

Access & Foundation Courses

'Access Courses' (sometimes called Foundation or Return to Learning Courses) are courses designed for mature students who for social, economic or educational reasons were unable to access third level education. Some colleges also run separate access courses for school leavers who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Access courses allow students who have been away from formal education for a number of years to improve their skills, confidence and knowledge so that they will be ready for, and get the most from, their experience of third level education.

Access Courses usually involve a combination of study skills, writing skills for third level, information technology and guidance. In addition students also complete introductory courses in subject areas of interest for example arts, science, business or engineering.

This factsheet contains information overleaf on access courses at local third level institutions and you can also contact the Access Officer in the institution you would like to attend to discuss further.

Access Officers at Local Third Level Institutions

College	Access Officer	Contact
Shannon College of Hotel Management	Joan Markham	061-712590 joamarkham@shannoncollege.com
Limerick Institute of Technology	Carolann Bargary	061-293103 carolann.bargary@lit.ie
University of Limerick	Rhona McCormack	061-213481/ 061 202735 access@ul.ie
Mary Immaculate College, Limerick	Maura Moore	061 204927/ 061 204510 maura.moore@mic.ul.ie
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology	Deirdre O'Connor	091 742129/ 091 742182 accessoffice@gmit.ie
NUI Galway	Trish Bourke	091 492695 maturestudents@nuigalway.ie

Local Access Courses for Mature Students 2015-2016

Name	Requirements	Course Content	More information
University of Limerick Mature Student Access Certificate	Mature Students—applicants must be 22 years of age or older on the 1st January 2015. Must for reasons of social, financial or cultural disadvantage have been previously unable to avail of 3rd level education.	Maths/Engineering Maths Study Skills IT Skills Educational Guidance Choose from Humanities, Science, Engineering , Business streams	Mature Students Office, U.L. : 061 202735 Fee: €500 €100 to eligible social welfare participants
Return to Learning— Foundation Certificate Mary Immaculate College, Limerick	Must be aged 22 years or over on the 1st January 2015.	Study and Writing Skills IT skills Introduction to selection of Liberal Arts subjects.	TBC Runs 2 evenings a week and 2 Saturdays per term. Fee:
Access Course for Mature Students (NUI Galway)	Must be aged 22 years or over on the 1st January 2015. Must supply relevant supporting documentation e.g. household income details.	Study Skills Applied Writing IT skills Educational Guidance Electives from Science, Engineering, Arts, Business	Contact College Fee: Free to Eligible Participants
Foundation Studies Diploma (Science, Engineering & IT) NUI Galway & GMIT	The programme is designed for people who have been out of the education system for some time and now wish to begin 3rd level studies in Science, Engineering or Technology. No specific requirements but Leaving Cert is desirable.	Maths Physics Chemistry Biology	Contact College 2 evenings a week and 2 Saturdays a term. Fee: €360
Foundation Studies Diploma (Business Studies) NUI Galway & GMIT	The programme is designed for people who have been out of the education system for some time and now wish to begin 3rd level studies in Business. No specific requirements but Leaving Cert is desirable.	Maths Economics Accountancy	Contact College 2 evenings a week and 2 Saturdays a term Fee: €360

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT



Clare Adult Educational Guidance & Information Service

Adult Education Centre, Clonroad Business Park, Ennis,
Co. Clare

Tel No. 065 6897617 / 6824819 E-mail: learninginfoclare@lcebtb.ie

Compiled February 2015: Although every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this document is correct, CAEGIS accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of this information or any actions arising from its use. Clare Adult Guidance Service advises all individuals embarking on any course to contact the relevant organisation directly to confirm all information.