different sources of funds that students can apply for, but there are a few points that need to be stressed here, particularly for mature students. In reality there are only two main external sources of finance (if eligible) that go some way towards helping mature students sustain themselves through the academic year:

- Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) Student Grant Scheme: www.susi.ie There is no such thing as a 'Mature Student Grant'. All students, regardless of age, apply for a grant under (SUSI) Student Grant Scheme. The grant is means-tested and has two elements:
 - 1. Student Contribution Charge
 - 2. Maintenance Grant.
- ➤ Back to Education Allowance (apply to your local Social Protection Office). Students on the Back to Education Allowance are not eligible for the Maintenance Grant element of the Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) Student Grant Scheme. However, students in this category should still apply to SUSI in order to have the Student Contribution Charge (formerly Registration Fees) paid, as otherwise they will have to pay this charge which is approximately €3.000 each year (subject to change).

STUDENT BUDGETING ADVICE SERVICE

Students experiencing financial difficulties should avail of the Student Budgeting Advice Service. This service offers supports with budgeting for university, managing money, as well as advice on fees, grants, social welfare entitlements and all funding options.

Internal funding supports include:

- > Student Assistance Fund (SAF);
- > Scholarships;
- > Short Term Loan;
- > Emergency Fund.

Other Possible Funding Options:

> 1916 Bursary - if you are a first time mature student entering college you need to check out the criteria for the bursary at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/accessoffice/1916-Bursary-Fund

This bursary is €5,000 per year of study without affecting your SUSI or Social Welfare payment.

 Uversity - this is a scholarship system aimed at mature students. Check out www.u-versity.eu

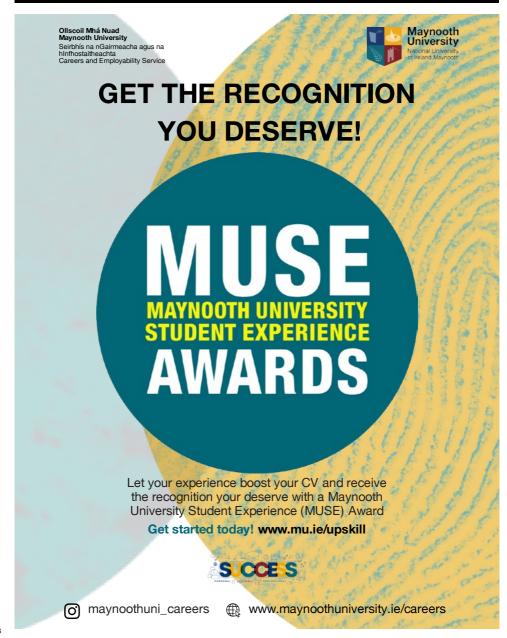
College can be expensive so consider all options for financial support. Check around your local area as some government bodies and large companies provide student funding e.g. Dublin Port.

VISIT THE STUDENT BUDGETING ADVICE SERVICE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/money-matters

Students are strongly advised to check with: www.susi.ie and www.studentfinance.ie for the most up-to-date and detailed information available on sources of funding.

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES/RECOGNITION OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (MUSE)



WHAT ARE THE MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY STUDENT EXPERIENCE AWARDS?

The Maynooth University Student Experience (MUSE) Awards recognise and reward your contribution to non-credit bearing activities such as work experience, volunteering, club and society involvement, student representation, and much more! As well as being a fantastic addition to your CV, these awards will help you articulate the skills you develop on your journey towards becoming a distinctive Maynooth University student and future graduate.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF COMPLETING AN AWARD?



Helps you to stand out from your peers



Enhances your employability skills



Gives you the confidence to articulate the skills you have gained at MU



Better self-awareness as you reflect on your achievements



Greater career readiness as you prepare for the future

FOUR AWARD LEVELS

Students achieve either Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum Levels of the MUSE Award, depending on the level of involvement and recognition they would like to receive in an academic year.

WORK WITH MAP

There are volunteer opportunities to contribute to the work of the Maynooth University Access Programme (MAP). MAP annually recruits MAP Ambassadors for its outreach and post-entry activities.

