

Access, transfer and progression at IADT

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Overview

The National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI) established “Policies, actions and procedures for the promotion of access, transfer and progression” in 2003. These policies have been restated by QQI in 2015 as Criteria for access, transfer and progression for providers of further and higher education.¹

In order to comply with the requirements of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance Act (2012) it states that providers shall establish procedures for access, transfer and progression of learners in accordance with the procedures established by NQAI in 2003.

IADT offers awards at levels 7, 8 and 9 on the National Qualifications Framework. All IADT awards are conferred by IADT under delegated authority awarded under Section 20 of the Qualifications Education and Training Act 1999.

1. Applications

First year undergraduate applicants

1.0 Admissions procedures

1.1 CAO Application Process

All applications for admission to the **first year** of Ordinary Degree (level 7) and ab-initio Honours Degree (level 8) programmes at IADT are made directly through the CAO.

Key dates for applications for admissions are available at **www.cao.ie**

You are required to submit a portfolio for all programmes in the department of Film + Media and the department of Design + Visual Arts. You will see that the CAO refers to these programmes as “restricted-application”. You **must** apply for these programmes through the CAO by 1 February. There is no facility for late applications in the case of such programmes. However, you can change your order of preference until July 1st.

¹ <https://www.qqi.ie/Publications/Publications/Access%20Transfer%20and%20Progression%20-%20QQI%20Policy%20Restatement%202015.pdf>

1.2 Minimum Entry Requirements

Minimum Entry Requirements for IADT programmes									
Faculty of Enterprise + Humanities				Leaving Cert			QQI (FETAC)		
CAO Code	Level	Course Title	Portfolio	Minimum Entry Requirements*	Maths	English	QQI Award	Minimum 3 Distinctions	Maths
DL821	8	English, Media + Cultural Studies	No	2 H5 & 4 O6/H7	NA	H4	Any Full QQI level 5/6 award	Yes	No
DL822	8	Arts Management							
DL837	8	New Media Studies							
DL823	8	Entrepreneurship + Management							
DL701	7	Entrepreneurship		5 O6/H7	F2	No			
Faculty Film, Art + Creative Technologies									
DL825	8	Applied Psychology	No	2 H5 & 4 O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	Any Full QQI level 5/6 award	Yes	Yes**
DL835	8	Creative Media Technologies							
DL836	8	Creative Computing							
DL826	8	Visual Communication Design	Yes	2 H5 & 4 O6/H7	NA	O6/H7	Any Full QQI level 5/6 award	Yes	No
DL827	8	Art							
DL828	8	3D Design, Modelmaking + Digital Art							
DL829	8	Design for Stage + Screen -Costume Design							
DL830	8	Design for Stage + Screen -Make up Design							
DL831	8	Design for Stage + Screen -Production Design							
DL832	8	Animation							
DL833	8	Photography							
DL834	8	Film + Television Production							
DL838	8	Creative Music Production	O6/H7	Yes**					
*LCVP is acceptable as a sixth Leaving Cert subject and is counted for points purposes									
**Maths requirement can be met either through Leaving Cert maths at O6/H7 or a pass in one of the following QQI Maths modules: C20139 or 5N1833 or C20174 or C20175 or B20029 or 5N2066 or 5N18396									
DL701 has an associated Level 8 add-on degree available - DL801 Bachelor of Business (Hons) in Entrepreneurship									

For standard applicants, selection is based on points. These are calculated on the points scored in the best six subjects in a single sitting of the Leaving Certificate Examination (or equivalent).

For programmes in the department of Film + Media and the department of Design + Visual Arts, additional points, to a maximum of 600, are added based on the outcome of the portfolio/interview.

1.3 Maths requirements

Some programmes will accept Foundation Level Mathematics while others will require Ordinary Leaving Certificate Mathematics. Entry requirements for individual programmes in the prospectus and on the IADT website, they are reviewed annually.

Foundation Level Mathematics

For courses that do not specifically require Mathematics as an entry qualification, Foundation Level Mathematics will be accepted. Foundation Level Maths at grade F1 and F2 will count as a passing subject. Points will be awarded for these grades as follows: F1 = 20, F2 = 12.

