

Limerick School of Art & Design LIT – Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply? – **Through the Central Applications Office (CAO) – www.cao.ie**

When do I apply? – **Restricted Application – Applicants must apply on or before the 1st February.**

What should I have in my Portfolio? – **No more than 15 sheets based on observation work plus sketchbooks. 3D work can be represented by photographs.**

When are the portfolio assessments held? – **Approximately 3 weeks after an application is made to the CAO the School Administrator will contact all applicants with dates and times. This assessment usually takes place at the end of March / early April.**

How are my points calculated? – **Portfolio Assessment is scored out of 600 points. Applicants must achieve at least 240 points or more to pass this stage. This score is then added to the Leaving Certificate points to give a combined score.**

How many points do I need? – **Cut off for entry is expected to be 600/650 points.**

How many places are offered? – **Usually 200 places.**

When would I be told if I've been offered a place? – **Results from the Portfolio Interview will be posted out within 1 week of Interview. This will indicate whether or not an applicant has passed this stage. Having successfully passed the Portfolio Interview and having achieved the requirements in the Leaving Certificate, official offers will issue from the CAO in August.**

What Leaving Cert subjects do I need? – **At present you must have a Grade C3 or higher in two Higher Level subjects, together with a Grade D3 or higher in four other Ordinary Level subjects to include Irish or English in the Leaving Certificate Examination. In practice, entry levels are significantly above the minimum and points are calculated from the six best subjects from one sitting. However, there will be changes to the above for 2017 with the new Leaving Cert Points scoring system coming into operation.**

The following entry arrangements will apply to graduates of QQIFET/FETAC Level 5 and 6) Awards who are seeking admission to programmes at Limerick Institutes of Technology.

The minimum entry requirement for graduates of QQIFET/FETAC Level 5 or 6) awards to:

Ab-initio Honours Degree (NQAI Level 8) programmes is:

A full QQIFET/FETAC Level 5 or 6) award totalling 120 credits and including a Distinction grade in at least three modules.

Ordinary Degree (NQAI Level 7) and Higher Certificate (NQAI Level 6) programmes is:

A full QQIFET/FETAC Level 5 or 6) award totalling 120 credits.

A full FETAC award normally contains 8 modules. A full award may be accumulated over more than one academic year. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the applicant to contact QQIFET/FETAC for a full award where programmes are taken over more than one year. A QQIFET/FETAC Level 5 or 6 Record of Achievement does not meet these minimum entry standards.

The following Scoring System applies where all the requirements for the major award are met:

To calculate your score you must know the credit value of your component awards. Each component is given a score based on the credit value of the component and the weighting of the grade achieved. Most component awards have a credit value of 15 (the possible component credit values are 5, 10, 15, 20 and 30). The following weightings will apply to the grades achieved: Pass=1, Merit=2, Distinction=3. In order to calculate a component score, you must multiply the credit value of the component by the weighting for the grade achieved, then add all of the component scores up to a cumulative credit value of 120 (when adding up these scores begin with distinctions, then merits, then passes). Finally, multiply the total by 10 and divide by 9 to give the overall score (maximum 400).

If a QQIFET/FETAC applicant also presents a Leaving Certificate, the CAO will use whichever is the better of the Leaving Certificate points.

Applicants to Restricted Application Courses or Courses where a Portfolio is required will have their Portfolio Score added to their QQIFET/FETAC Score.

What if I don't have a Leaving Cert? – If you are aged 23 years or over you may apply as a mature student.

What is a mature student? - person of mature years (i.e., 23 years of age on 1st January, preceding entry). Such applications, together with documentary proof of relevant work experience and/or qualifications which they wish to have considered, should reach the CAO on or before 1st February.

How do I apply as a mature student? – Through the Central Applications Office (CAO) on or before the 1st February and must indicate such on their application.

All mature applicants must attend a Portfolio Assessment which looks at the level of commitment, creativity, competence, comprehension, investigation, efficiency in the portfolio. A Mature Suitability Form must also be completed which evaluates your ability to successfully engage with the course.

Is my application treated any differently if I am a mature student?

1. Mature learners should not be subject to any disadvantage in seeking a place. In other words, if they qualify on the normal entry basis, and meet the required cutoff points, then they should have equal access.

For specified high demand courses, those assessed will be ranked in order of merit and offered places accordingly.

Please note that applicants who wish to be assessed as Mature CANNOT avail of the CAO 'Change of Mind' option.

How many mature students are accepted onto the course? – There is no limit on places – applicants are accepted on merit.

Can I attend part-time by ACCS? – Yes, This is an innovative scheme whereby programmes or constituent modules of programmes may be offered on a single-module basis. Module certificates are awarded to successful participants and credits are accumulated towards a full award. The programme is especially suitable for adults and people in industry generally, with limited time available for attendance and study, but who require access to the educational system.

Pro-rata fees will apply to ACCS learners.

Please note that 1st Year ACCS learners must apply through the CAO and for Art and Design ACCS is subject to availability of space and agreement on timetable and delivery of the course.

Will I incur other costs on the course? – Yes – Material costs and field trip costs, but every effort will be made to keep these to a minimum.

Is first year a core year? – Yes – this is a common year which introduces the following disciplines:-

Painting
Printmaking & Contemporary Practice
Sculpture & Combined Media
Photography & Lens Based Media
Visual Communications
Ceramic Design
Fashion Design
Animation & Motion Design

Do I get to try all of the courses in first year? – Students will receive an introduction to all 8 disciplines and will have an extended experience period in 3 of the disciplines before they are required to make a final decision.