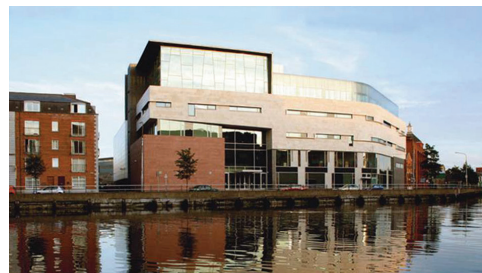




CORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MATURE STUDENT GUIDE (FULL-TIME COURSES) 2014-15



CIT COURSES CAO LEVEL 7

COURSE CODE	TITLE
CR001	Applied Physics and Instrumentation
CR006	Applied Biosciences
CR007	Analytical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry
CR010	Agriculture
CR011	Horticulture
CR016	Computing
CR021	Business Studies
CR022	Business Administration
CR023	Accounting
CR031	Social Care
CR032	Recreation and Leisure
CR041	Tourism
CR042	Hospitality Management
CR046	Transport Management and Technology (Automobile Technology)
CR051	Civil Engineering
CR052	Construction
CR053	Interior Architecture
CR055	Environmental Engineering
CR061	Electronic Engineering
CR062	Electrical Engineering
CR071	Mechanical Engineering
CR072	Building Services Engineering
CR075	Biomedical Engineering
CR077	Craft Technology (Wood) with Business
CR078	Craft Technology - Mechanical Services
CR090	Architectural Technology
CR094	Nautical Science at National Maritime College of Ireland
CR095	Marine Engineering at National Maritime College of Ireland
CR300	Common Entry for the Physical Sciences
CR620	Early Childhood Care and Education
CR640	Culinary Arts
CR650	Bar Management
CR805	Marine Electrotechnology at National Maritime College of Ireland
CR888	Information Technology Support

CIT COURSES CAO LEVEL 6

CR655	Culinary Studies
CR657	Hospitality Studies

CIT COURSES DIRECT ENTRY

CR_SGMPR_6	Higher Certificate in Good Manufacturing Practice (Level 6)
CR_BBUSE_6	Higher Certificate in Business for Mature Students (Level 6)
CR_HCOED_7	Bachelor of Arts in Community Development (Level 6)

CIT COURSES CAO LEVEL 8

COURSE CODE	TITLE
CR105	Chemical and Biopharmaceutical Engineering
CR106	Software Development
CR108	Mechanical Engineering
CR109	Structural Engineering
CR112	Multimedia
CR116	Software Development and Computer Networking
CR121	Music at CIT Cork School of Music (Restricted)
CR125	Popular Music: Bass (Restricted)
CR126	Popular Music: Drums (Restricted)
CR127	Popular Music: Guitar (Restricted)
CR128	Popular Music: Keyboards (Restricted)
CR129	Popular Music: Voice (Restricted)
CR150	Business Information Systems
CR210	Applied Art, Ceramics (Crawford College of Art & Design) (Restricted)
CR220	Fine Art and Ceramic Design at CIT Crawford College of Art and Design (Restricted)
CR305	Common Entry for the Physical Sciences
CR310	IT Management
CR312	Web Development
CR320	Biomedical Science - Joint CIT and UCC programme
CR325	Pharmaceutical Biotechnology
CR330	Herbal Science
CR333	Nutrition and Health Science
CR340	Analytical Chemistry with Quality Assurance
CR360	Instrument Engineering
CR365	Environmental Science and Sustainable Technology
CR400	Accounting
CR420	Marketing
CR425	International Business with Language
CR500	Engineering (Common entry)
CR510	Sustainable Energy Engineering
CR520	Biomedical Engineering
CR560	Architectural Technology
CR565	Interior Architecture
CR570	Quantity Surveying
CR572	Construction Management
CR580	Electrical Engineering
CR590	Electronic Engineering
CR600	Visual Communications (Restricted)
CR700	Theatre and Drama Studies (Restricted)
CR660	Tourism

Detailed course information is available at www.cit.ie or in the CIT Full-time Handbook.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please visit www.cit.ie and www.cao.ie for specific dates