MAP AMBASSADOR REQUIREMENTS

- Current Maynooth University students who are supported by MAP.
- Enthusiastic, motivated, creative, friendly, and possess leadership qualities.
- Offer information, advice and guidance to new students to help them settle into life at MU.
- > Represent and promote MAP and Maynooth University at events on and off campus.
- Encourage students and parents at primary, second level, further education and other communities to go to university by sharing your personal experiences.
- > Be a team player that is willing to take part and learn new skills.
- > Respect the privacy & confidentiality of all.

MAP AMBASSADOR ROLES

Orientation/Welcome Week

Taking place in September each year, this programme assists all new entrants to Maynooth University with tailored information sessions for those coming through Mature, QQI, HEAR and DARE entry routes.

MAP My Way

First semester weekly support programme (beginning September) - you may be involved in facilitating sessions/delivering technology training.

Schools/QQI

MAP Ambassador outreach programme (beginning October) - this role requires additional training and learning how to share your story.

Open Days

At the Open Days in November, April and June you will welcome campus visitors and share your experiences as a Maynooth University student.

MATURE STUDENTS WHO HAVE A DISABILITY



We recognise that a disability can impact upon a student's participation in university life. This is why we work with learners to help ensure that the impact is

www.maynoothuniversity. ie/study-maynooth/supportingstudents-disabilities



ask on webchat

maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Over 8% of the student body at Maynooth comprises those with disabilities. That's one of the highest participation rates in the country, and we're doing all we can to get that figure even higher.

Maynooth University strives to create an inclusive campus community where all students are afforded the same opportunities to learn, socialise, participate and progress. The University has a wide range of supports that put you at the centre of your academic journey.

These supports are designed to help you become independent in your learning, thereby easing the transition from school to university and from university into your career.

STUDENTS WHO TYPICALLY APPLY FOR DISABILITY-RELATED SUPPORT INCLUDE THOSE WITH THE FOLLOWING DISABILITIES:

- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Asperger's Syndrome)
- Attention Deficit Disorder / Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- > Blind / Vision Impaired
- > Deaf / Hard of Hearing
- > DCD Dyspraxia/Dysgraphia
- > Mental Health Condition
- > Neurological Conditions
- > Speech, Language and Communication Disorder
- > Significant Ongoing Illness
- > Physical Disability
- Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia or Dyscalculia)

SUPPORTS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES INCLUDE:

- A dedicated Student Advisor in MAP who will work with you to identify the supports you need to help you achieve your academic goals;
- A dedicated person in each academic department, known as a MAP Academic Advisor, to help you with any course-related concerns;
- Technology: introduces students to the latest educational technologies and shows them how to integrate these technologies into their learning;
- > Student Central is an academic support programme for students with significant learning needs. Students who typically avail of this support include those with Asperger's Syndrome, Attention Deficit Disorder or mental health conditions such as depression or severe anxiety. The service is run by three Assistant Psychologists;
- Support is tailored to meet the individual needs of the student;
- Your Student Advisor will work with you to identify appropriate examination accommodations. These might include extra

- time, a smaller venue or use of educational technology;
- Some students may require support from an Educational Support Worker, such as an academic/personal assistant, a note taker or a sign language interpreter.

Visit the MAP Office website for information on the documentation required, the consultants/ specialists that can verify a disability, and the age limits on reports. While you can apply for disability support at any time throughout your studies, early registration is strongly recommended.

APPLICANT WITH A DISABILITY: EXAMINATION SUPPORTS

If you have a disability or specific learning difficulty (e.g. dyslexia), and require support for any required written exercise/interview/online video audition which may form part of your application assessment (the relevant courses/applicant groups are listed below), you must complete an online request form and submit supporting documentation by 15 March 2025. Applications for alternative examination accommodation cannot be considered after this deadline.

- Restricted-application courses: these courses (MH103 BMus and MH116 BSocSc Community and Youth Work) have early assessment procedures which apply to all categories of applicant (e.g. school-leavers, mature students). These assessments may start as early as February 2025.
- Mature students: a written exercise/interview/ online video audition may form part of the mature student application procedure.

See www.maynoothuniversity.ie/disability and www.maynoothuniversity.ie/matureapplicants for more information.

Maynooth Access Programme

☑ access.office@mu.ie

**** + 353 1 708 4600

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

PREPARATORY / FOUNDATION COURSES FOR MATURE STUDENTS

Mature students who have been out of formal education for some time often benefit from undertaking a preparatory programme.

