What is UFIRST?

UFIRST is a programme of supports specially designed for students in 5th & 6th year who are part of underrepresented groups on application. It’s designed to give students the knowledge, confidence & skills needed to begin their university journey.
What is the aim?
To support students who are already ‘college aware’ to become ‘college ready’ and to allow students experiencing educational disadvantage to gain access to college.

Who is it for?
UFirst is for 5th year students who are studying at least two higher level subjects, at least ordinary level maths and who have an interest in progressing to 3rd level.

Applicants should also meet as many as possible of the criteria for the HEAR/Access DCU Entry Routes i.e. low income, means tested social welfare payment, living in a disadvantaged area and attendance at a DEIS school. Each indicator is weighted and priority given to those students who meet all of the criteria.

We’d particularly like to hear from students who:
• Live or have lived in the care of the HSE
• Are a young carer
• Are a member of the Traveller Community

How to apply?
Applications are made online & open in September. Applicants will be expected to complete a personal statement as part of their application and provide the name of a Teacher or Guidance Counsellor in their school who can provide a reference.

What is offered through the UFirst programme?
• Learn and practice key study skills
• Attend a one week summer school between 5th and 6th year
• Get support and guidance, including a student mentor
• Take part in Careers workshops, learn CV building and interview skills
• Get support and guidance on applying to and preparing for university
• Be supported in personal development with life coaching and mindfulness sessions

For further information on UFirst contact:
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For more information on HEAR eligibility criteria please see www.accesscollege.ie