Further Education & Training Student Guide
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Why choose Atlantic Technological University
Cén Fáth Nach Roghnófar Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh

Atlantic Technological University (ATU) is a multi-campus technological university in the west and north-west of Ireland that delivers a rich combination of academic and research excellence, quality of life and opportunity.

Collaborative Strength
ATU has a student population of over 23,500 learners, spanning more than 600 academic programmes from pre-degree to doctoral level. ATU’s strength lies in our collaborative ethos, realising our shared goals by elevating and championing success.

Academic Excellence
ATU offers an exceptional higher educational experience. Building on the foundations of applied learning, our university focuses on research-informed teaching. We empower learners to realise their full potential, developing responsible citizens, critical thinkers, innovators and problem solvers equipped for life-long learning.

Research, Engagement & Innovation
At ATU we have a proud tradition of industry engagement, through collaborative research and providing programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels that meet employers’ skills requirements. As the leading higher educational institution in the region, our students, staff and communities are intrinsically linked to regional employers, building sustainable employment opportunities, and driving growth in the west and north-west.

Global Opportunities
Our students develop as global citizens, recognising and building awareness of the opportunities and roles we play in developing sustainable global economies. From collaborative international research to overseas study and work placement opportunities, ATU students are part of a global community with a mindset that reaches far beyond our shores.

1 ATU Donegal Letterkenny
2 ATU Donegal Killybegs
3 ATU Sligo
4 ATU St Angela’s
5 ATU Mayo
6 ATU Connemara
7 ATU Mountbellew
8 ATU Galway City

Find out more on atu.ie/cao-hub
There are many different pathways available for those with Further Education (QQI) qualifications. This guide is to help prospective students explore their options and provide information on taking the next step in their education journey.

How to apply for admission to Atlantic Technological University campuses using a Further Education and Training qualification.

Students can use a qualification from a Further Education and Training (FET) course to apply for entry to a programme at ATU. The FET qualification will depend on the type of course chosen. Many of the one-year courses offer Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) accreditation at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, while other more advanced courses may offer a QQI Level 6 qualification.
Students can use these qualifications to apply for entry to Year 1 or Year 2 ATU programmes as follows:

**Progression Routes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 9/10</th>
<th>Level 9/10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 6/7/8</td>
<td>Level 7/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Entry</td>
<td>University Entry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Applying to Year 1**
All applicants for entry to year 1 of ATU’s full-time undergraduate programmes are made through the Central Applications Office (CAO). Applications open during November for programmes starting in September of the following year. Detailed information on how to apply and minimum entry requirements is available at [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)

**Applying to Year 2 (Advanced Entry)**
Students who hold a QQI FET Level 6 major award are eligible for consideration to enter directly into year 2 of related programmes at ATU. ATU have mapped many QQI FET Level 6 courses in the region to allow advanced entry to certain ATU programmes. All applicants for consideration for advanced entry to year 2 of ATU’s full-time undergraduate programmes should contact Admissions directly to see if they are eligible for advanced entry.

ATU welcomes applications from people from every educational and personal background. We hope to make the application process as easy as possible for you.

Some ATU programmes carry additional or different entry requirements, more information on application details and selection procedures is available at [atu.ie/further-education](http://atu.ie/further-education)

**Further Education Colleges in Northern Ireland**

ATU has a number of collaborative agreements in place with Further Education providers in Northern Ireland which gives learners the opportunity to progress from foundation degrees to similar programmes available at ATU. Learners are advised to check the progression options available with ATU by emailing [cao@atu.ie](mailto:cao@atu.ie)
Atlantic Technological University has developed joint further and higher education degree programmes in four discipline areas. The consortium comprises Galway and Roscommon ETB (GRETB), Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB (MSLETB), Donegal ETB and ATU.

The four programmes developed within the consortium will deliver enhanced progression opportunities and pathways to learners, in line with Further Education and Training Strategy 2020-2024, as well as assist with the National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 regarding Tertiary Education.