Maynooth University offer three such options, all of which have guaranteed offers of places on relevant courses for those performing well and attaining the required grades. The courses are as follows:

- > Certificate in Return to Learning (RTL)
- > Certificate in Science/Computer Science
- > Think About Teaching (TTT)

These courses will run subject to demand and funding.

CERTIFICATE IN RETURN TO LEARNING

The Certificate in Return to Learning is aimed at people who have been out of formal education for a number of years and who want to experience a university education without having to commit to a full degree. Students who do progress into undergraduate degrees, often excel in their chosen subjects due to the solid foundation of academic research and writing skills that the course had given them.

This Certificate is run by the Department of Adult and Community Education in Maynooth University who take a very different approach to teaching and learning than many people will have encountered through their previous educational experiences. We value the knowledge that people bring with them from their everyday life and we work with the student to bring them through the learning process. Mature students have life experience that can be very valuable. Anyone who has been working, either formally or as a full-time parent, learns skills along the way. These could be budgeting, time management or conflict resolution. In addition, being older gives you a different way of approaching problems. All of this can be very useful when returning to education.

In 2018, the course was redesigned to encompass Study Skills, Information and Communications Technology, Sociology and Local History. This format enables students to sample subjects from the faculties of Arts and Social Sciences with lecturers who have years of experience in a wide range of academic settings.

The Return to Learning course is more than just about acquiring the mechanical skills that people need to succeed in Higher Education. For many adults the initial step of crossing the threshold of a college can be very daunting.

This can be enough to stop a person from even thinking about going to university. These initial concerns about being different to the majority of the students, being expected to know how to do things like use the library or be competent with computers, are dealt with over the foundation year and this element of personal development and confidence building is of central concern to us as adult educators. What the course does more than anything else is allow the student time to come to terms with university life and begin to understand who they are as a learner. This is another reason why our Return to Learning students, who progress onto degree study, do so well – they have learned how to learn.

Participants need to be at least 21 years of age or over on 1st January of the year in which the course commences. Students who achieve a mark of 60% in their final overall grade will be accepted onto MH101 and MH803 without interview.

Course duration: 100 hours part-time over one year. There are a number of options from which to choose:

- Monday and Wednesday mornings from 10.00am - 12.30pm
- Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10.00am - 12.30pm
- > Wednesday evenings from 6.00pm 10.00pm

Classes are small and the learning takes place within the classroom between the students and guided by our facilitators/lecturers.

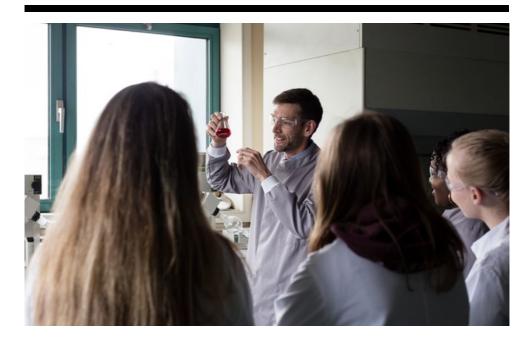
Our courses have been described as life changing, transformational and the best learning experience that people have ever had.

See website for the most up-to-date information regarding course details.



MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

PREPARATORY / FOUNDATION COURSES FOR MATURE STUDENTS (CONTINUED)



CERTIFICATE IN SCIENCE/COMPUTER SCIENCE: PROGRESSION TO SCIENCE, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING DEGREES

The Maynooth University Certificate in Science/Computer Science is a great option for mature students who don't yet meet all the requirements to begin a science degree.

This Level 6 Foundation
Programme for mature students
(over 21) is suited to those who are
interested in preparing for degrees
in science and/or engineering.

The Certificate subjects include: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering Science, Experimental Physics, Mathematics, Mathematical Physics and Study Skills.

Successful completion of the Certificate in Science (with a minimum overall grade of 60%) allows enrolment on the first year of a number of science degree courses.

Successful completion of this course will also be favourably considered where application is made for other Maynooth University undergraduate courses where entry is not guaranteed.

Designed specifically for mature students, the Certificate in Science includes the extremely important elements of strong academic and study skills support (small class size of maximum 25 students per class) and provides an opportunity

to study on a university campus with world class facilities, prior to embarking on a degree course.

