

Access to Higher Education

Liberties College and the Trinity Access Programme (TAP)

The Access to Higher Education course offers an alternative route to university for students whose social, economic and educational experiences have so far prevented them from realising their full educational potential.

Developed in partnership with the Trinity Access Programme (TAP) the course addresses the inequalities that influence who goes to college thus widening participation and access to third level.

The Access course in Liberties College parallels the TAP Foundation course for Young Adults (18-22) in Trinity College and allows participants the same opportunities to apply directly for places in the university. A large proportion of Tap Foundation students go on to study in the university and their success rate there is high. The course is open to young people whose family income is within the range qualifying for a student grant, who may apply directly to institutions through the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR).

See the TAP website for further information. https://www.tcd.ie/Trinity_Access/

Students on the Access course study Arts and Social Science subjects and four core modules in Communications, Personal and Professional Development, Educational Guidance and IT. Specifically designed modules teach learners to research and write to university standards. Students also have access to all college supports and services. The course is full-time and runs for one year from September to May. Students are assessed through a combination of:

- Attendance- you must attend 80% of each module
- Continuous assessment
- Final examinations

Students are registered and study in Liberties College but participate in a range of activities in Trinity College including:

- Library tours and workshops
- Guest lectures in specialist subjects
- Educational Guidance and study skills workshops
- TCD Broad Curriculum lectures
- Student shadowing Day
- Family and parents' day

Students who successfully complete the Access course receive a FETAC level 5 Award in General Studies (5M3114).

Students completing this Liberties College Access course are eligible to apply for grant aid. You may find detailed information on the following website: www.susi.ie.

To be considered eligible for the Access course applicants must:

- Meet the same socio-economic criteria as set out for HEAR
- Achieve at least 5 pass grades and one higher 'C' grade in the Leaving Certificate
(Applications will be considered from Leaving Certificate Applied and FETAC students)
- Be under 21 years of age on 1st January in the year you apply
- Be eligible for Government Free Fees Scheme or EU Fees.

The college reviews all applications for this course and will contact applicants to inform them if they have been short-listed for an interview. Before any interview, we will ask you to complete an essay to support your application.

For further information about HEAR, consult the website: <http://www.accesscollege.ie/hear/>

Higher Education progression Opportunities

Students who successfully complete the Access course may apply for course places in Trinity College Dublin through the CAO. Applications to Trinity College from the Liberties College access course are dealt with on the same basis as applications from the parallel Foundation Course for Young Adults run by the Trinity Access Programme (TAP) and based on the university campus. Departments within the faculties of Arts and Social Science in Trinity College reserve places for students participating in the Access Programme.

Students who achieve a minimum of 3 Distinctions in their academic subjects can compete for places on degree courses in Trinity College within the Arts and Social Science faculties, Psychology, Social Work, Law and Business, Economics and Social Science (BESS) and many other two subject moderatorship courses. Students should note that there may be specific subject requirements for entry to certain course and any degree course in high demand will require more than 3 Distinctions to compete successfully. Consult the Trinity College Prospectus for further details. <https://www.tcd.ie/Admissions/undergraduate/prospectus/>

Access students are also eligible to apply to other universities and Institutes of Technology through the CAO, based on their FETAC Award results. Most universities and Institutes of Technology recognise FETAC Level 5 Awards as entry qualifications. The entry requirement for admission to Level 8 degree courses is usually between 3 and 5 Distinctions. Please note that the requirements for FETAC Award holders are determined by the admissions office of each third level college and may vary from college to college. More information for applicants with FETAC awards is available on the FETAC section of the CAO website.

<http://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=studentresources>