

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

QQI Pathways to University of Limerick

A Warm Welcome from UL

Taking the next step in your education can feel like a big decision. At University of Limerick, we want QQI learners from ETBs across the country to know that their pathway into university is both valued and supported.

We recognise the commitment and achievement behind every QQI award. Through clear progression routes and a strong focus on student support, UL provides practical ways to build on what you have already accomplished and continue your studies at degree level.

Whether you are returning to education or moving on directly from further education, you will find a welcoming, inclusive campus at UL. We are proud to work closely with ETBs nationwide to create real opportunities and to support learners as they take the next step in their educational journey.

The University of Limerick is an amazing place to study with a huge focus on employability, work placements and having a positive student experience. Explore your options through this booklet.



Liam Ryan

Undergraduate Recruitment Manager

University of Limerick

We recognise and value the contribution of QQI learners. **Our doors are open to you.**

Over the past number of years, University of Limerick has significantly expanded the range of QQI pathways available across our undergraduate programmes. This work reflects a clear commitment to widening access and recognising the quality, relevance, and rigour of further education. QQI learners bring diverse perspectives, strong practical skills, and real determination. These are qualities that enrich our classrooms and campus life.

Our pathways are designed to be clear, achievable, and supportive. We work closely with ETBs and further education providers nationwide to ensure that progression routes are well understood and aligned with learner needs. As demand grows, we continue to review and expand these opportunities, opening up more disciplines and ensuring that progression from further education to university is a realistic and supported option.

Choosing UL means joining a university that values your journey and your ambition. From academic supports to student services and a strong sense of community, we are focused on helping QQI learners settle in, succeed, and progress. Our doors are open. We look forward to welcoming you to University of Limerick and supporting you as you take the next step.

Explore how your QQI award can be your gateway to a degree at UL

Understanding the QQI Pathway

What is a QQI Pathway into UL?

What QQI-FET Level 5 and 6 awards are.
QQI Level 5 and 6 awards are nationally recognised Further Education and Training (FET) qualifications that equip students with valuable skills, knowledge and practical competence in their chosen field. A Level 5 award provides a strong foundation by developing a broad range of core skills, while a Level 6 award offers more advanced, specialised study. Both qualifications can support students in entering the workforce directly or progressing to higher education.

How they link to specific undergraduate courses in UL.
FET/FETAC Level 5 and Level 6 major awards are made up of a number of component (minor) awards. Combinations of these components can lead to different major awards, and some courses require applicants to hold specific major awards for entry. It is important to check which major awards are accepted for the course you are applying to, the best way to check that is www.CAO.ie

Currently, UL offers dedicated QQI places on to 50 of their courses. Applicants must present a full QQI Level 5 or Level 6 major award with a minimum of 5 distinctions to meet the minimum entry requirements. QQI applicants are scored using a points system, separate from the Leaving Certificate, where applicants are assigned scores based on their top-performing grades in a single sitting, totalling 120 credits. Scores are weighted based on the credit value of the minor awards.

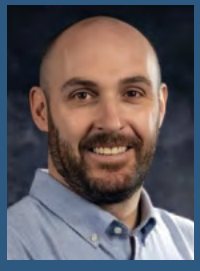


Hear from Those Who've Walked the Path

The QQI pathway has proven to be an excellent alternative route into our BBS programme.

Students who join us through this route consistently demonstrate strong skills in independent learning, academic writing, and critical thinking, often surpassing the preparedness of direct CAO entrants. Their ability to thrive in a university setting is evident, with many securing outstanding Cooperative Education placements and graduate roles.

I unreservedly recommend the QQI pathway to anyone who may have missed out on a CAO offer for the BBS programme. Every student, in my experience, who has taken this route has found it to be a rewarding and successful experience.



Robert Ford

Course Director, Bachelor of Business Studies.

Coming into University of Limerick through the QQI route was honestly one of the best choices I've made. When I finished school, I didn't fully know what direction I wanted to take. I had an interest in business and creativity but wasn't quite ready to commit straight into a degree. Doing a PLC in Digital Marketing gave me the space to figure things out, build my confidence, and gain hands-on experience that made all the difference.

Having that year behind me made all the difference in first year at UL. I already had experience with core marketing concepts, digital tools, and time management, which helped ease the transition into university level work. Instead of feeling overwhelmed, I felt prepared, and excited. That extra year made the transition smoother and gave me the confidence to speak up, get involved, and push myself further.

The Business course at KBS has been full of opportunities. I've majored in Marketing and minored in Business Informatics, taken part in Co-Op, worked on real brand campaigns, and even had the chance to speak at a Limerick Chamber of Commerce event. I also became a KBS Student Ambassador, something I never imagined myself doing when I first started the QQI course.

To any student considering the QQI route, go for it. It's a supportive, practical pathway that builds your confidence and helps you hit the ground running when you get to university. For me, it was the starting point for so many opportunities I never thought I'd have.



Kate Rutherford

Student

How to Apply Step by Step

1. Check eligible courses on www.cao.ie

Log into www.CAO.ie type in the relevant course code and click go.

2. Prepare your QQI award (e.g. full award, required distinctions)

Certain courses require a specific Level 5 or Level 6 award, while others may require specific component awards. Refer to www.CAO.ie for detailed entry requirements.

3. Apply via the CAO by 1 February

Closing date for applications is **1 Feb @17:00**

4. Use the correct course codes

Course codes can be found on www.ul.ie/courses or are listed on www.CAO.ie

Don't forget to tick box 2:

QQI FET/ FETAC Level 5/6 Exams, in the Qualifications and Assessment Summary.