1.4 Leaving Certificate Points

Calculating Your Leaving Certificate Points

Higher Level Grade	Points	Ordinary Level Grade	Points	Foundation Level Grade	Points
H1	100	-	-	-	-
H2	88	-	-	-	-
H3	77	-	-	-	-
H4	66	-	-	-	-
H5	56	O1	56	-	-
H6	46	O2	46	-	-
H7	37	O3	37	-	-
H8	0	O4	28	-	-
-	-	O5	20	F1	20
-	-	O6	12	F2	12
-	-	O7	0	F3	0
-	-	O8	0	F4	0

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme Link Modules (LCVP): LCVP is accepted as a sixth Leaving Certificate subject and is counted for points purposes as follows

LCVP Grade	Points
Distinction	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

1.5 GCSE / GCE Requirements

Applicants are scored based on a maximum of 4 different subject results at A and/or AS level. For scoring purposes, a combination of a smaller number of “A Levels” and “AS Levels” will be permitted as follows:

1. The best 4 A level results in a single sitting.
2. The best 3 A level results in a single sitting, plus the best AS level result from the previous or the same sitting.
3. The best 2 A level subject results in a single sitting, plus the best 2 results at AS level from the previous or the same sitting.
4. The best 1 A level subject result in a single sitting, plus the best 3 results at AS level from the previous or the same sitting.
5. The best 4 AS level subject results in a single sitting.

1.6 GCSE and GCE 'A' Level results

GCSE / GCE Scoring System

Grade	A–Level	All AS Levels (+ 4th A–level where presented)
A*	180	60†
A	150	60
B	130	55
C	100	40
D	65	25
E	45	20

† Applies to A-level only

2.0 Access

2.1 Mature applicants

Mature and Non–standard Applicants

We welcome applications from mature students to all courses. Mature applicants – those who are 23 years of age or over on 1 January in the year of entry to a course – are not required to meet the minimum entry requirements as specified for standard applicants.

Mature and non–standard applicants must also apply to the CAO by the relevant closing dates and tick the relevant box (mature student or disability/ specific learning difficulty) on the CAO application.

CAO Applicants who have ticked the 'Disability/SLD' Box on the CAO application form will receive the 'Supplementary Information Form' from the CAO. This must be completed and returned to the CAO by the specified deadline. Such students may be invited to an informal interview to discuss their application and any additional provisions that may be necessary to ensure their full participation on our courses.

If applying for a course in the department of Film + Media and/or the department of Design + Visual Arts, mature and non-standard applicants must submit a portfolio for assessment as above. The 1 February application deadline applies to such applications.

2.2 Applicants with a Disability/ Specific Learning Difficulty or Significant Ongoing Illness

Applicants with a Disability/ Specific Learning Difficulty or applicants with Significant Ongoing Illness must tick the 'Disability/ SLD' box on the CAO form.

Applicants who have ticked this box will receive the 'Supplementary Information Form' from the CAO. This must also be completed and returned to the CAO.

Applicants with a Disability/ SLD or applicants with Significant Ongoing Illness are welcome to discuss their application or support needs with the admissions officer, access officer or programme co-ordinator, as appropriate, at any stage in the application process.

All applicants to the department of Film + Media and the department of Design + Visual Arts must submit a portfolio for assessment.

IADT is part of the DARE (Disability Access Route to Education) national admissions scheme which can allocate reduced points places to eligible school leavers under 23 years old with disabilities.

How are IADT DARE offers made?

DARE applicants are informed by letter at the end of June if they are eligible for the DARE scheme. Full details of a recheck process are available on the DARE website: www.accesscollege.ie. If you are eligible for DARE you will then be considered for a DARE reduced points place under certain criteria.

All applicants to the DARE scheme at IADT must meet minimum entry requirements and any course-specific requirements. Details are available for each course at IADT at: www.iadt.ie/courses.

Students who apply through DARE but meet the standard CAO entry points will be offered a place for their course. IADT then reserves a number of places on each programme for DARE applicants who are below the CAO points for the year in question. The DARE applicants then compete with each other for these allocated place(s), with the students with the highest points

being offered the place(s). Students with sensory disabilities (such as visual or hearing impairments) and students with physical disabilities will be prioritised when allocating DARE places, as will students who are eligible for both the DARE and HEAR schemes.