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Mid-end November	Mature Student Information Evening	Evening
Mid-end January	CAO Information Evening	Evening
20th January	Closing date for Online Applications at discounted application fee	5.15pm
	Closing date for online Change Course Choices (free)	5.15pm
1st February	CAO Closing Date	5.15pm
1st March	Closing Date for Change of Mind for Non Standard (Mature) Applicants	
Early July	Round A offers from CAO – 1st round of offers for Mature Students	
Early August	Round 0 offers from CAO – 2nd round of offers for Mature Students	
End of August	Round 1 offers from CAO – Leaving Certificate & FETAC (now QQI) points	
Late August/ Early September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mature Student Orientation Programme ● Preparatory Maths Programme ● Registration 	

WELCOME TO CIT

Message from the Mature Student Officer

As you embark on your journey towards higher education you may have many concerns about taking up full time study as a mature student. You may lack confidence in your academic ability, you may be worried that it is too late for you to return to full time education and much more. Concerns such as these are very common among mature applicants and it is absolutely natural to experience such doubts. However, more and more adults are availing of the range of opportunities that are open to them to enter third level education on a full time basis. The mature student brings with him/her life experience along with determination and focus, all of which are conducive to successful learning. There are a range of supports available to you to assist you through your course of study. The Mature Student

Support Programme in CIT aims to support you in your journey through your undergraduate programme and strives to ensure that it will be a positive experience for you.

As the Mature Student Officer in CIT I work at a pre-entry, entry and post entry level providing support to full-time undergraduate mature students. Details of this support are provided later in the guide.

Sinéad O'Neill

The Access Service,
Ground Floor,
Student Centre,
Bishopstown Campus
T: 021 433 5109
E: maturestudent@cit.ie

1

ARE YOU A MATURE STUDENT?

To be eligible under this category, applicants must be 23 years or older by the 1st of January of the proposed year of entry into a full time undergraduate course.

2

HOW TO APPLY FOR COURSES IN CIT AS A FULL-TIME MATURE STUDENT?

- One of the first steps for anybody interested in applying for a place on a full time undergraduate course at the institute is to become familiar with the courses available and the application procedure. A list of full time courses is available at www.cit.ie/courses and information on the application procedure can be found at www.cit.ie/maturestudent.
- Most of our full-time courses are offered through the Central Applications Office (CAO).
- Applications can be made online at www.cao.ie or by paper application.
- Applicants should follow the procedures as laid down in the CAO Handbook paying particular attention to the guidelines for non-standard/special category applicants.
- The CAO closing date is February 1st each year. Late applications are not accepted from mature students applying for entry into CIT. However, mature applicants can apply up to May 1st using a Leaving Certificate, FETAC (now QQI) qualification or equivalent but will not be assessed on the basis of mature status.
- Application form and Handbook are available at www.cao.ie or from:

The Central Applications Office,
Tower House, Eglington Street, Galway
T: 091 509 800 F: 091 562 344

- When making an application through the CAO mature students can apply under 3 categories:
 1. Leaving Certificate results and/or
 2. FETAC (now QQI) results and/or
 3. Mature Student. Mature applicants are entitled to be assessed on the basis of points but may not be required to have the minimum entry requirements if they apply as a mature student.
- Under this category relevant work experience, skills gained through experience and other qualifications will be considered in the assessment of applications. Applicants will be asked to provide this information by submitting a Personal Statement as part of the CAO application.
- If a candidate applies under the 'mature/non-standard' category his/her application will be assessed on this basis in the first instance. Offers to such applicants are made in the first two rounds of CAO Offers, Round A and Round O in early and late July respectively.
- If a candidate is not successful in receiving an offer on the basis of mature status then they may still receive an offer based on points if they have submitted Leaving Certificate or FETAC (now QQI) results. If a candidate has submitted both Leaving Certificate and FETAC (now QQI) results the CAO will select the strongest of the two.
- Mature applicants may be interviewed for a place on a course.
If you have enquiries about CIT's admissions procedures, please contact:

Admissions Office,
Cork Institute of Technology,
Bishopstown, Cork.
T: 021 433 5037 E: admissions@cit.ie

Applications for Advanced Entry (post 1st Year of a course) are made directly to the CIT Admissions Office and not through the CAO.

