

Subject Choice Senior Cycle March 2nd 2021



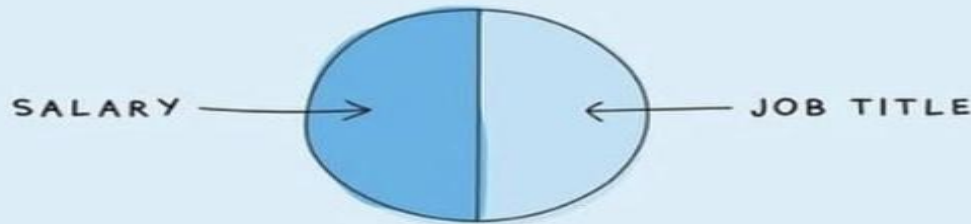
St Louis Secondary School
Guidance Department

Agenda

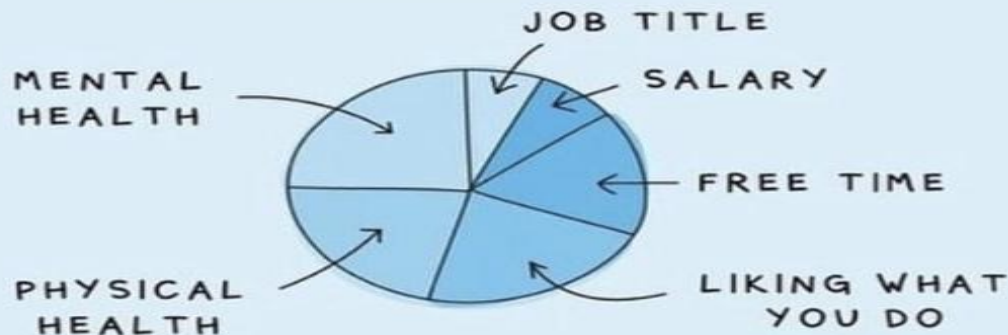
- Transition from Junior to Senior cycle
- Considerations for Subject Choice
- Third Language (French/Spanish)
- Science and STEM
- Going to college
- The Points System

A chance to connect with what's important

HOW WE'RE TAUGHT TO MEASURE SUCCESS

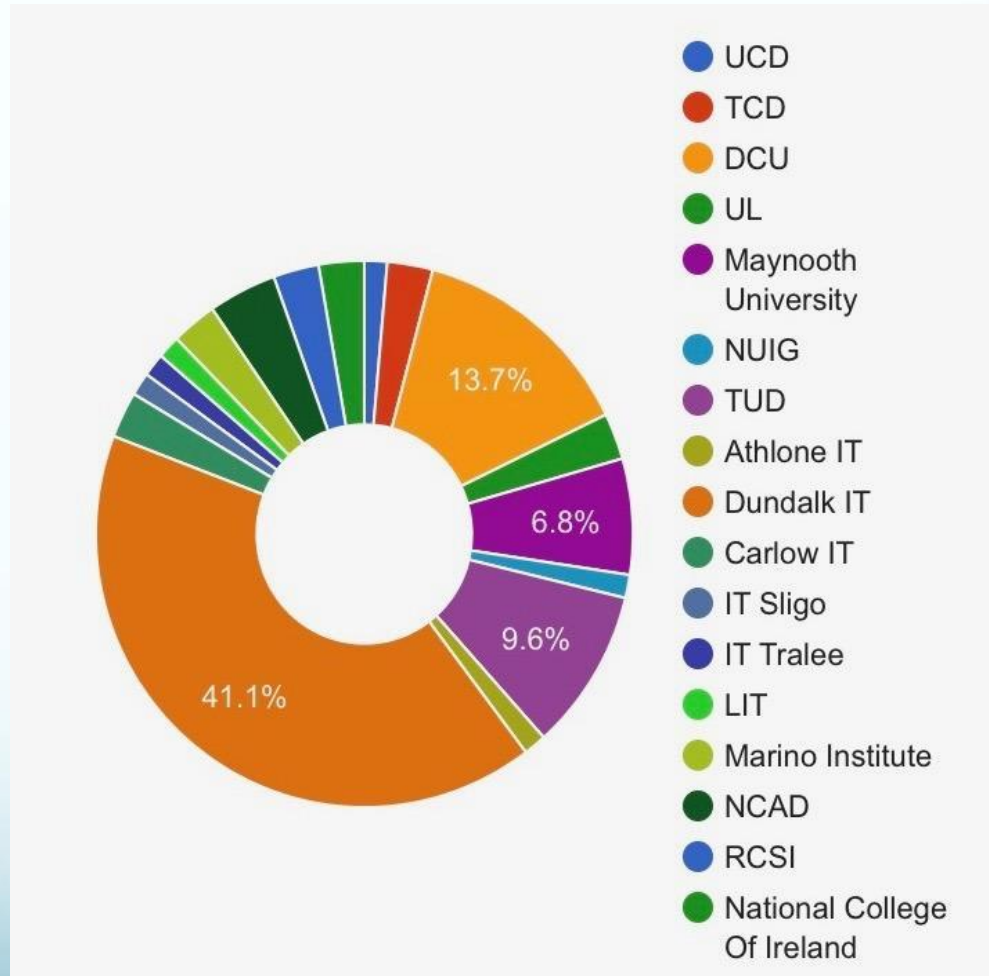


A BETTER MEASURE



Progression Figures

St. Louis pathways to Third Level over recent years



Moving Forward

- Junior Cycle to Senior Cycle
- Subject Choice in Third Year has consequences for Leaving Cert & Beyond.
- Examinable Subjects are reduced to 7 for Leaving Certificate.