Fees for the course are waived for students who qualify for the Back to Education Allowance Scheme.

Almost 300 people have undertaken the course over the last decade with the majority progressing to degrees courses. A recent review of the programme highlighted some of the benefits as including the "sometimes life-changing impact of participation". Past students shared stories of enriching educational experiences, renewed employment opportunities and progression to postgraduate studies.

Dr Karen Herdman from Kildare was a "stay at home mum with two young sons", and is now a lecturer in Chemistry at Maynooth, having successfully completed her PhD. "I was informed that the Foundation Course would give me an automatic place on the Bachelor of Science degree if certain grades were attained. I was interviewed for the course and decided to 'strike while the iron is hot'. I did a maths introduction course during the summer and started the Certificate course in September".

Dr Colm Bracken from Meath took the course in 2005 and has since worked as a post-doctoral researcher with Maynooth's Physics Department. He is now Lecturer in Experimental Physics lecturing in Computational Optics, Modern Physics, and other topics. Colm is also Research Associate of DIAS (Dublin's Institute for Advanced Studies).

He always had an interest in physics and astronomy in particular. "I thought that it would not be possible to study physics at university, but the Certificate course offered a route to do this, providing me with a foundation in maths and science that was essential to my success in the degree. I believe I would not have handled the degree material without the preparation from the Certificate in Science".

The approach to teaching on the course is very much geared towards adults returning to education. Some of the benefits of the course as highlighted by past students include:

- > Vital academic preparation for study of science/engineering in a university environment with a great introduction to college life;
- > Help with integrating socially, while building confidence and self-esteem;
- > Learning about time management and other techniques that aid study.

Please note that the 2025 Maynooth University Certificate in Science/Computer Science programme will run subject to sufficient numbers. A decision on September 2025 intake will be made in June 2025. For more details or to register your interest, please contact: emer.sheerin@mu.ie. More information about the Maynooth University Certificate in Science is available at:

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/ study-maynooth/mature-students/ foundation-preparatory-courses/

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

PREPARATORY / FOUNDATION COURSES FOR MATURE STUDENTS (CONTINUED)

THINK ABOUT TEACHING FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE

The **Think About Teaching Foundation Certificate** is a one year, Level 6 university preparation or access course for people who have an interest in **primary teaching** as a career path.

The course is run by Turn to Teaching staff from the Department of Adult and Community Education in partnership with the Froebel, Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, the Department of Education (secondary), Maynooth Access Office (MAP), and the Admissions Office.

The purpose of the Foundation Certificate course is to support students to critically reflect on their own educational stories both individually and collectively as they work through educational and career pathways. The course also prepares students for the academic, social and cultural opportunities and challenges of university study.

If you would like to receive updates regarding plans for September 2025, please email the Turn to Teaching team on turn2teaching@mu.ie.

CERTIFICATE FOUNDATION

/ PREPARATORY PROGRAMMES

CERTIFICATE FOUNDATION/PREPARATORY COURSES			
Course Title	Think about Teaching Foundation Certificate		
Information	The Think About Teaching Foundation Certificate is a one year, Level 6 university preparation or access course for people who have an interest in primary teaching as a career path.		
	The course is run by Turn to Teaching staff from the Department of Adult and Community Education in partnership with the Froebel, Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth Access Office (MAP), and the Admissions Office.		
	The purpose of the Foundation Certificate course is to support students to critically reflect on their own educational stories both individually and collectively as they work through educational and career pathways. The course also prepares students for the academic, social and cultural opportunities and challenges of university study.		
Closing Dates for Applications	If you would like to receive updates regarding plans for September 2025, please email the Turn to Teaching team on turn2teaching@mu.ie.		

CERTIFICATE FOUNDATION

/ PREPARATORY PROGRAMMES (CONTINUED)

