

What subjects should I choose?

How do I make a decision?

What are my options?



Senior Cycle Subject Choice



Ms. Griffey

The logo for Qualifax, featuring the word "Qualifax" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A horizontal blue line is positioned below the letters "a", "l", "i", "f", and "a". A small "TM" trademark symbol is located above the letter "x".

QualifaxTM

QUALIFAX- WHAT IS IT? HOW DO I USE IT?

‘Useful Tool’ for choosing subjects

- Go to Qualifax.ie and select “useful tools” from list on left hand side.

The screenshot shows the Qualifax website interface. The browser address bar displays the URL: https://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=77. The website logo is 'Qualifax THE NATIONAL LEARNERS' DATABASE'. A search bar is located in the top right corner with the text 'Qualifax Website...' and a 'Search this site' button. A navigation menu is present with tabs for Home, Students, Adult learners, Guidance professionals (highlighted in red), Parents / Family, News, and NFQ. Below the navigation menu, a breadcrumb trail reads: 'You are here: Home > Guidance professionals > Useful Tools > Minimum Subject Requirements'. On the left side, there is a sidebar titled 'In this section' with a list of links: For Guidance Professionals, Career Events, Course Finder, DARE and HEAR, Frequently Asked Questions, HEI's Contact Details, How to use Qualifax, Resources for Guidance, Support and Advice, and Useful Tools (highlighted in red). The main content area is titled 'Course Search - Subject Requirements Module'. It contains the text: 'All courses referred to in this section are Third Level CAO entry. The Course Data in this section is for the CAO entry in 2021.' Below this, it says 'Please select one of the following:' and provides two buttons: 'Junior Certificate Subjects' and 'Leaving Certificate Subjects'. At the bottom right of the main content area, there is a 'back to top' link with an upward arrow icon.

Subject Requirements

- Then choose “leaving certificate subjects” and you can select subjects from a drop-down menu.

The screenshot shows a web page titled "Subject Requirements Module". On the left is a navigation menu with a "Useful Tools" section highlighted. The main content area has a search filter for "3rd level courses" and three filters to narrow down results: "Only show courses from this CAO course provider", "Only show courses offered in this Province", and "Only show courses offered in this county".

In this section

- ▶ For Guidance Professionals
- ▶ Career Events
- ▶ Course Finder
- ▶ DARE and HEAR
- ▶ Frequently Asked Questions
- ▶ HEI's Contact Details
- ▶ How to use Qualifax
- ▶ Resources for Guidance
- ▶ Support and Advice
- ▶ **Useful Tools**

[Interest Assessment](#)
[Interest Assessment follow up](#)
[Minimum Subject Requirements](#)
[Points Calculator 2016](#)

using 1.17.06

Subject Requirements Module

[? View Search Help](#) [B Return to Main Menu](#)

Show me 3rd level courses which may or may not require the following Subject:

Narrow down your list of courses using one or a combination of the following:

Only show courses from this CAO course provider:	<input type="text" value="Any"/>
Only show courses offered in this Province:	<input type="text" value="Any"/>
Only show courses offered in this county:	<input type="text" value="Any"/>

PROGRAM CHOICES

At least one science subject

Currently 167 courses **definitely** require at least one science subject this year, e.g. Biotechnology, dentistry, some engineering courses, forestry, medicine, nursing, veterinary medicine, physiotherapy.

There is a total of 208 courses that match your search requirements. Please select one of the options below to view your results.

Show me the courses that:

- Definitely requires: A Science Subject- Total of 167 courses
- May require: A Science Subject - Total of 41 courses
- Does not require A Science Subject - Total of 1345 courses

[View Courses](#)

[New Search](#)

How Can I See What Requirements a Course Has?

- This is not only useful to see what subject you need, it's also essential for checking if you need minimum grades in any subjects, or if you need higher level in certain subjects!
- If you search a keyword (like "Engineering"), select an option (e.g. UL) and scroll down to the entry requirements, you will get lots more information about your subject requirements and maths requirement.





