Applying to full-time undergraduate programmes in UL as a mature student applicant

For entry in September 2020
Mature Applicant - criteria

1. Age
   • Must be 23 years of age on or before 1\textsuperscript{st} January in the year of admission to a full-time undergraduate programme

2. Nationality
   • Must be a national of an EU/EEA member state (or see other nationality criteria \url{here}). Otherwise, application is as an \textit{international student}.

3. Competency in English language is essential
Making your application

1. Applying through the CAO
   • Part 1: Completing CAO form
   • Part 2: Posting supporting documentation

2. Registering for assessment tests (some courses)

3. Order of course preference principle

4. Key deadlines
Central Applications Office (CAO)

• Applications are made through the CAO – opens 5th November 2019
• Applications can be made online at www.cao.ie
• You can do a demo application online
• Closing date is
  • 1st February (Application Fee €45)
  • Discounted rate of €30 if you apply online by the 20th January
  • Late applications to some courses may be made up to 1st May. Late application facility opens on 5th March.
• Offers to mature students are issued by the CAO in early July (Round A)
Part 1: CAO Application Form

CAO mature applicant guide:

To apply online at www.cao.ie you need an email account

1. Personal details
2. Qualifications & assessment summary (tick Box 8 here to indicate that you are applying as a mature applicant)
3. Payment! At this point you will receive your CAO number
4. School, Leaving Cert, QQI, third-level etc details
5. Course choices
6. If applying for grant, can tick on form whether you wish CAO to provide your ID, contact and offer/acceptance info to SUSI
Part 1: CAO Application Form

Mature applicant section – information requested:

1. **Highest** qualification to date

2. Current studies

3. Post-secondary education

4. Second-level education
   
   • LC 1985 or later will be added to your file electronically based on year and exam number you supply
   
   • Can get exam number from your original results certificate, your old school, or contact the State Examinations Commission.
   
   • Email: statements@examinations.ie or go to www.examinations.ie/?l=en&mc=ca&sc=exr to order a certified statement of your results (€14.50)
Part 1: CAO Application Form

7. Non-certificate courses

8. Employment or voluntary work

9. English language proficiency (if applicable)

10. References

11. Statement of interest (1500 characters)
   • “explain the relevance of your life / educational experience to your application and state your educational goals and objectives”
   • Please ensure that you also send a separate tailored personal statement for individual courses in UL to which you are applying – if specified as an application requirement

12. Hobbies / interests (500 characters)

13. Additional information (300 characters)
Order of preference principle

• As part of your application to the CAO you can apply for
  • Up to 10 courses at Level 8 (Bachelor (Hons) Degree)
  • Up to 10 courses at Level 6/7 (Higher Cert / Bachelor (Ord Degree))

• Your course choices can be across multiple institutions
• All applicants are considered for admission to all courses listed
• Applicants may be deemed eligible for a number of their course choices but will only be offered their highest preference for which they are deemed eligible.

• However, if the number of reserved places for mature students is limited on a particular course, not all eligible candidates will necessarily be offered a place and some may be held on a waiting list.
Part 2: Supporting documents

• Requirements for individual courses can be downloaded from: http://ulsites.ul.ie/admissions/mature-student-applications

• Supporting documents (for most courses) are:
  1. A separate **Personal Statement** for EACH programme to which you are applying
  2. Evidence of **qualifications, courses, employment etc**
  3. Evidence of **competence in English** if you already have this
     (http://ulsites.ul.ie/admissions/english-language-requirements). However, generally for mature applicants, your competence in English is assessed via your interview, written CAO application and/or any assessment tests you may sit for entry to a course.
Part 2: Supporting documents

• You **MUST** record your CAO Application Number and your name on the **top right of each page** of your supporting documents

• All supporting documents must be received by the CAO by **1st March**

• **Do not** post supporting documents directly to UL
Personal statement - general guidelines

Your Personal Statement should be no greater than one side of a single A4 page and cover the following areas:

1. Reasons for wishing to undertake LMXXX
2. Programme's potential contribution to your future career or life plans
3. Highlight relevant experiences or skills gained through employment, voluntary work, or personal interests which have prepared you to undertake LMXXX
4. Your knowledge and understanding of the career area in which you are interested
5. Any specific preparation you have undertaken in anticipation of commencing LMXXX
Some tips ...

• Same as applying for a new job – you are in competition with others. What makes you stand out?

• Reflect on your work / life / study experience – if it is difficult to demonstrate direct relevance to the course you want to do, then reflect on and articulate the transferable skills you have gained to date

• All elements of the application are to help you tell us about yourself and to sell yourself. Application may be used for shortlisting (if necessary)

• If not sure that something is relevant – put it in anyway
Exceptions

• Supporting documentation is **not required** for applications to the following programmes
  
  o Programmes in Nursing & Midwifery
  
  o Sport & Exercise Sciences
  
  o Physiotherapy
  
  o Psychology

• For the programmes above applicants apply through CAO **and** must also register for assessment tests

• Eligible applicants are offered places based solely on performance in these assessment tests
Assessment test - Nursing

• You must:
  • Apply through the CAO by 1\textsuperscript{st} February (No late applications)
  • Register and apply through the Public Appointments Service (PAS) website:
    \url{www.publicjobs.ie}
  • Online applications to PAS must be made between 3 – 21 February 2020

• PAS undertakes a written assessment on behalf of the Nursing and Midwifery Board and notifies applicants of the test arrangements – held in mid-April 2020

• PAS provides a familiarisation booklet to applicants in advance of the test
  • Information about the different tests
  • Shows how the actual test booklets and answer sheets work
  • Explains the time limits for each test and how the tests are scored.
Assessment test - Nursing

Test 1: Verbal Test:

• Designed to measure the ability of the candidate to understand information in a series of passages.