There are a small number of full-time undergraduate courses that require direct application through the Institute and not through the CAO. Please see below.

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SPECIFIC COURSES DESIGNED FOR MATURE STUDENTS

CIT has a policy of increasing participation in higher education by people such as mature students and unemployed adults. The Institute aims to provide an accessible and supportive route to a higher education qualification. The below named courses are offered with family-friendly timetabling, together with on-going support during your time in education. Application for these courses is not through the Central Application Office (CAO). A special application form is required.

CIT Courses

- **Higher Certificate in Business for Mature Students – Level 6**

This course is designed to equip mature students with skills and knowledge to avail of new business-related employment opportunities and an opportunity to progress to degree level following completion of the course. For further information and an application form, contact Louise Byrne, Dept of Management & Enterprise, T: 021 433 5806 or by E: louise.byrne@cit.ie.

- **Higher Certificate in Science in Good Manufacturing Practice & Technology – Level 6**

This is a 17-month accelerated technician course which emphasises Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) & Technology targeting the Food, Pharmaceutical, Biopharmaceutical and Medical Devices manufacturing sectors. The principal aim of this course is to provide a nationally accredited educational programme in Good Manufacturing Practice and Technology for people keen to work in production, quality assurance or validation roles within leading Food, Pharmaceutical, Chemical, Biotechnology and Medical Devices manufacturing companies. For further information and an application form, contact Elaine McCarthy, Dept of Process, Energy & Transport Engineering, T: 021 433 5150 or by E: elaine.mccarthy@cit.ie.

- **Bachelor of Arts in Community Development – Level 7**

The broad aim of the programme is to provide an opportunity for people who are active in the community to achieve formal qualifications in the community work field. This course has been developed in partnership with community groups and consists of lectures, workshops, seminars combined with a substantial practical element, based in the community.

Participants will remain within the community setting, thereby sustaining their contribution to the community while developing the capacity to add value to that contribution through supervised and supported learning in the workplace.

Graduates of the degree programmes BA in Community Development or BA (Honours) in Community Development can expect to take supervisory/management/leadership roles in community projects and within statutory agencies. It is envisaged that Higher Certificate holders will be qualified to seek employment in any of the following areas:

- > Development workers within a Community Education Project
- > Development worker within a Community Resource Centre
- > Worker within a Community Development Project (CDP)
- > Summer Project Organiser
- > Co-facilitator in group work
- > Skilled worker in adult literacy, community-based health and wellbeing programmes

For further information and an application form, contact Dr Margaret O'Keeffe, Department of Applied Social Studies, T: 021 433 5932 or by E: margaret.okeeffe@cit.ie.

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INFORMATION EVENING FOR MATURE STUDENTS

Each year an Information Evening is held in CIT for prospective mature students. At this event information is provided on course and career options, the application process, life in CIT as a mature student, grants, fees, financial assistance, student supports, and services. Representatives from the various academic disciplines in CIT are also available to speak to prospective mature students about course requirements and content.

For further information please contact

Christine Nolan T: 021 433 5138 E: christine.nolan@cit.ie or

Sinead O'Neill T: 021 433 5109 E: sinead.oneill@cit.ie

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FEES & FINANCIAL SUPPORTS

It is important to consider the financial implications of becoming a full time student. Early preparation is key to minimising financial issues that may arise during the academic year. This involves researching the cost of fees and other expenses associated with college life and familiarising yourself with any financial supports that you may be entitled to.

STUDENT FEES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

- Higher Education Student Contribution
- Union of Students in Ireland (USI) Levy
- Tuition Fees

Higher Education Student Contribution

The Student Contribution Charge for the academic year 2014/15 is €2,750. This is an annual charge which is set by the Government for all full-time third level students.

Students can apply to Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) for a grant which, if approved, may cover 100% of the Student Contribution Charge. For information on grants please visit www.susi.ie.

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CORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Union of Students in Ireland (USI) Levy

The USI membership levy of €7.00 has been introduced as a result of a referendum where students opted to affiliate to the national Students Union. This Levy is not covered by a SUSI grant and must be paid before 30th September 2014.