**Bachelor of Business (Hons) leading to awards in:**
- Bachelor of Business (Hons) in Supply Chain Management at ATU Sligo
- Bachelor of Business (Hons) in Digital Business at ATU Galway City
- Bachelor of Business (Hons) in Enterprise and Innovation at ATU Donegal

**Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Sustainable Engineering Technologies leading to awards in:**
- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Sustainable Engineering Technologies for the Manufacturing Industry with embedded awards at ATU Galway City or ATU Sligo
- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Sustainable Engineering Technologies for Computing with embedded awards at ATU Donegal

**Bachelor of Science in Industrial Laboratory Science leading to awards in:**
- Bachelor of Science Industrial Laboratory Science (Biopharmaceutical Science) at ATU Donegal
- Bachelor of Science Industrial Laboratory Science (Biochemistry) at ATU Galway City
- Bachelor of Science Industrial Laboratory Science (Life Sciences) at ATU Sligo

**Bachelor of Science (Hons) in General Nursing**
- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in General Nursing at ATU Donegal, ATU Mayo or ATU St Angela’s

Applicants interested in applying to these programmes should apply directly to:
- [www.gretb.ie](http://www.gretb.ie)
- [www.donegaletb.ie](http://www.donegaletb.ie)
- [www.msletb.ie](http://www.msletb.ie)

For more information visit: [atu.ie/tertiarydegrees](http://atu.ie/tertiarydegrees)
Apprenticeships at ATU

Printíseachtaí ag OTA

Apprenticeships are structured education and training which formally combines and alternates learning in the workplace with learning in an education and training centre. ATU offers a number of professional and trade focused apprenticeship programmes.

ATU Galway-Mayo Apprenticeship Programmes
- Electrical
- Manufacturing Engineering
- Motor Mechanic
- Wood Manufacturing & Finishing

ATU Donegal Apprenticeship Programmes
- Electrical Apprenticeship
- Chef de Partie Apprenticeship (Consortia Programme)

ATU Sligo Apprenticeship Programmes
- Electrical
- Toolmaking
- Carpentry & Joinery
- Manufacturing

ATU Sligo Professional Apprenticeships
- Insurance Practice Apprenticeship
- Transport Operations and Commercial Driving
- Civil Engineering

All apprentices apply through apprenticeship.ie
Get to Know the CAO

Aithne a Chur ar an CAO

The Central Applications Office (CAO) is a centralised applications system that processes full-time undergraduate programme applications for the higher education institutes in the Republic of Ireland.

Apply to CAO

Applicants can use the CAO system to apply for undergraduate programmes across a mixture of universities and levels using a single application. The levels available on the CAO are Level 6 higher certificates, Level 7 ordinary degrees and Level 8 honours degrees.

Application Timeline:

- Application portal opens: Early November
- Normal application deadline: 1st February
- Change of Mind system opens: Early May
- Change of Mind system deadline: 1st July
- Round 1 offers and available places: August-September

Timing for Offers:

Offers will be made to FE applicants in Round 0 (normally early August).

Please be advised that dates and times may change; visit cao.ie for the most up-to-date information.
Top 10 Tips for CAO

Aithne a Chur ar an CAO

1. List your programmes in **order of preference**.

2. **Think** about your work experience and consider if you would like to continue this path or change direction.

3. **Think** about the university location that works well for you and your family.

4. **Research your programme** and university choices with friends, relatives, and by contacting the university directly – people will be happy to help.

5. **Explore** common entry programmes which allow students to study a broad range of subjects before choosing what area to specialise in.

6. When **deciding** on programmes, check any minimum entry requirements, deadlines, restrictions and supplementary information.

7. **Attend** university open days to meet lecturers and students and tour campuses.

8. **Explore advanced entry** options in further education.

9. **Fill out level 6/7 and 8 programmes on your CAO form.** Remember, there are many routes to a qualification - higher certificates, degrees, and honours degrees. ATU progression routes are a great way to move from one level to the next.

10. **Pay attention** to CAO communications, deadlines and verify your application details. If you do not receive a Statement by June 1st, contact CAO immediately.