The Subjects

An Overview of the Options

Physics



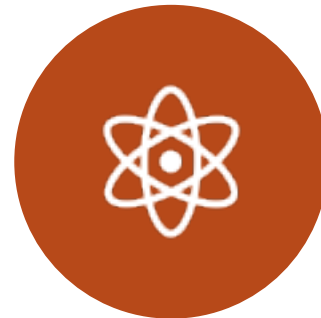
The most mathematical of the sciences, with many exam questions requiring you to solve a problem using learnt formulas.



Enhances a student's ability to think logically, observe and understand scientific method.



Builds upon the Physics in Junior cert Science and you are required to complete 24 practical experiments throughout the course.



You **MUST** have physics if you wish to do Theoretical Physics in Trinity.



Chemistry

- 28 mandatory practical experiments and written paper
- Learned definitions count for a lot of marks!
- Good if you apply attention to detail and can describe the procedures of experiments and understand vocabulary.
- You **MUST** do chemistry for 8 courses (including dentistry, medicine or pharmacy in UCC, veterinary medicine in UCD or pharmacy in Trinity)

Biology



Most popular



This does not necessarily mean easiest. 4.8% of students failed (H8) HL Biology in 2019!



You **MUST** have biology for Genetics in UCC, Human Health & Disease in Trinity and Veterinary Medicine in UCD but it's important to note that biology would be a distinct advantage for any biology based courses including medicine, nursing as well as environmental sciences or biotechnology.



Agricultural Science

- Science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture.
- Investigations are undertaken into such aspects as soil, ecology, plant and animal physiology, farm crops, farming practices, genetics and microbiology.
- 75% of the marks are going for the written paper. The other 25% is based on a research project.
- It's popular among students who are looking to study veterinary, science zoology or agriculture in college but is **NOT** essential for any CAO courses.

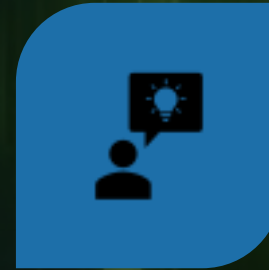
Design Communication Graphics (DCG)



BUILDS ON JUNIOR CERT TECHNICAL GRAPHICS.



STUDENT ASSIGNMENT AT 40%, OF WHICH CAD FORMS A SIGNIFICANT AND COMPULSORY ELEMENT, AND AN **EXAMINATION PAPER AT 60%**.



VISUALIZING AND COMPREHENDING INFORMATION PRESENTED VERBALLY OR GRAPHICALLY AS WELL AS DEVELOPING SPATIAL AWARENESS AND PROBLEM SOLVING.



IT IS A USEFUL SUBJECT IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN **PRACTICAL** AREAS OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION OR APPRENTICESHIPS WHICH INCLUDE THE STUDY OF TECHNICAL DRAWINGS HOWEVER IT IS **NOT** AN ESSENTIAL SUBJECT FOR ANY CAO COURSE.



Construction Studies

- Hands-on experience working with tools and machinery.
- Three hour written paper =300 marks
- 4 hour practical woodwork exam where the student makes a small item out of timber under exam conditions=150marks
- Building project where the student makes a building detail, a scale model of a building or a craft piece. The student also produces a portfolio to accompany the project that they make=150 marks
- Not essential for any CAO course but complements a career in building management, carpentry, electrician, town planning, insurance claims, heating and ventilation and housing management.



Business

- Critical thinking, creative and organisational skills while enhancing literacy and numeracy skills using real-life examples
- Leaving cert business is assessed through **one 100% exam.**
- Business is **NOT** specifically required for entry into any third level course, but it would certainly be beneficial for candidates who might be interested in courses or careers in the area of finance, banking, insurance, enterprise, law, communications



Geography

- Follows from Junior Cert Geography, and covers very similar topics in a lot more detail. Plenty of options so you can take some control over your learning.
- Up to **20%** for a report on a geographical investigation.
- Geography is **NOT** a requirement for any CAO course.
- It is useful in a wide variety of careers such as town planning, environmental science, engineering, tourism, cartography, meteorology/ weather forecasting and development work.