EU Tuition Fees

Many undergraduate students attending publicly funded third-level courses do not have to pay tuition fees. Under the terms of the Free Fees Initiative, the Government will pay these fees to the colleges instead.

Students undertaking a second undergraduate course, non-EU students, students studying by ACCS mode and students taking a year of a course for a second time (i.e. repeating a year/ level) may be liable for tuition fees.

Non-EU Fees

Any student who does not meet the conditions of Free Fees or EU Fees will be liable for Non-EU Fees, regardless of nationality or citizenship. Students classified for fee purposes as Non-EU will not be permitted to change their fee status following admission.

Payment of Fees

Students are notified of their fees by e-mail to their CIT student e-mail account, therefore it is important that students check their e-mail accounts regularly. To make payments, students should logon to the online payments facility www.cit.ie/pay. You will need your student ID number (R000XXXX), date of birth, and your Debit/Credit card details.

A receipt will be sent to your CIT e-mail account once the payment is made. You may also query your account balance from this link.

Your fee calculation is based on information currently available to us. Please note that this fee is subject to change. See http://www.cit.ie/prospectivestudents/undergraduate/fees_grantsandscholarships for more information.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT

All students who are successful in obtaining a place are required to complete the official CIT Registration Form before commencing or continuing their studies.

STUDENT GRANTS

The student grant is the main source of financial help available from the Irish State for students in full-time higher education courses. The grant may cover 100% of the Student Contribution Charge (€2750 in 2014/15) as well as providing a monthly Maintenance Grant which is paid directly into the student's bank account.

For eligible students, the grant is intended to assist with the various costs of participating in higher education. Students on part-time courses, access or foundation courses (in higher education institutions) and short courses are not eligible to apply for a student grant.

Family and/or personal income is a key factor that will be assessed when applying for a student grant but there are also some other conditions. www.susi.ie can help you to assess your eligibility and guide you through the application process.

If you think you are eligible for the student grant, you should apply for it as soon as possible. You do not need to wait until you receive an offer of a place or enroll in college. Only when your application has been completed in full and submitted to the grant-awarding authority can your eligibility be determined.

All new grant applications should be made online to Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI). Students can access the online system through www.susi.ie, www.studentfinance.ie; or www.grantsonline.ie.

SUSI SUPPORT DESK

The SUSI Support desk is the single contact point for all e-mail and telephone queries.

- Available 9.00am - 8.00 Mon/Fri
- Available 10.00am - 1.00pm Saturdays
- Email support@susi.ie
- telephone 076 108 7874
- [Facebook.com/susisupport](https://www.facebook.com/susisupport)

CONTINUING STUDENTS - GRANT RENEWALS 2014/15

Students who are currently in receipt of a grant and are progressing to the next year of their course will have their grant record reapplied to their account. Therefore, you will not receive a fee notification e-mail if your fees are covered in full by the grant.

Your grant awarding body (SUSI or your Local Authority) will notify the college directly if your grant has been renewed.

If your grant is not renewed by 31st October you will then receive a fees notification e-mail.

CIT Student Fees Office Contact Details

The Student Fees Office is located on the ground floor of the Administration Building adjacent to Admissions, Bishopstown Campus.

Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm & 2.00pm - 4.00pm

T: 021 433 5440 F: 021 433 5019

E: fees@cit.ie

BACK TO EDUCATION ALLOWANCE

The Back to Education Allowance (BTEA) allows people in receipt of certain social welfare payments to retain those payments whilst participating in approved full-time courses.

- Approved programmes range from foundation courses to postgraduate courses. You can work part-time without affecting your BTEA payment.
- Students entering a new course who are in receipt of the Back to Education Allowance can apply for the fees element of the Student Grant but will not be eligible for the maintenance element of the grant. Such students can apply under the Student Grant Scheme to have the Student Contribution Charge and any tuition fees payable for the course paid on their behalf.
- Although you are not entitled to the maintenance component of the student grant, you must still submit a student grant application form to be assessed for a fee grant to pay your Student Contribution Charge, field trip costs and tuition fees (if payable).
- If you are getting a One Parent Family Payment or a disability payment (Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension or Illness Benefit) you can choose to stay on your current social welfare payment and apply for a student grant or you can choose to transfer to the BTEA, depending on which option benefits you most. In general, people who are studying full-time are not entitled to Rent Supplement unless they are getting BTEA.