Test 2: Numerical Test:

• Designed to measure the ability of the candidate to carry out calculations on common day-to-day mathematical problems.

Test 3: Job Simulation Exercises:

• Attempts to identify your likely response when presented with scenarios typical of what could occur in a job situation. This exercise measures a range of skills and qualities required in the Student Nurse role, ranging from taking care of someone, through to taking responsibility in a situation.
Assessment test - Nursing

- Do not confuse registering on PAS with applying for the test
  - Once you have registered, you must then access the application form, complete and submit it. The application form will only be available on the PAS website between 3 – 21 February 2020, under the job category, ‘Medical’, sub category ‘Nurse / Nurse Management’.

- Reserved places for mature students:
  - Children’s and General Integrated 15%
  - General 15%
  - Intellectual Disability 35%
  - Midwifery 20%
  - Psychiatric 35%
MSAP assessment test – Sport & Exercise Sciences, Physiotherapy, Psychology

• You must:
  • Apply through the CAO by the 1st February (No late applications)
  • Register to sit the Mature Student Admissions Pathway (MSAP) test through MSAP-Ireland website: http://msap-ireland.acer.edu.au/registration1

• Test is designed to measure competencies considered important in third-level study
  • Assess an applicant’s ability to understand and analyse material and to think critically about issues
  • Specific curriculum knowledge is not required
MSAP assessment test – Sport & Exercise Sciences, Physiotherapy, Psychology

• Test dates:
  • Saturday 7th March 2020 - Limerick, Cork, Dublin & Galway
  • Thursday 12th March 2020 - Dublin only

• Test fee:
  • €83 if register between 4th November 2019 and 2nd February 2020
  • €118 if register between 3rd – 16th February 2020 (late bookings)

• For UL you will sit:
  • Module 1: Written English
  • Module 3: Reasoning in the Sciences, Mathematics & Social Sciences

*Information booklet with sample questions is available on the MSAP-Ireland website and you can also purchase a practice test e-booklet for €20.*
MSAP structure and content

MODULE 1 - Written English: 1 hour (plus 5 minutes reading & thinking time)

• There are two writing tasks. One invites an argumentative response, and the other invites a personal response. Written English is assessed on the following criteria:
  • the quality of what is said in the piece of writing
  • the quality of the structure and organisation developed to say something
  • the quality of the language used to organise and present what is said
  • each piece of writing is assessed by two independent markers.

MODULE 3 - Reasoning in the Sciences, Mathematics and Social Sciences: 1 hour

• 35 multiple-choice questions. Candidates are asked to choose the most appropriate response from four possible answers. There is only one correct response.
  • Module 3 questions focus on comprehension, application, decision making and solving scientific and mathematical information. For example:
    - interpreting figures; identifying connections, relationships and patterns; basic calculation, estimation and application of equations; deduction, extrapolation and using evidence; problem solving
Assessment of mature applications by UL

- **After making an application** applicants are notified by UL of any additional assessment requirements for programmes e.g.
  - LM026 Performing Arts
  - LM076 Product Design & Technology
  - LM099 Architecture
  - LM103 Paramedic Studies
  - LM028 Criminal Justice
  - LM029 Law Plus

- Applicants are assessed for each course to which they apply. See Section 7 of the [Mature Student Guide 2020](#) for detail or the Undergraduate Admissions Office [website](#).

- After applicants have been assessed, successful candidates are deemed eligible for admission **BUT** may be scored and ranked in order of merit if mature student places are limited i.e. not all eligible candidates may be offered a place.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline/Date</th>
<th>Task</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; January</td>
<td>Closing date for discounted rate for online application to CAO</td>
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<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Normal closing date for applications to CAO</td>
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<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Early-bird registration deadline for Mature Student Admissions Pathway Test (MSAP)</td>
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<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; - 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Late registration for MSAP</td>
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<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; – 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Registration for Mature Nursing test (through PAS)</td>
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<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>CAO re-opens for late applications</td>
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<td>7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>MSAP test dates – 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March is Dublin only</td>
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<td>Mid-April</td>
<td>Mature Nursing test</td>
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<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; May</td>
<td>Closing date for late applications</td>
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<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; - 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; May</td>
<td>CAO ‘change of mind’ facility open for mature applicants to UL who had applied by 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; February. Additional UL programmes may be included on CAO application, other than restricted application courses.</td>
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<td>April – June</td>
<td>Screening of applications and scheduling of mature student interviews</td>
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<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; July</td>
<td>Mature applicants with full Leaving Cert or relevant QQI award, may amend course choices up to 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; July, to be assessed for places based solely on Leaving Cert or QQI award points.</td>
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<td>Early July</td>
<td>Offers of places to mature applicants made in ‘Round A’</td>
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<td>End July/early Aug</td>
<td>Offers of places to applicants based on QQI awards or additional mature applicant offers</td>
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<td>Mid-Aug</td>
<td>Offers of places to applicants based on Leaving Cert results</td>
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<td>24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Aug</td>
<td>UL Mature Student Welcome Programme</td>
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Key dates for mature applicants 2020
Further information

Mature Student Office
Tel: 061-202735
Email: mso@ul.ie
Web: www.ul.ie/mso

Admissions Office
Tel: 061-202015
Email: www.ul.ie/admissions-askus
Web: www.ul.ie/admissions