History

- Record and analyse things which have happened in the past, with an emphasis on both how and why events occurred.
- Deals with human experience and it develops important skills such as self-discipline and critical thinking which are of life-long importance.
- A written examination paper (**80%**) and A research study report (**20%**) submitted around Easter before the June exam.
- History is valuable as a background to studies in journalism, law, town planning, architecture, politics, economics, sociology, art, museum and library work. You do **NOT** need history for any CAO course.



Subjects available in
conjunction with
Scoil Mhuire

Accounting



Organisational, logical thinking, planning and problem-solving skills for future life, work and study. It also develops numeracy skills within the context of business and enterprise.



Bookkeeping side of business but delves deeper, teaching students to analyse and interpret the figures.



One three hour exam.



You **must** have accounting for Commerce-Accounting in NUIG but accounting is not essential for accounting courses in other colleges.



Career pathways might include accountancy, actuarial studies, marketing, business or finance. It would also be an important subject choice for

Art

- Project over 5 supervised hours= 62.5%, History and Appreciation of Art exam= 37.5%
- Art is useful for careers in animation, art teaching, computer design, architecture, fashion design, interior design, graphic design, painting and decorating, photography and art therapy.
- Most art courses require the submission of a portfolio. Two art courses in WIT require that art is done to leaving cert.

Home Economics

- Written Exam paper – 80% , Practical Coursework - 20%
- This subject provides a good foundation in careers including Health, Education and Tourism, Clothing and Design and the Food industry.

Music

- Three main components: (1)Composing (2)Listening and (3) Performance , you can pick one of these components to represent 50% of your marks, the remaining two will be worth 25% each.
- Many music related courses will require an entrance exam/interview or audition. Arts-Music in Maynooth, a BA in Music in UCD, or Music teacher in Mater Dei all require music to leaving cert.
- Music is useful for media work or studies, primary teaching, sound engineering, public relations, library work, speech therapy, film, physical education, communications, production, performance and music at third level.





Additional Options to Consider

Religion



The exploration of philosophical issues such as meaning and value, the nature of morality, the development of diversity and belief, the principles of a just society, and the implications of scientific progress.



Suits an enquiring mind. A student who is interested in history, philosophy, current affairs, travel and culture.



Assessed through coursework and exam. The project is worth 20%, it is half research and half reflection.



NOT a required subject for any CAO course but would complement careers in Arts, Law, Journalism, Education, Religious Vocations and Social Work.