For further information visit www.welfare.ie or contact your local Social Protection Office.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND

As part of an initiative to tackle educational disadvantage, an ESF aided Student Assistance Fund has been made available to CIT by the Department of Education and Skills.

The objective of the fund is to provide financial assistance to full time undergraduate/post graduate students in need of such support. The fund is intended to support students whose participation in Higher Education would otherwise be at risk as a direct result of financial difficulties.

Who can apply?

Applicants must be students registered with CIT participating on a third level course of not less than one-year duration leading to an under-graduate or post-graduate qualification. Applicants on the Back to Education Allowance for unemployed people, lone parents, and people with disabilities will also be considered.

Application forms are available from the Accommodation Office, 1st Floor, Student Centre, Bishopstown Campus and are available to pick up at various other locations across the Institute.

For further information T: 021 433 5140 or E: student.assistance@cit.ie

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES/ LEARNING DIFFERENCES/HEALTH CONDITIONS

If you are a new student or are already studying in CIT and feel like you may need some extra support due to your learning difference, disability, or health condition, you may need to contact us. As part of the Access Service, the CIT Disability Support Service (DSS) is fully committed to students' equal access to an inclusive education. We can guide and support you to access your courses and achieve your academic goals. We work hard to ensure that the DSS is a place that students can go to in confidence to look for support and help.

Please see the new Student Guide to the Disability Support Service which is available on our website - www.mycit.ie/access_disability/disability-support-service/dss-handbook

If you have any queries or want to make an appointment at any time during the year, please email disability@cit.ie or ring/text us:

Laura O'Rourke

Disability Support Officer
Tel. 021 433 5107
Text: 087 177 6755

Ruth Murphy

Disability Projects Coordinator
Tel. 021 433 5137
Text: 087 138 9772

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is when formal recognition is given for what you already know prior to starting on a programme or module. You can apply for RPL in any CIT accredited programme or module. Programmes which are accredited by professional bodies or any external awarding bodies may have their own procedures for RPL which you should refer to.

The RPL system allows for learning to be measured and recognised regardless of where it was gained. This means that a student can be granted credits and/or exemptions from modules on CIT courses where they can show that they have achieved sufficient prior learning.

Support is provided to students and potential students who wish to apply through the RPL Coordinator in CIT.

In CIT RPL can be used to gain:

- an exemption or mark for a module or for a number of modules;
- entry to a course in first year where an applicant may not meet the standard entry requirements;
- advanced entry to a course at a stage other than first year.

There are two main categories within RPL

1. the recognition of learning which has already had formal certification within the higher education system in Ireland or abroad, often referred to as formal learning;
2. the recognition of learning which has been gained through experiences in the workplace, in voluntary work or elsewhere, usually referred to as experiential learning.

Enquiries

RPL Coordinator
CIT Extended Campus
Cork Institute of Technology,
Bishopstown,
Cork.
T: 021 433 5132/5133
E: rpl@cit.ie

CIT operates a scheme called the Cork Colleges Progression Scheme (CCPS) which in addition to the general FETAC (now QQI) entry arrangements, allows for the admission of students who successfully complete courses in Further Education Colleges in Cork. Under the CCPS a number of courses in CIT are linked to certain courses in the FE colleges. CIT reserves a number of places on its linked courses for applicants achieving specified levels and other requirements in their awards. Ask at your Cork Further Education College for more details, or refer to the following web link www.cit.ie/prospectivestudents/ccps/.