Find Out More

Check out the CAO webpage for useful information videos, guides and handbook to help you understand the system and how the offer process works in more detail (cao.ie).
Before you apply to university, the financial costs should be considered. You will need to
decide how you will pay your fees and your living costs. You will also need to investigate
what financial supports (if any) are available.

Fees

A Student Contribution (registration) fee is set by Government and is payable by all ATU students who do not
qualify for a grant or scholarship, per academic year. At registration, students have the option to pay in full or in two
instalments.

A Tuition Fee is an additional fee; however, for students attending full-time third level for the first time, the Department
of Education normally covers this fee under the Free Fees Initiative scheme for full-time students who are citizens of a
Member State of the EU and who meet the residency requirements.

For more information, please email cao@atu.ie

Tax Relief

You may be able to claim tax relief on tuition fees that you have paid. Families who pay student contributions for more
than one student in a year can also claim tax relief on the second and subsequent contributions (revenue.ie).
If you are unemployed, a lone parent, or you are receiving a disability allowance from the Department of Social Protection, you may be able to participate in a second or third level education course and get a Back to Education Allowance (BTEA).

It is important to note that you cannot be in receipt of both the BTEA and the maintenance component of a student grant.

In order to receive the BTEA, you must accept your place on a full-time course, and then notify the Department of Social Protection by completing the BTEA application form.

Further information on eligibility requirements and application can be found at Citizens Information website:
www.citizensinformation.ie

Other sources of information on student finance include:
www.studentfinance.ie

SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) provides financial support to eligible students. There are two elements to the student grant – a maintenance grant (contribution towards living costs) and a fee grant (cover all or part of the student contribution fee plus the costs of essential field trips).

For details on the Student Grant Scheme and other important information see the SUSI website. Use the eligibility reckoner on the website to check your status here:
www.susi.ie

The Student Assistance Fund is a government fund which provides some additional funding to eligible students who are experiencing financial difficulty while attending college. It can be put towards the expected costs of attending college such as rent, transport, books/materials, equipment, food, utility bills, childcare or medical expenses. The fund opens at the start of the academic year and has application periods in the first and second semester.

Further information can be found at: www.hea.ie/student-finance

There are various scholarships and bursary funding available to students, from socio-economically disadvantaged students to elite sports people. Industry sponsored bursaries can also be found to encourage applicants into programmes where there are large skills shortages in industry (atu.ie/scholarships).

For further information about application dates and eligibility criteria please see: atu.ie/scholarships
University life is more than just study. It is also about experiences, having fun and making friends. Across our campuses we have a wide range of clubs and societies, sports and events to suit everyone. With an added community feel throughout, our students get an unforgettable university experience.
Clubs and Societies

Joining a club or society is a great way to meet people with similar interests, try out something new or pursue your passion. We have a huge selection of clubs and societies to choose from. These cover everything from frisbee to fine art and music to motorsport. Also, new clubs and societies are formed every year which means you can even start your own. Clubs and societies days are held across our campuses early in the university year and students can sign up to as many of them as they like.

Sport for All

Sport and physical activity play an important role in campus life at ATU. Our belief is that sport is for everyone. We understand the positive impact it can have on an individual’s physical and mental health. That is why we have a wide range of sports and activities to suit all abilities and interests. Whether you are an elite level athlete representing your county or country at national or international level, a talented amateur who loves to compete in their favourite sport, or someone who is simply looking to keep fit and healthy; you will find your perfect sport or activity at ATU.

Students’ Union

The ATU Students’ Union (ATUSU) is a democratic organisation run by students, for students. They attend important university meetings to ensure students are the focus of every decision made. The Students’ Union organise campaigns on important issues such as mental health, sexual health and exam stress. They also organise lots of fun events to help students settle into university life.

For more information, please visit atu.ie/cao
Support is at the forefront of our philosophy. We have developed comprehensive academic and student supports, which means students have access to expert assistance throughout their academic journey. With our dedicated teams always on hand to offer support, we ensure each student reaches their full potential.