CERTIFICATE FOUNDATION/PREPARATORY COURSES			
Course Title	Maynooth University Certificate in Return to Learning (Humanities)	Maynooth University Certificate in Science/Computer Science	
Duration	100 hours part-time over one year. Taught two mornings or one evening per week.	The Certificate in Science/Computer Science is currently structured as a full-time one-year programme, delivered over two 12-week semesters with an additional presemester preparation week focusing on Mathematics and Study Skills. Please note that the format and duration of the course may be subject to change in the future. Contact Emer Sheerin for updates: emer.sheerin@mu.ie	
Subjects	> Study Skills > Introduction to degree subjects e.g. Sociology	Science Strand: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering Science, Experimental Physics, Mathematics, Mathematical Physics, Study Skills	
		Computer Science Strand: Computer Science, Mathematics, Experimental Physics, Mathematical Physics and Electronic Engineering.	
Fee	€1,000 approx.	€1,000 approx.	
Application & Selection Procedure	Online application - contact the Department for information - contact details below.	Information on the next available start date will be posted on the University website.	
Closing Date for Applications	To ensure a place on the daytime course students are requested to submit an application as early in the year as possible.	Details regarding application opening and closing dates will be posted on the University website. A decision on September 2025 intake will be made in June 2025. For more details or to register your interest, please contact: emer.sheerin@mu.ie	
Additional Relevant Information	Students must be aged 21 years or more on 1st January in the year they wish to commence the University Certificate. Students who obtain a final grade of 60% or more will be automatically offered a place on the Bachelor of Arts (MH101 or MH803) degree programmes at Maynooth University. Both daytime and evening options are available.	Students must be aged 21 years or more on 1st January in the year they wish to commence the Foundation Certificate. Students must be educated to Junior Certificate level (or equivalent) to include Mathematics. Successful completion of the Maynooth University Certificate in Science/Computer Science (with a minimum overall grade of 60%) allows enrolment on the first year of a number of Science degree courses.	
For more Information Contact	The Return to Learning Programme Department of Adult and Community Education	Science and Engineering Foundation Programmes Mature Student Office ♣ + 353 1 708 3307 / +353 1 708 4600 ☑ emer.sheerin@mu.ie / access.office@mu.ie	

These courses will run subject to demand and funding.

LEVEL 8 HONOURS DEGREES

CODE

DEGREE

CODE	DEGREE		
MH001	BEd Bachelor of Education - Froebel Primary Teaching		
MH002	BEd Bachelor of Education - Froebel Primary Teaching (Gaeltacht Applicants) 108		
MH003	BA Early Childhood - Teaching and Learning (full-time)		
MH004	BA Early Childhood - Teaching and Learning (flexible)		
MH101	The Maynooth Bachelor of Arts Degree		
MH103	BMus Bachelor of Music		
MH106	BA Psychology		
MH107	BSocSc Bachelor of Social Science		
MH109	BA Media Studies		
MH111	BA Creative Writing and English (NEW)		
MH116	BSocSc Community and Youth Work (full-time)		
MH201	The Maynooth Bachelor of Science Degree		
MH202	BSc Biotechnology		
MH203	BSc Biological and Geographical Sciences		
MH204	BSc Physics with Astrophysics		
MH206	BSc Theoretical Physics and Mathematics		
MH207	BSc Data Science		
MH208	BSc Biological and Biomedical Sciences		
MH209	BSc Psychology (through Science)		
MH210	BSc Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Chemistry		
MH212	SED BSc Science (with Education)		
MH212	MCS BSc Mathematics and Computer Science (with Education)		
MH212	MED BSc Mathematics (with Education)		
MH221	BSc Sport Science and Health		
MH222			
MH304	BE Bachelor of Electronic Engineering		
MH305	BSc Product Design and Innovation		
MH306	BSc Robotics and Intelligent Devices		
MH401	BA Finance		
MH402	BSc Quantitative Finance		
MH403	BA Accounting and Finance		
MH404	BMA BBS/BBA Business and Management		
MH404	INB BBS/BBA International Business		
MH404	MKT BBS/BBA Marketing		
MH404	BGC/IGC/MGC BBS/BBA Business and Global Cultures		
MH407	BBS/BBA Business and Accounting		
MH409	BBA Business and Languages		
MH411	BBS/BBA Entrepreneurship		
MH412	BSc/BBA Business with Sport Science		
MH415	BSc Economics		
MH416	BA International Economics		
MH501	Law (LLB)		
MH502	LWA BCL (Law and Accounting)		
MH502	LWB BCL (Law and Business)		
MH502	LWC BCL (Law and Criminology)		
MH502	LWD BCL (Law and Arts)		
MH503	BCL (Law and Languages)		
MH504	BA (Criminology) (NEW)		
MH601	CSA BSc Computer Science and Software Engineering (through Arts)		
MH601	MWA BSc Multimedia, Mobile and Web Development (through Arts)		
MH602	3 1 3 1 1 1		
MH602	MWS BSc Multimedia, Mobile and Web Development (through Science)		
MH603	BSc Computational Thinking		
MH803	BCS BA Community Studies (part-time, mature only)		
MH803	BLS BA Local Studies (part-time, mature only)		