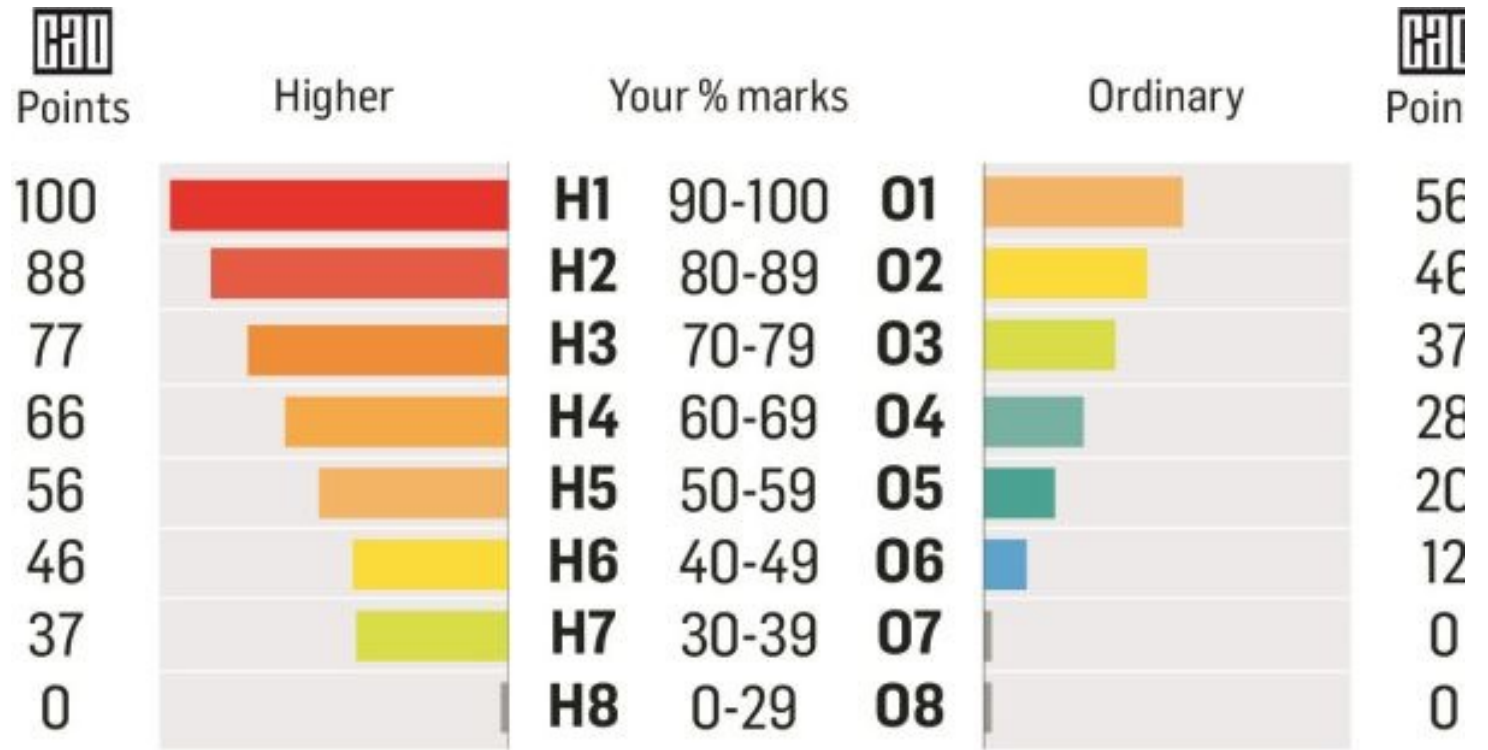


Applied Maths

- Practical applications of mathematics to the real world and physical problems. It is typically associated with engineering and physics, but also finds use in economics, finance, business, environmental studies, and even chemistry and medicine.
- Ideal for students who are getting H1s-H4s in HL maths and physics.
- One 2.5hour exam.
- Applied Maths is useful for careers such as Engineering, Physics, Construction, IT, Insurance, Systems Analyst and Architecture but is NOT required for any CAO course.
- Interesting to note it has one of the highest 'A' rates of all subjects.

LCVP

- The primary goal of the LCVP is to prepare young people for adult life by encouraging them to develop skills and competencies fundamental to both academic and work success.
- It is an optional common level subject.
- There is a portfolio worth 60% and a written exam worth 40%.
- Can be counted as one of your 6 CAO subjects.