Academic Supports

Our induction and welcome programmes make the transition to university both easy and fun. We have invested heavily in our learning facilities. Our state-of-the-art libraries, learning support tutors, maths support centres, academic writing centres and technology services offer innovative and friendly support. Our student success teams help ensure our students have an enjoyable and successful time at ATU, while our careers teams are passionate about finding each student a profession and future they will love.

For more information, please visit atu.ie/cao

Student Supports

Our student support teams help with any concerns or worries a student may have in a confidential and sensitive manner. Our access office provides a supportive learning environment to help students realise their educational potential, regardless of their background, age or health circumstances. Supports are personal, academic or financial in nature. Our free health service provides expert care and is made up of doctors, nurses, counsellors and well-being services. The chaplaincy team support students in their personal and spiritual growth during their time at ATU.
Student Experiences

Eispéireas na Mac Léinn

Our students speak about their journey to education and studying at ATU.

Galway-Mayo
Gaillimh-Maigh Eo

Eilish Kavanagh

BA (Hons) in Heritage
PhD in Department of Heritage and Tourism

Prior to attending ATU, I successfully completed the Access course. I sat in on various lectures in the Heritage Studies programme and it became clear that this was the course I wished to study. I completed a four year honours degree in heritage then applied and received a scholarship to further my studies in Heritage. This scholarship was further extended when I was awarded a PhD scholarship under the Irish Research Council of Ireland. As a postgraduate, the opportunity to explore and engage with several research sources made this a very gratifying experience. The staff and students made ATU Galway, they brought about a magical experience that is often portrayed in films. I fully engaged with everyone at many levels and found in turn their response rewarding and, on many occasions, helpful. I now work for the Central Statistics Office. My role is in gathering information that informs and influences policy at a national level. I engage with an ever increasing diversity of people.

Stephen Thompson

BB in International Tourism Management

As a mature student, I came to Galway seeking direction after a decade of self-discovery. Amidst the post-Covid landscape, I embraced a career shift to Tourism & Hospitality, capitalizing on the resuming normalcy. This sector thrives in Ireland, a major economic contributor, with colleges producing graduates, yet meeting only 15% of the demand, leaving substantial room for opportunity. With prior 3-year event experience, I find this field enjoyable and rewarding. Academic highlights include insightful hotel visits, like the Guinness Storehouse, and studying Tourism Geography, exploring global approaches. My internship at Stillgarden Distillery melded bartending with hosting/tour guiding. Galway’s liberating environment reshaped my linear career outlook, revealing diverse prospects in events – my aspiration for concerts, festivals, and more. While Galway’s allure is evident, its underemphasized support, particularly at ATU, stands out. Compared to other colleges, ATU Galway offers the best experience, with dedicated staff, supportive services, and a student-oriented atmosphere. As I approach my 3rd year, I plan to segue into Events Management for a cohesive dual degree upon completing 4th year.
Joel Bradley Walsh  
BSc (Hons) in Sports and Exercise (Physical Education)  
“Whether you don’t feel quite ready or are unsure of the future, FET courses are a great opportunity to get fully prepared for what is ahead.”

After completing the Leaving Certificate, Joel Bradley Walsh felt he wasn’t quite ready to take the leap into third level education. Reluctant to take a year out, Joel pursued the FET route before transitioning into third level which he couldn’t recommend more.

“There was a lot of preparation for college in the FET programme, so when I started college it felt like no big jump. The transition was very easy, it was the best decision.”

After completing his FET, Joel progressed into ATU Donegal Sports and Exercise programme, specialising in Physical Education which he enjoyed thoroughly.

Years later, it has all come full circle for Joel as he now substitutes in the school where he first completed his FET work experience.

Eva Heneghan  
BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing  
After not receiving the entry points needed for Mental Health Nursing, Eva Heneghan explored what other options were available to her. Eva chose the FET pathway as a step towards her desired degree and has never looked back.