DARE reduced points and merit offers are made through CAO and are in round 1 and sometimes in round 2 if there are places still available. If you get a DARE reduced points offer this will appear as a regular offer online through the CAO. You will then receive a letter to inform you that you have received a DARE offer and that if you accept the place you must register fully with the Disability Support Service and attend the Disability Support Service orientation.

Course	Places	HEAR Number of places	DARE Number of places	Points 2017	HEAR & DARE points -10% max
DL701 - Applied Entrepreneurship	45	2	2	200	180
DL823 - Entrepreneurship + Management	45	2	2	202	181
DL822 - Arts Management	40	2	2	220	198
DL821 - EMCS	40	2	2	300	270
DL837 - New Media Studies	40	2	2	303	273
DL828 - 3D Design, Modelmaking + Digital Art	30	1	1	*699	629
DL827 - Art	50	2	2	*526	473

DL829 - DSS - Costume Design	10	1	1	*690	621
DL830 - DSS - Character Makeup	10	1	1	*890	801
DL831 - DSS - Production Design	10	1	1	*630	567
DL826 - Visual Communication Design	30	1	1	*841	757
DL832 - Animation	30	1	1	*1035	931.5
DL838 - Creative Music Production	35	1	1	*900	810
DL834 - Film + TV Production	30	1	1	*968	871
DL833 - Photography	30	1	1	*609	548
DL825 - Applied Psychology	65	3	3	382	344
DL836 - Creative Computing	50	2	2	270	243
DL835 - Creative Media Technologies	50	2	2	205	185

***Allocation of Places for Portfolio Based Courses**

600 points for portfolio. 600 points for Leaving Certificate

Eligibility criteria for all restricted entry courses consist of a combined result of portfolio score plus Leaving Cert or equivalent score. For the purpose of HEAR/DARE applications; students are eligible to receive a reduction in points based on their Leaving Cert Results only.

2.3 Applicants from Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Backgrounds

IADT is part of the HEAR (Higher Education Access Route) national admissions scheme which allocates reduced points places to eligible school leavers under 23 years old from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Mature and QQI (formerly FETAC) students have different admissions routes.

School leavers who meet the HEAR criteria are eligible to compete for a quota of places allocated to applicants on a reduced points basis in IADT.

All applicants to the HEAR scheme at IADT must meet minimum entry requirements and any course-specific requirements. Details are available for each course at IADT at www.iadt.ie/courses.

Students who apply through HEAR but meet the standard CAO entry points will be offered a place for their course. IADT then reserves a number of places on each programme for HEAR applicants who are below the CAO points for the year in question. The HEAR applicants compete with each other for these allocated place(s), with the students with the highest points being offered the place(s). Students who are eligible for both the DARE and HEAR schemes will be prioritised when allocating HEAR places.

2.4 QQI (formerly FETAC) Links Scheme

IADT is committed to encouraging FETAC / QQI award holders to progress onto our courses. For details of QQI (formerly FETAC) courses and the QQI Higher Education Links, please refer to FETAC / QQI at www.qqi.ie.

Applications from QQI (formerly FETAC) award holders are made through the CAO, and all relevant closing dates and conditions apply.

If you have any full QQI/FETAC Level 5 or QQI/FETAC Level 6 award, you are eligible to apply for a place on our Ordinary Degree (Level 7 award) course – DL701.

If you have any full QQI/FETAC Level 5 or QQI/ FETAC Level 6 award, with a minimum of 3 distinctions, you are eligible to apply for a place on any of our Honours Degree (Level 8 award) courses.

Please note that some courses (Applied Psychology, Creative Computing, Creative Media Technologies and Creative Music Production) require at least a pass (O6/H7) in Mathematics in the Leaving Certificate or a pass in a Mathematical Methods module as part of your QQI/FETAC award.

Points are awarded on the basis of QQI/FETAC results.

— See www.qqi.ie or www.cao.ie for details on the scoring system used.

— Some courses require a portfolio in addition to your QQI/FETAC award. Please see the individual course details and details on portfolio assessments.

IADT reserves places on all undergraduate programmes for QQI/FETAC award holders.

Nevertheless, if you do not gain a reserved place you may still gain a place based on your QQI/FETAC points.