Subject Choice

- Very important as it can have **far reaching** implications for the future, choosing subjects you **enjoy** and have **interest** in is the **key to a successful L.C.**
- Needs careful **planning, research** and **consideration**
- Should be a collaborative experience involving discussion with **parents/guardians, guidance counsellor, older sisters/brothers, senior students** importantly, your **subject teachers.**
- Leaving Cert. Textbooks and websites showing exam papers are valuable resources

Considerations

- Subjects I *need*.
- Subjects I am *good at* and can achieve high points in.
- Those I *like best /find interesting*.
- Avoid subjects I find difficult and in which I may be borderline.
- Be realistic – *play to strengths*.
- Follow *advice* of *Teacher*.



trust
yourself

Choose subjects based on

- Personal interest and enthusiasm
- Aptitude for particular subjects
- Possibility of high attainment
- Relevance to possible career
- Entry requirement for desired Third Level course



Be careful about basing decisions on the following-

- Teacher-You may not have the same teacher as for JC.
- Friend(s)-natural to want to be in same class but you need to choose based on your personal abilities.
- Preconceptions around certain subjects.(Being difficult/easy).
- Family expectation-honest discussions around your aspirations with family members.

What Choice of Subjects are available to me?

Compulsory Subjects (Core Subjects)	Non-Exam Subjects
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English• Maths• Irish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guidance• Religion• P.E.

Why Study a Modern Language ?



French and Spanish



- Broaden job opportunities
- Social Reasons – Experience of other cultures, food, customs, literature and travel
- Excellent discipline-attractive to employers(particularly in Business)
- NUI Entrance requirements.

Modern Language Requirement

- This requirement exists within colleges of the N.U.I. (The National University of Ireland)
- These include UCD, UCC, NUIG, NUIM , St. Angela's College Sligo , RCSI .



Exceptions to Modern Language requirement

- Courses in Agriculture, Science and Engineering @ UCD
- Courses in Science, Business and Engineering @ Maynooth University
- Courses in Science in NUIG and UCC
- Nursing at any of the colleges
- NCAD will accept Art as a language
- Business @ Maynooth University
- International students can use their mother tongue
- Even though these exemptions exist, it's still important to keep on a language unless you're very convinced of your career path.

STEM Subjects

Science, Tech, Engineering, Maths.

- 44% of secondary students in Ireland believe that STEM is more suited to males than females.
- St. Louis has a consistent and varied uptake in **Sciences, Engineering, Medical** and **Paramedical** degree courses.

Many incentives to STEM careers

- Women in STEM earning on average 33% more than women in non STEM roles.
- Highest paid jobs of the future-Computer Science/Engineering
- Entry pay grade high /fast growing sector, evolving rapidly/ minimal likelihood of jobs being eliminated by automation
- STEM encourages problem solving and creativity: highly transferable skills-genuine opportunity to change the world for the better.

Considerations-possible deterrents

- Media portrayal-majority of STEM characters in film/society are male. Although improving, stereotype prevails.
- Widespread cognitive bias that Maths is associated with males and Arts, females. Most not even aware they hold this belief.
- These stereotypes can be harmful and restrict choices and personal and professional development.
- What about Maths? Comfort level needed but not necessarily at HL.

A Scientist is someone who...

Observes
and
wonders

Shares
their ideas
and
discoveries

Listens to
the ideas
of others

Explores
the world
around
them

Asks
questions

Uses
tools to
solve
problems

Conducts
experiments



A Scientist is someone like you!

An Engineer is someone who...

Observes
and
wonders

Asks
questions

Shares
their
curiosity

Explores
the world
around
them

Uses tools
to solve
problems

Discovers
and creates
new things

Constructs
inventions



An Engineer is someone like you!