Completing a FET programme not only allowed Eva the opportunity to progress into third level education, it also provided an opportunity to gain hands on experience abroad.

“I got the amazing opportunity to do my work experience in France for 3 weeks and meet other students who were also doing FET.”

After completing the FET programme, Eva successfully secured a place on the Mental Health Nursing programme at ATU Donegal where she has been striving in her studies.

“Mental Health Nursing has always been a dream for me, I now have the opportunity to care for patients going through the most difficult times in their lives and see them throughout their recovery process.”
**Padraig Mc Fadden**  
**BBs (Hons) in Marketing and MSc in Marketing**

Following my leaving certificate, I enrolled in a Tourism and Event Management course in Sligo College of Further Education. Whilst studying this course, I applied through the CAO to study a Marketing degree in ATU. I was offered a place on the BBs in Marketing and was delighted to accept.

The transition to ATU was easy because I had already experienced completing assignments, deadlines and the overall college atmosphere in Sligo CFE. Every lecturer I had in ATU was amazing and so supportive. They were always there to help me, both during and after class, and they even went the extra mile to meet with me outside of regular hours.

My journey has been a thoroughly enjoyable one. I have progressed from a further education course to a Level 7 ordinary degree and then to a Level 8 honours degree. I am currently completing an MSc in Marketing.

I have been very fortunate to secure various roles outside of my studies. These have included working with football clubs and music artists on marketing campaigns. I am looking forward to what the future has in store for me.

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**Shauna Goan**  
**BA (Hons) in Social Care Practice**

I left school at the age of 15 and secured myself a well-paid job in retail which led to the offer of a promotion and an opportunity to grow within the business. After taking time to think about the promotion, I decided that retail wasn’t the direction I wanted to go. I turned down the promotion and decided to go back to education.

I applied to, and got accepted onto, an Applied Social Care course in Sligo College of Further Education. I wasn’t sure whether I wanted to pursue a career in social care or nursing. However, I knew this one-year course would give me the chance to figure out which degree to pursue in university.

Following my time in Sligo CFE, I knew social care was the path for me. I applied through the CAO and was offered a place in ATU to study a BA (Hons) in Social Care Practice.

Since starting in ATU, I have secured a role working with children and young people in care who have challenging behaviours and learning disabilities. I am delighted that I returned to education as this has allowed me to pursue my dream career.

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Learn more about our student experiences on [atu/cao-student-stories](http://atu/cao-student-stories)
## Our Programmes

### Ár gCláir

Refer to our ATU Prospectus, website and/or the CAO Handbook for details of application and selection procedures. The Prospectus is available online at [www.atu.ie](http://www.atu.ie)