OPC (Open Choice Option):

You can choose OPC on your CAO application and decide on your preferred degree stream following admission. You must meet the minimum entry requirements for your preferred stream. Available in these degrees:

MH212 MH404

MH502

MH601

MH602

MH803

Scan to visit our Course Finder



LEVEL 8 MATURE APPLICANT ASSESSMENT

PROCESS AT MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY



Visit www.mu.ie/matureapplicants for information about the application and assessment process for your chosen degree(s)

Produced by the Maynooth University Admissions Office and the Maynooth University Mature Student Office, Maynooth University, Co. Kildare @ Maynooth University 2024. Edited by Judith Caffrey and Emer Sheerin. Print: Fineprint. Photography: Keith Arkins, Aisling McCoy and Daniel Balteanu. Design by Zinc.

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The University reserves the right, at any time, or from time to time, to cancel, revise, amend or alter any programmes of study and academic regulations. The University is not responsible for and shall not be bound by any errors in, or omissions from, this publication.





TRANSPORT ROUTES

Maynooth University is located in the heart of Ireland's oldest university town. We are 25km from the centre of Dublin and our beautiful campus (divided into the North and South Campus by the Kilcock Road) is closely integrated with the historic town of Maynooth - easily accessible by road, rail and canal towpath.

BUS LINKS

TRAIN LINKS

DUBLIN TO GALWAY CYCLEWAY

- > Approximately 2,000 parking spaces on campus
- > Lots of public and private transport options to Maynooth
- > Cycling is a popular way of commuting to the University www.maynoothuniversity.ie/location

TRAIN SERVICES

Maynooth lies on the Western Commuter Line, which serves the four Dublin city centre stations: Pearse Street Station, Tara Street, Connolly Station and Docklands. It also serves thirteen other suburban stations: Drumcondra, Broombridge, Pelletstown, Ashtown, Navan Road Parkway, Castleknock, Coolmine, Clonsilla, Hansfield, Dunboyne, M3 Parkway, Leixlip Confey and Leixlip Louisa Bridge. The Luas Broombridge Interconnector links Maynooth to the Red and Green Luas Lines.

The Sligo train line passes through Maynooth to Dublin via Collooney, Ballymote, Boyle, Carrick-on-Shannon, Dromod, Longford, Edgeworthstown, Mullingar, Enfield and Kilcock.

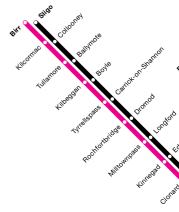
DIRECT BUS LINKS TO THE CAMPUS

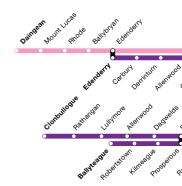
Maynooth is well served by the Dublin Bus C-Spine route network. Buses depart from the city centre and run frequent services to Maynooth.

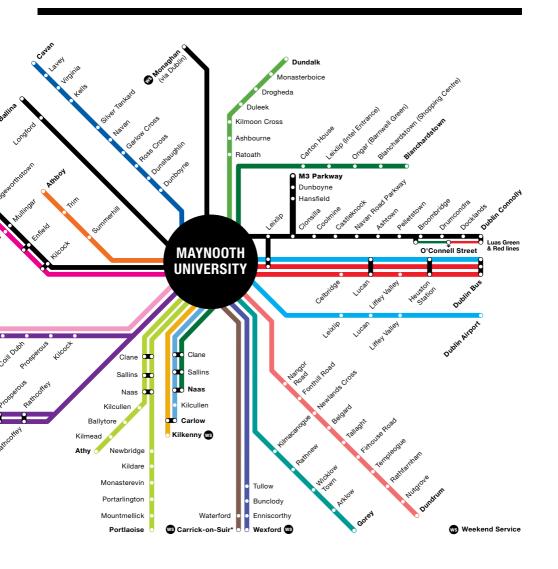
A range of bus operators organise daily and weekly coach services to the campus – timed to fit in with lectures. The map below indicates the locations which have direct transport links to and from the campus. See the transport information on the website.

