



# Subject Choice for Junior Certificate

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BLACKWATER COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL

# Quick Guide to Subject Choice and implications for College Entry

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**Abilities & Aptitudes:** The subjects at which you excel and for which you have a natural talent, are those that will bring you the most satisfaction and sense of achievement. You are more likely to work hard and persevere with subjects that you have an ability for hence likely to get good grades.

**Interest:** What you are interested in will ultimately decide what you will choose to study. You will find it very difficult to study a subject in which you have no interest. Your interests are the motivation for achieving in any field of life.

**Courses:** When you start to consider courses, there may be subjects that are essential for entrance to the course you have chosen.

**Important:** Choosing your subjects will take time and serious consideration. You should consider what is in your own best interest and talk to those people who know you well and who can give you good advice such as teachers and family.

# Subjects required for College Courses

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There are certain subjects that are essential for entry to particular courses, colleges and careers.

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In the next few slides we will look at the implications of dropping a certain subject!

# Science

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Science is taught as a single subject at the Junior Certificate and is available as separate disciplines in chemistry, biology and physics in the Leaving Certificate. Students who are offered the option of not studying science for the Junior Certificate are highly unlikely to be in a position to take up the study of any science subject at Leaving Certificate level.

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There are a large amount of courses ranging from: architecture, dental, engineering, food, nutrition, home economics, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physics, physiotherapy, science, speech and language, veterinary that require a science subject to gain entry! If your child drops science completely for the Junior Certificate they are unlikely to be able to apply for the above list of courses as they will not meet the entry requirements!!

# Languages

Students who opt not to study a third language could be seriously limiting their choices later on. By far the greatest numbers of courses that preclude students from applying are those that require a Continental or third language.

The colleges of the National University of Ireland in Dublin (UCD), Cork (UCC) , Galway (NUI) and Maynooth (NUI) require a continental or third language for almost all of their courses. The exceptions are the engineering and science courses in the majority of these universities, however for some courses such as Veterinary Medicine in UCD you need a third language!

# Languages

Trinity, UL, DCU and the IT's do not require a third language unless it is a specific requirement of the course.

# Let's Just Check

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Arts – UCC <https://www.ucc.ie/en/ck101/>

Nursing – UL

<https://www.ul.ie/courses/bachelor-science-nursing-general>

Law Pathways – UCC

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/ck301/>

Law Plus – UL

<https://www.ul.ie/courses/bachelor-laws-law-plus>

Engineering – UL

<https://www.ul.ie/courses/engineering-common-entry>

Agricultural Science – WIT

[https://www.wit.ie/courses/bsc\\_hons\\_in\\_agricultural\\_science](https://www.wit.ie/courses/bsc_hons_in_agricultural_science)

Biological and Chemical Sciences – UCC

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/ck402/>

# Useful Websites

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[www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)

[www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/junior-cert-make-the-right-choices-1.902162>