Our ATU courses listed below carry additional or different entry requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Essential major awards</th>
<th>Essential component awards</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AU170</td>
<td>Health Science with Physiotherapy Studies*</td>
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<td>5M3782</td>
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<td>Qta/One/-</td>
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<tr>
<td>AU171</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5M5267</td>
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<td>AU173</td>
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<td>AU174</td>
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<td>AU271</td>
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<td>AU380</td>
<td>General Nursing*</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>DCHSN 5M4349 DCHSX 5M4468 DHSXX 5M4339 5M3782</td>
<td>Must possess distinctions in 5 modules which must include: - D20001 or 5N0749 - D20012 or 5N4325 - D20032 or 5N1279 or C20006 or 5N2746</td>
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<tr>
<td>AU381</td>
<td>Mental Health Nursing*</td>
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<td>Must possess distinctions in 5 modules which must include: - D20001 or 5N0749 - D20012 or 5N4325 - D20032 or 5N1279 or C20006 or 5N2746</td>
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<tr>
<td>AU382</td>
<td>Intellectual Disability Nursing*</td>
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<td>Must possess distinctions in 5 modules which must include: - D20001 or 5N0749 - D20012 or 5N4325 - D20032 or 5N1279 or C20006 or 5N2746</td>
<td>Qta/One/-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>AU518</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Essential component awards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATU Galway City campus, Wellpark Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>AU671</td>
<td>Medical Science*</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>Three Distinctions</td>
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<tr>
<td>AU671</td>
<td>Medical Science*</td>
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<td>Any</td>
<td>Three Distinctions</td>
<td>Qta/Cmb/- (1 place)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AU690</td>
<td>General Nursing*</td>
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<td>DCHSN 5M4349 DCHSX 5M4468 DHSXX 5M4339 5M3782</td>
<td>Must possess distinctions in 5 modules which must include: - D20001 or 5N0749 - D20012 or 5N4325 - D20032 or 5N1279 or C20006 or 5N2746</td>
<td>Qta/Cmb/- (5 places)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU691</td>
<td>Psychiatric Nursing*</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>DCHSN 5M4349 DCHSX 5M4468 DHSXX 5M4339 5M3782</td>
<td>Must possess distinctions in 5 modules which must include: - D20001 or 5N0749 - D20012 or 5N4325 - D20032 or 5N1279 or C20006 or 5N2746</td>
<td>Qta/Cmb/- (5 places)</td>
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<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>AU906</td>
<td>Business and Irish [Sligo and St Angela’s Campus]</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>Three distinctions and a pass in C20139 or 5N1833 or C20174 or C20175 or 5N18396 or LCE Maths Must also have a H5 or better in LCE Irish</td>
<td>Qta/Cmb/- (1 place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU971</td>
<td>Health Science and Physical Activity*</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>Three distinctions and a pass in C20139 or 5N1833 or C20174 or C20175 or 5N18396 or LCE Maths</td>
<td>Qta/Cmb/- (3 places)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AU973</td>
<td>Clinical Measurement Physiology*</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>Higher Level LCE Maths at H6 or better</td>
<td>Qta/Cmb/- (3 places)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
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</table>

* Course requires Garda Vetting Clearance

NOTE:
- Foundation level Maths is not accepted for entry on any courses in Nursing and the School of Engineering (including all courses in ATU Connnemara) across ATU.
- FET qualification is not accepted for entry onto either; BSc (Hons) Education (Design Graphics and Construction) or BEd (Hons) in Art and Design & Communication Graphics in ATU Galway-Mayo.
- A full list of course quotas for FE applicants can be viewed on [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)
Contact us

Déan Teagmháil Linn agus an Bóthar chun na hOllscoile

Our experienced team are here to support students, parents, guardians, teachers and guidance counsellors. They can answer questions on programmes, accommodation, entry requirements, pathways and lots more. The team will also work with schools to arrange visits, talks, career events, subject-specific workshops, taster days and much more.

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Campus Tours
If you can’t make one of our open days or scheduled events, you can contact a member of our team to book a campus tour. We offer campus tours throughout the year. A campus tour is ideal for students who are considering studying at ATU. Family and friends are also encouraged to come along on the tour.

Connect with us online
For the most up to date CAO information please go to www.atu.ie/cao and follow @atu_ie on social media

Find out more on www.atu.ie/cao
1. **ATU Website & Social Media**
   - Find out what we do, and what courses we offer! [www.atu.ie](http://www.atu.ie)

2. **ATU Open Days**
   - Come along to our Open Day to meet our lecturers and career advisors, and go on a campus tour.
   - [atu.ie/open-days](http://atu.ie/open-days)

3. **Apply online**
   - at [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) before 1 February

4. **Learn about Student Supports & Services**
   - Find information on student services and access supports for students applying to and attending ATU [www.atu.ie](http://www.atu.ie)

5. **Apply for ATU Scholarships**
   - Learn more about the wide range of ATU scholarships, [atu.ie/scholarships](http://atu.ie/scholarships)

6. **Accept your CAO offer**
   - After you accept your offer, we will send you your New Student Registration Pack.
   - [atu.ie/offers](http://atu.ie/offers)

7. **Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh**
   - Atlantic Technological University

8. **Connect for Success: #First5Weeks Welcome**
   - A five-week programme to help you settle into college life
   - [atu.ie/induction](http://atu.ie/induction)