

U First Programme

September 2024 - May 2026

DCU Ollscoil Chathair
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City University

What is U First?

U First is a two-year 'preparation for college' programme for 5th and 6th year students from local DEIS schools linked to DCU. It is designed to give students the knowledge, confidence, and skills to begin their university journey.

What is the aim?

The primary aim of the U First Preparation for College programme is to support students who are already 'college aware' in becoming 'college ready'. This unique programme understands and addresses the challenges that students from local DEIS schools may face, ensuring they have the necessary tools and resources to succeed in college.

Eligibility Criteria

*Students must intend to take at least **four higher-level subjects**, at least **ordinary-level maths**, and be interested in progressing to the third level.

*Applicants should meet the criteria for the HEAR/Access DCU Entry Route, i.e.

- Low income
- Social welfare payment
- Living in a disadvantaged area
- Socio-economic Group
- Attendance at a DEIS school
- or be in Foster Care/care of TUSLA
- An Irish Traveller or Roma



DCU Access

*Demonstrate motivation and determination to go to college.

Workshop Content

Students will have the opportunity to experience a variety of workshops:

- Sampling a variety of courses in DCU
- Academic support
- CAO/Grants/HEAR/DARE information
- Maths revision
- Study skills
- Personal development
- Clubs and Socs
- Parental engagement
- Industry visits





Workshop Schedule

- The successful applicants will be split into two groups.
- Each group will attend one workshop per month in Year 1.
- Group 1 will attend on a Wednesday & Group 2 on a Friday.

Year 1 (5th years) : September 2024 - April 2025

Year 1 will consist of 7 workshops, plus optional events & workshops during school holidays.

Year 2 (6th years) : September 2025 - April 2026

A shorter schedule will provide students with information and support on applying to the CAO, HEAR etc

How to apply

The closing date for applications is **27th September 2024**.

[U First Application Form](#)

Further information

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