A taste of STEM at St. Louis





- Visiting Speakers - Head of Electronic and Mechanical Engineering DKIT, Pat Mc Cormick
- Senior Engineer –Semple Mc Killop, Sile O Connor
- Robotics Workshops DKIT
- Coding Programme DKIT in TY
- Past Pupil- Dr Niamh Shaw, Scientist, Engineer STEAM Artist and Astronaut in training
- This week, past pupil, Emer Brennan and SISK Engineering

Science Essential for the following Career Areas :

- ❖ Science
- ❖ Engineering
- ❖ Medicine
- ❖ Dentistry
- ❖ Veterinary
- ❖ Pharmacy
- ❖ Physiotherapy
- ❖ Radiography
- ❖ Human Nutrition
- ❖ Architecture
- ❖ Occupational Therapy
- ❖ Speech Therapy
- ❖ Sports Science
- ❖ Med Lab Science
- ❖ Dietetics
- ❖ Optometry
- ❖ Nursing



Science Pointers

- If considering Nursing, Science is a must, Biology is advisable.
- Some Science courses require 2 Science subjects.
- Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry in UCC require H3 in Chemistry AND a H3 in Physics OR Biology



Physical Education

(New)

- Learning and improving existing skills
- Techniques and Planning for optimum performance
- Ethics and Fair Play
- Technology, Media and Sport
- 20% of grade will come from a physical activity project and 30% from a performance assessment

Students starting LC Art in 2021

- The LC curriculum has changed for you. The changes make your assessment work more manageable.
- Art History & Appreciation has been replaced with Visual Studies which links directly to the artwork you create.
- Practical Coursework-50%
- Practical Examination-20%
- Visual Studies-30%

Economics-changes to LC Paper

- A new specification for LC Economics was introduced in September 2019 and will be examined for the first time in 2021.
- Assessment comprises of two elements:
 - 1) a final written examination 80%
 - 2) a Research Study 20%



Third Level Study

- Over 1400 full-time courses
- 9 Universities in R.O.I. and 2 in Northern Ireland
- 10 Institutes of Technology
- Several others including private colleges
- Currently no Third Level fees in R.O.I.
- Registration fee 2021/22 T.B.C.



Studying Abroad

- Fees in England are approximately £9300 per year at moment.
- N.I. Fees stable at £4,300 this year.
- Scotland, usually a popular option, is now the same cost as England, as of this year.
- Wales-awaiting confirmation.



Going to college

Minimum Entry Requirements

- The **minimum** requirements/matriculation requirements are exactly that-namely the minimum you are expected to have before you can be considered for entry to college.
- Vary from –Institutes of Technology-5 passes at OL(including English and Maths).
- Some Universities - 6 subjects (at least 2 at HL)including English, Irish and in some cases,as explained above,a Modern Language.
- Trinity College Dublin-at least two/sometimes three subjects at HL.



Going to college

Specific Course Requirements

- These are particular subjects or a combination of subjects you must have to secure a place on a particular course.
- E.g. Primary School Teaching H4 Gaeilge
- E.g. Some Computing, Financial, Economics and Engineering courses require a H4 in Maths
- E.g. H2/3 in English required for some Journalism courses.

Where to check requirements-

These can be found in :

1. College Prospectus
2. College Website
3. Qualifax / Careers Portal/CAO Website

***Each student is responsible for their research of necessary requirements ***

Qualifax Minimum Subject search tool

- This search engine helps to identify subjects needed for courses at Third Level.
- [Minimum Subject Tool](#)



The Points System

- Those who meet the minimum entry and specific subject requirements for each course are allocated places on the basis of points gained from their **SIX** best subjects in LC.
- The maximum number of point one can earn in LC is 600 (625 with HL Maths)



New Grades and Common Points Scale for Leaving Certificate 2017

Grade (%)	Points	Grade (%)	Points
H1 (90-100)	100		
H2 (80<90)	88		
H3 (70<80)	77		
H4 (60<70)	66		
H5 (50<60)	56	O1 (90-100)	56
H6 (40<50)	46	O2 (80<90)	46
H7 (30<40)	37	O3 (70<80)	37
H8 (0<30)	0	O4 (60<70)	28
		O5 (50<60)	20
		O6 (40<50)	12
		O7 (30<40)	0
		O8 (0<30)	0

Checklist

It is crucial to take on board the following three considerations when applying for courses

- 1. Minimum** Entry Requirements
- 2. Course** Subject Requirements
- 3. Points** - Try to keep as many subjects at **Higher** level as possible-HL A1=100,OL A1=60

Final points to consider



- The subjects **required** for your next step.
- The subjects in which you are **successful** and can achieve.
- Your **interests** and passions are not random-they are your calling!
- Be strategic-don't burden yourself with a subject you don't enjoy to satisfy entry requirements; discuss this with Guidance Counsellor.
- ***PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTHS OF WHICH YOU HAVE MANY!***



- ◆ Consult Careers Portal for videos on Subject choice, detailed description and tracking of L.C. results over recent years.
- ◆ Qualifax (Minimum Subject Search, as mentioned)
- ◆ **Remember most specific subject requirements are for Modern Language / Science, so keeping these on will leave most doors open.**

Good Luck with Your Selection



Remember Help is Here

Resources

- ◆ www.cao.ie
- ◆ www.ucas.com
- ◆ www.qualifax.ie
- ◆ www.careersportal.ie
- ◆ www.smartfutures.ie



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Follow our Guidance twitter
@StLouisdlkguid

daramee@stlouisdundalk.ie

corarice@stlouisdundalk.ie

School Tel- (042) 93 34474