



UFirst Information for Teachers

What is UFirst



UFirst is a programme of supports specially designed for students in 5th and 6th year who are part of underrepresented groups on application. It's designed to give students the knowledge, confidence and skills needed to begin their university journey. It's completely free of charge.



Benefits to Students



Learn and practise key study skills

Attend a one week summer school
between 5th & 6th year

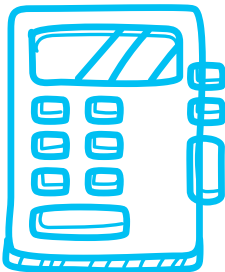
Get support and guidance,
including a student mentor

Take part in Careers workshops

Learn CV building & interview skills

Get support & guidance on applying
to and preparing for university

Be supported in their personal development
with life coaching & mindfulness sessions



Eligibility Criteria

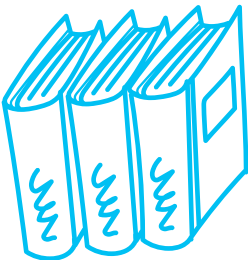


UFirst is for 5th year students who are studying at least two higher level subjects, at least ordinary level maths and who have an interest in progressing to 3rd level.

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.

We'd particularly like to hear from students who:

- live or have lived in the care of the HSE
- are a member of the Traveller Community
- are a young carer (A young carer is someone aged 18 or under who helps look after a relative who has a condition, such as a disability, illness, mental health condition, or a drug and alcohol problem)



Each indicator is weighted and priority given to those students who meet all of the criteria.

How to Apply



Applications are made online and will 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.

For more information and to apply online visit:

<http://www.dcu.ie/access/secondary-schools.shtml>



Supporting Students

The UFirst programme is aimed at students who show the motivation and commitment to achieve their academic potential. We aim to provide the best conditions for students to learn about university life while helping them to build the skills needed to succeed as an undergraduate student. The university experience is all about independent learning and as such the emphasis will be on students to engage with the programme fully.

Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning, attending all sessions and meeting deadlines.

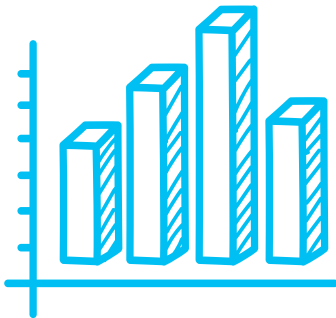


Our Expectations from Students



In order to make the most of the available benefits, a high level of commitment is required from students. Students are required to attend all compulsory activities and must take responsibility to do what is necessary to successfully complete the programme.

We will do all that we can to guide and support students and we expect the same commitment from them in return. A timetable of activities will be provided to students and teachers before the programme commences.



References

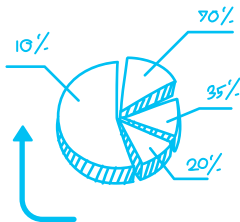


We will ask successful applicants to provide us with a reference from their Teacher or Guidance Counsellor.

The information that we will require from you will be to:

- Verify the applicant's academic record
- Verify to the best of your knowledge the applicant's socioeconomic status
- Verify the applicant's attendance at your school and their overall attendance record

Personal information that you submit to the Access Office on behalf of the student will be treated in strict confidence and in accordance with the DCU Data Protection Policy.



As the UFirst programme will form the basis of a research project, any information supplied may be used as part of this research but all information will be anonymised and no student, teacher or school will be identified in subsequent publications.