For more details on commuting to Maynooth

www.mu.ie/gettinghere



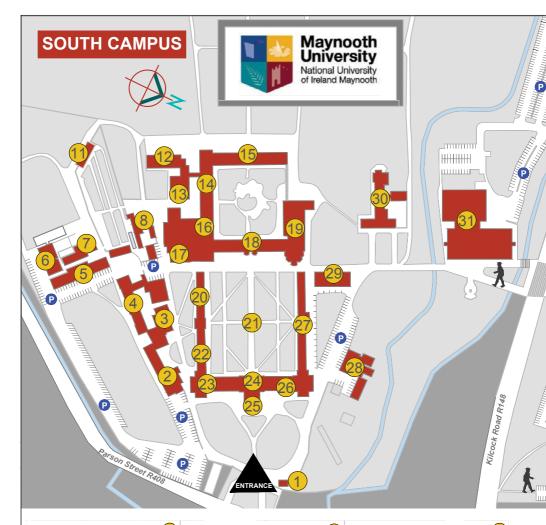




*by request - call Piltown Coaches

Routes may change. Contact transport operators for the most up-to-date information.

Map not to scale



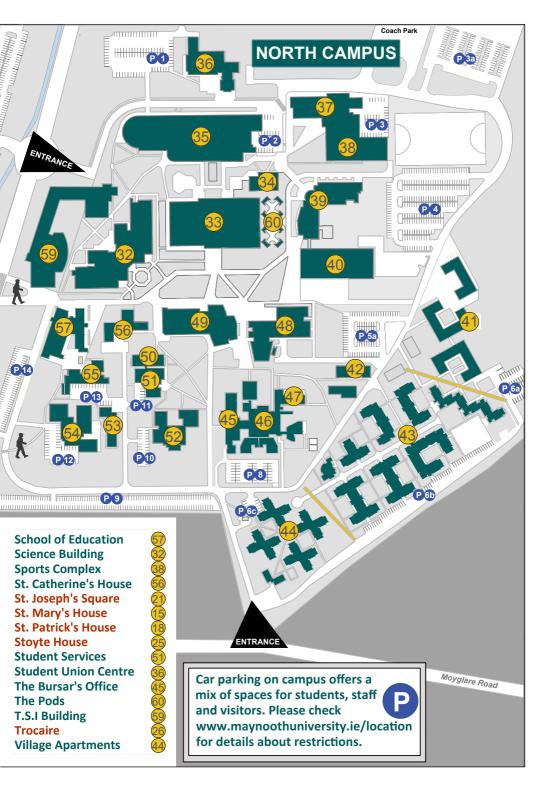
Apple Store
Arts Building
Arts Annex
Aula Maxima
Auxilia
Bioscience & Electronic
Engineering Building
Callan Building
College Chapel
Columba Centre
Courtyard Apartments
Crèche
Dunboyne House
Education House

Gate Lodge
Humanity House
Iontas
John Hume Building
John Paul II Library
Junior Infirmary
Laraghbyran House
Loftus Halls
Logic Annex
Logic House
Long Corridor
Lyreen House
MAP Lodge (Access Office)
MCCA - Conference &
Accommodation

Museum
Music Suites and Lab
Mew House
Phoenix Restaurant
Power House
Product Design Studios
Pugin Hall
Renehan Hall
Rhetoric Annex
Rhetoric House
River Apartments
Riverstown Lodge
Rowan House

Russell Library

Eolas



UNDERGRADUATE EVENTS 2024 – 2025

EVENT	DATE
Information Day for Guidance Counsellors – on campus and virtual	Tuesday 10th September 2024
November Open Days	Friday 22nd November 2024 Saturday 23rd November 2024
CAO Information Evening	Tuesday 14th January 2025
Spring Open Day	Saturday 12th April 2025
Summer Open Day	Saturday 28th June 2025
Campus Tours	Visit www.mu.ie/campustour
Schools Liaison	We offer a range of in-person and virtual information events to our education partners schoolsliaison@mu.ie

For details of the locations and times of all undergraduate events check **www.mu.ie/undergradevents**





For all your Maynooth and CAO level 8 degree questions visit: www.mu.ie/level8

visit our open days