2.5 International students/ English Language Requirements

We welcome international students to IADT. Our courses are delivered through the English language. Applicants must have successfully completed English in the Leaving Certificate (the final examination in the Irish secondary school system) or have obtained a minimum of a Grade 'C' at GCSE O Level. If not, you will need to submit evidence of one of the qualifications listed before an offer of a place can be made. A copy of the relevant certificate must be submitted to the CAO with your application.

How do I apply?

Prospective international students must apply to the CAO by the relevant closing dates. When we assess applications, we establish qualification equivalencies to ensure that each applicant meets the required academic threshold for entry. Certified transcripts and English translations of qualifications not issued originally in English must be submitted with your CAO application.

Acceptable Qualifications

IELTS Composite score in the range 6.0 – 6.5 with not less than 6.0 in any one component.

TOEFL Computer based test 215 **or** Internet based test 80.

UCLES Proficiency in English: Grade C **or** Advanced English: Grade A.

PTE Academic Minimum of 63, with not less than 59 for each test item.

In certain circumstances, results of English examinations other than those outlined may be accepted, though such results must indicate competence of a comparable standard. If you do not currently hold the relevant certificate, please indicate which certificate (and Examining Body) you intend to submit, and when you intend to undertake the assessment. These must be submitted by 1st June of the year of entry to enable us to process them before CAO offers are made.

IADT has formal links with colleges in Ontario, Canada and Loras College in Iowa, USA.

2.6 Minimum age criterion

Entry to IADT is restricted to learners who are 17 years or older on commencement of study.

Transfer & Progression

3.0 For direct entry to IADT

Applications are welcomed for entry to years two, three; and four of undergraduate programmes; this is known as Advanced Entry. Applications are made through the **CAO** www.cao.ie.

For the add-on degree programme (DL801), postgraduate programmes and Special Purpose Award programmes application is made directly to the Institute.

Application dates are published on our website and in the current prospectus.

Every year IADT has a high number of entrants (up to 25% in some programmes) from the Further Education sector.

3.1 Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

We recognise that, for a variety of reasons, not all applicants to our programmes will hold the specified minimum academic qualifications. We encourage applications from those whose academic background may be non-traditional but who may have proven relevant experience. As an alternative means of meeting the stated entry requirements, a wide range of prior and experiential learning may be presented.

Applicants for admission based on accreditation of prior and experiential learning must follow the RPL procedure:

1. Completion of application form and preparation of folder of evidence
2. Internal assessment - for some courses, applicants are interviewed
3. If the applicant is offered a place, standard registration procedures then apply.

Applicants wishing to apply for admission to courses on the basis of RPL should contact our Admissions Office. For further information on RPL, please see www.iadt.ie/about/policies-procedures/quality-policies.

3.3 Progression

Add-on Degrees/Transfer to Year 3 / 4 Ab-initio Programmes

Progression opportunities are available to IADT and external HEI students to progress from one award level to a higher level across a broad range of programmes.

Postgraduate Awards – Taught

Progression opportunities are available to IADT and external HEI students to progress to Postgraduate programmes.

The minimum entry qualification is a H2.2 in an Honours Degree.

All candidates must meet the English language requirements as outlined above.

Postgraduates – Research Degree Programmes (RDP)

IADT welcomes applications to our Masters by Research programmes.

Policy and Procedures in relation to this are contained in IADT Research Policy and procedures document which is available on www.iadt.ie.

Erasmus at IADT

At IADT, we are proud to participate in the Erasmus+ Programme, which encourages international mobility. Erasmus+ allows students to either study at a range of higher education institutions or carry out a traineeship in a company/organisation in Europe, for one term or a full academic year. It also allows students for partner institutions to study in IADT. Time spent on Erasmus is fully accredited by the home institution using the European Credit Transfer System. Teaching and/or training exchanges are also available to IADT staff.

We currently have Erasmus partnerships with thirty-nine higher education institutions in Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, Turkey and UK. Our Erasmus network is in continuous expansion.

IADT has also established Erasmus+ partnerships outside of Europe, under the Erasmus International Credit Mobility, currently offering staff exchanges. Current partners include George Brown College (GBC) in Canada and Northern Arctic Federal University (NARFU) in Russia.

Future partnerships will include higher education institutions in Armenia and Lebanon among others.

More information on Erasmus is available from the Erasmus Office or from the Programme Chairs. Information on applying to the Erasmus+ Programme is outlined on the IADT website.