And all applicants must supply their correct PPSN in the box provided.

Why Choose UL Through QQI?

Wide range of course options

The University of Limerick offers a wide range of QQI pathways across many disciplines including Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Engineering, Business, Science, Health, and Education. This wide range of choice makes UL a particularly realistic and accessible option for applicants presenting QQI Level 5 or Level 6 awards. Students can explore several areas of interest on www.CAO.ie to find a degree that aligns with their strengths, ambitions and career goals.

Whether you are looking to build on your existing skills or change direction, UL's wide range of QQI pathways ensures there's a pathway that fits your journey.

Dedicated supports

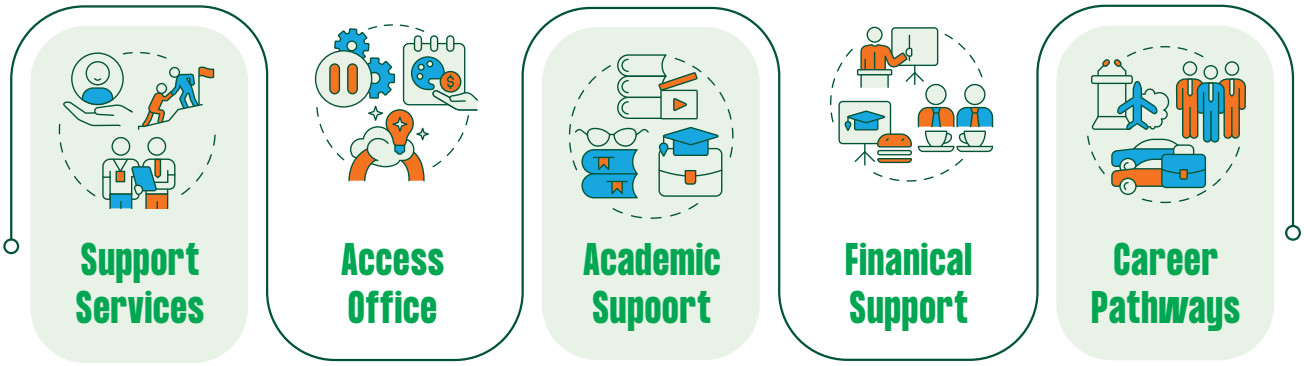
The Widening Participation Office plays a central role in ensuring that students entering university through QQI/FET routes have equitable access to higher education and the tools they need to succeed. Recognising that QQI learners often come from diverse educational backgrounds and may face additional barriers when progressing to university, the office works to create a more inclusive and supportive entry pathway. Through early outreach and clear guidance on progression routes, we aim to help students fully understand their options and navigate the application process. The Widening Participation Office offers a comprehensive range of supports including pre-entry guidance, transition, financial advice and personal support.

Once students receive an offer, the office provides tailored transition supports that ease the shift from further education to the demands of university life, ensuring that new entrants feel prepared and welcomed. Beyond the initial transition, the Widening Participation Office continues to offer sustained supports, helping QQI entrants build the skills, confidence, and sense of belonging needed to thrive in University of Limerick.

The Widening Participation Office
University of Limerick

Excellent graduate outcomes and student experience

The University of Limerick experience is defined by its Cooperative Education programme. This builds 6-8 months paid work placements into degrees so students graduate with meaningful industry experience. This Co-Op model, combined with degrees designed with industry partners, means consistently strong graduate employment outcomes. Student Life at UL is equally distinctive, with over 80 clubs and societies, a renowned sports culture and a campus designed for support and connection, creating confident, capable graduates prepared for the real world.



Why Choose UL Through QQI?

Which QQI awards link to which UL degrees

For the most up to date information on which QQI awards link to which UL degrees please visit www.CAO.ie

Required modules or distinctions

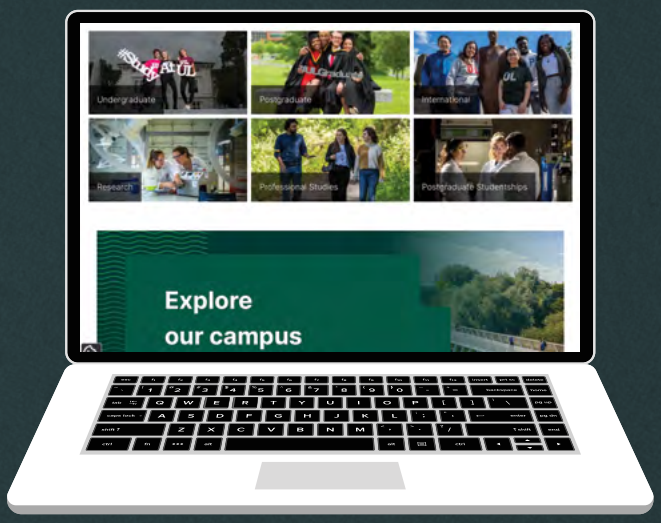
In all circumstances, candidates must present the full award with a minimum credit value of 120, including distinction in at least 5 component awards.

In addition to satisfying the minimum entry requirements, candidates must also satisfy the specific component award requirements for their desired course.

Places available annually

Please visit the QQI FET Awards section of our website: www.ul.ie/academic-registry

UL offers clearly defined and well-established QQI progression pathways giving QQI Level 5 and Level 6 applicants access to a wide range of degree options to suit their individual needs.



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