- Complete your CAO application in plenty of time. DO NOT LEAVE IT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!
- Don't put all your eggs in one basket! Keep your options open when applying for courses. Applying for one course does not necessarily mean that you will be successful in securing a place on that course.
- Establish your interest in a course.
- Research the course(s) that you are applying for, so that you know exactly what you are undertaking. Talk to current students or graduates about subjects and courses which you have an interest in and consider where your strengths lie.
- If submitting a personal statement as part of a CAO application, ensure that it provides a comprehensive account of your skills and qualifications and their relevance to the course(s) being applied for. If you are applying to more than one college or for more than one course then you will need to provide a more general personal statement.
- Contact the Course Coordinator or Head of Department about your course of interest (and discuss with them what information they seek in an application from a mature applicant.
- Check the following:
 - ✓ Is there a requirement to have a background in specific subjects for entry to the course?
 - ✓ How many hours a week will the timetable require?
 - ✓ See <http://modules.cit.ie>
- Be aware of the implications that returning to full time education will have on your life, particularly in the following areas:
 - ✓ Financial
 - ✓ Family
 - ✓ Work
 - ✓ Social outlets
 - ✓ This will allow you to organise and prioritise commitments prior to beginning your course.
 - ✓ Where applicable, it is strongly advisable to apply for financial assistance in advance of taking up a programme of study.

The Mature Student Officer is located in the CIT Access Service, Ground Floor, Student Centre, CIT which is open Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm. Prospective students and current students are welcome to make an appointment to speak with the Mature Student Officer during these times.

PRE-ENTRY SUPPORT FOR PROSPECTIVE MATURE STUDENTS

Mature Student Open Evening – see page 7 for more information. Each year an Information Evening is held in mid-end November in CIT which provides information on; the variety of courses available in CIT, the application process, supports available to mature students, fees and financial support etc.

CAO Application Workshop – In January each year an evening workshop is held which provides a practical guide to the CAO application process for mature students.

Information Sessions – the Mature Student Officer visits Further Education Colleges, Community & Training Organisations, and participates in adult education events to provide information on educational opportunities for mature students in CIT.

Maths for Matures Programme

CIT delivers a Maths for Matures Programme to provide prospective mature students with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability in mathematics when applying for science/engineering courses in CIT. The programme, which is usually delivered over 6 evenings, consists of an elementary mathematics course followed by a brief exam on the work covered and a feedback session. Students who undertake the programme can include the results of the exam with their CAO application for CIT courses.

The purpose of the programme is to:

- (1) acquaint prospective mature students who are applying for entry into Year 1 of a full time programme of study in CIT, with some of the elementary mathematics that they will encounter in the first year of an engineering/science programme;
- (2) provide an opportunity to prospective mature students to demonstrate their ability and aptitude in mathematics;
- (3) provide the Head of Department with a test result which would demonstrate if the prospective student has a suitable aptitude for mathematics in relation to the course(s) being applied for.

For further information please visit <http://www.cit.ie/prospectivestudents/maturestudents1/mathsformatures> or contact

Sinéad O'Neill, Mature Student Officer, T: 021 433 5109 E: maturestudent@cit.ie or Dr Áine Ní Shé, Head, Department of Mathematics, CIT, E: aine.nishe@cit.ie.

ENTRY SUPPORT FOR MATURE STUDENTS

Preparatory Maths Programme

This programme is open to mature students who have accepted a place on a course in CIT. It is an interactive taught programme run over several days prior to the commencement of the academic year. The aim of this programme is to offer an introduction in the following topics to mature students embarking on a course in CIT:

- Algebra
- Statistics and Probability
- Functions
- Trigonometry
- Calculus

These topics form a good base for students starting Mathematics in first year.

Mature Student Orientation Programme

In early September an Orientation Programme is delivered to incoming mature students, which provides the opportunity to:

- Meet fellow mature students
- Hear the experiences of current & past mature students in CIT
- Become familiar with the CIT Campus
- Be introduced to the CIT email and IT system
- Receive information and advice on student supports and meet student support staff

A general Induction Programme is provided to all students in CIT at the beginning of the academic year.

'A Good Start' Programme

The 'Good Start' Programme is delivered during the first 7 weeks of term and offers a range of academic and social activities which aim to ensure that students settle into college life in the best way possible. Students are introduced to the structure of the third-level education system, and through activities are familiarised with the CIT campus and the services available to them as CIT students.

POST ENTRY SUPPORT

Mature Student Support Network

This is a support programme for mature students. The Network invites mature students to an Introductory meeting at the beginning of Semester 1. A special programme of events is then organised annually.

Support workshops are organised in the following areas:

- Academic Writing Skills
- Use of the Scientific Calculator
- Financial supports
- Specific subject areas

Mature Learning Support Service

The aim of the Mature Learning Support Service is to provide support for undergraduate, full-time mature students regarding research, reports, and assignments for their course of study in CIT. The service provides a tutor to work with students on a one to one basis or with small groups, assisting students to develop sound research, planning and writing skills, proofread, edit and organise course work, and manage deadlines and priorities required for their course of study.

For further information please visit http://www.mycit.ie/access_disability/mature-students/ or contact Sinéad O'Neill, Mature Student Officer, T: 021 433 5109 E: maturestudent@cit.ie or Deirdre Creedon, Access Officer, CIT. T: 021 433 5140 E: deirdre.creedon@cit.ie.

Student Services

- Careers & Counselling Service
- Academic Learning Centre
- Student Health Centre
- Access & Disability Support Service
- PALS – Peer Assisted Learning Support
- LISTEN – Peer Mentoring Programme
- Students Union
- Clubs & Societies including Mature Student Society
- Chaplaincy
- Accommodation Office

A MATURE STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE



Carol O'Mahony, Business Administration, Year 4, talks about her experience of becoming a mature student in CIT.

"I am a mature student and for some people it might be quite daunting to take that first step back to education. I was one of those people. I thought college had passed me by. I completed my Leaving Certificate in 1989 and went straight in to the work force, I was barely eighteen years old and had no interest in going to college. I worked in my job for nineteen years and I was happy to a certain extent, but I always knew I had missed out on college watching my three siblings go on and get their degrees. I didn't think I would get a second chance.

In 2009 I took voluntary redundancy from my job and nearly straight away I enrolled in a FETAC (now QQI) Business course in my local school. From day one it was like a light was switched on in my head, my love of education and learning was rekindled.

My tutors on the course approached me in September 2010 and suggested that I apply for third-level education. Cork Institute of Technology was my first choice and in June 2011 I was accepted to my delight.

Actually I cannot express in words what coming to this college means to me every day. No matter how tired or stressed I am about course work, I still can't but smile every morning I walk through the doors.

I am so glad I came back as a mature student, first of all the support that is in place in CIT for mature students is amazing, from the orientation days which are in my opinion 'a must', to get the lay of college, and tips and information before college begins. Our Mature Student Officer Sinéad O'Neill is a great source of support and does an amazing job. She runs many courses throughout the year, for example, the academic writing skills classes.

On student life in CIT, your classmates don't see your age, but they will know who to go to for the best notes! Numbers of mature students seem to be rising every year so there are many of us now on campus. I have a few tips; go to all lectures, ask questions; no question is stupid, believe me, lecturers are only delighted to be asked questions, and if you keep on top of the work, I promise, you won't be overwhelmed, and if you do become overwhelmed there is always help.

So, in conclusion, for me CIT was the best choice I have ever made, and it has literally changed my life. It is never too late to go back to education."

LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

If full time study is not an option for you there are hundreds more courses offered on a part-time or evening basis, which are described in the "CIT Continuing Education Courses Handbook". Applications for part-time and evening courses is directly to the college not through the CAO.

For information on part-time courses at CIT visit <http://www.cit.ie/parttime> or contact

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CIT Admissions Office

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Course Fees

T: 021 433 5440 / E: fees@cit.ie

Grants

T: 021 433 5442 E: grants@cit.ie

Recognition of Prior Learning

T: 021 433 5132 E: rpl@cit.ie

www.cit.ie

www.cao.ie

www.education.ie

www.fetac.ie

www.qqi.ie

www.qualifax.ie

www.welfare.ie

www.studentfinance.ie

www.careersandcounselling.com

Level 6	Higher Certificate
Level 7	Bachelor Degree
Level 8	Honours Bachelor Degree
Level 9	Masters
Level 10	PhD
ACCS	Accumulation of Credits and Certification of Subjects
BTEA	Back to Education Allowance
CAO	Central Applications Office
CCPS	Cork Colleges Progression Scheme
DEIS	Department of Education Development
EOD	Educational Opportunities Department
FE	Further Education
QQI	Quality & Qualifications Ireland
RPL	Recognition of Prior Learning
VEC	Vocational Education Committee



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