+25 Bonus points for H1-H6 maths

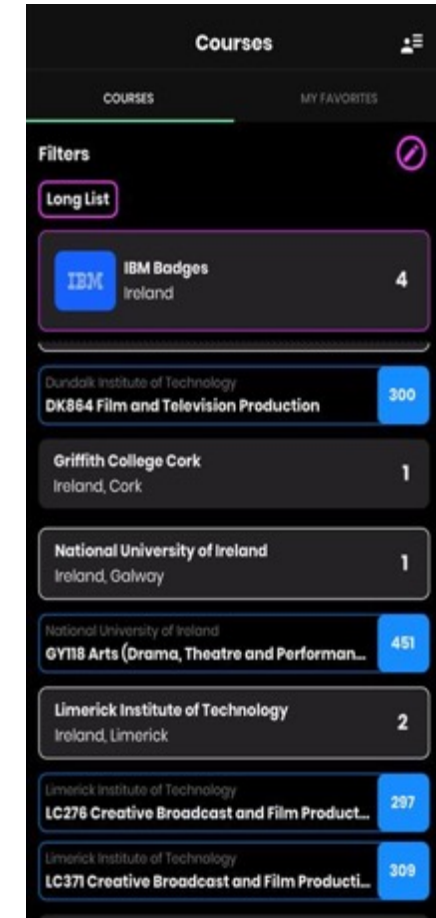
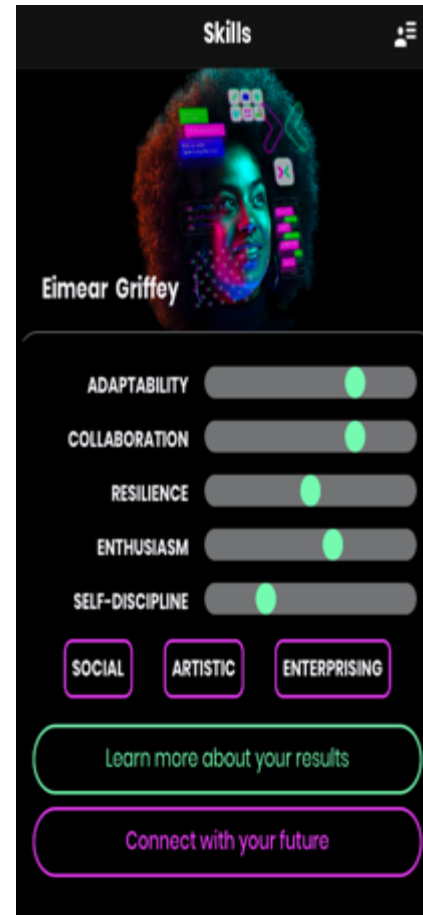
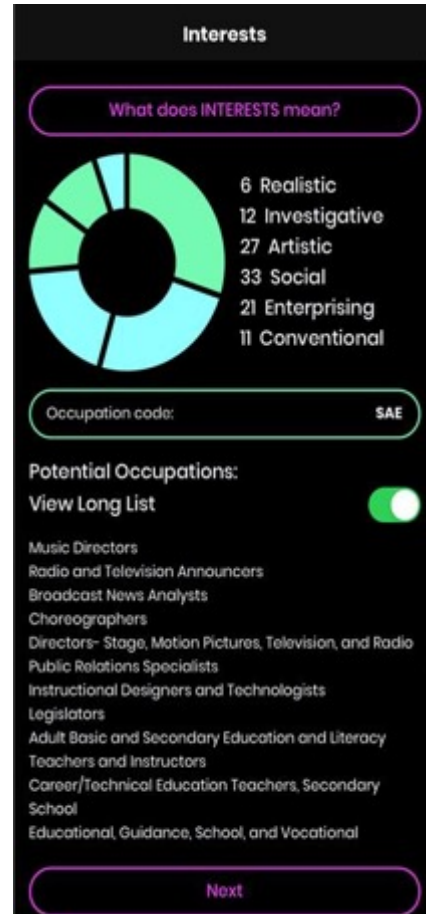
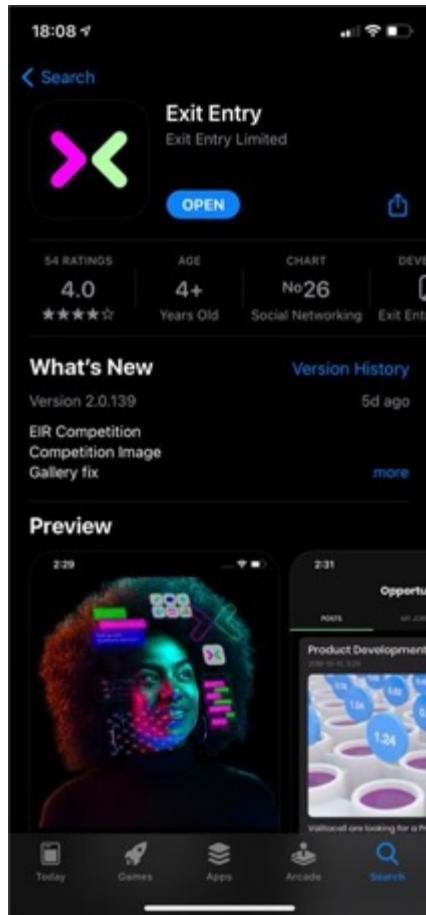
LCVP link modules

Distinction 66

Merit 46

Pass 28

Useful App- Exit Entry



Career Guidance tools for all



Join
to create a
Career Profile



Discover
your Career Interests



Match
your Interests to
Careers & Courses



[START HERE!](#)

[MORE INFO](#)

Courses

Careers

Apprenticeships

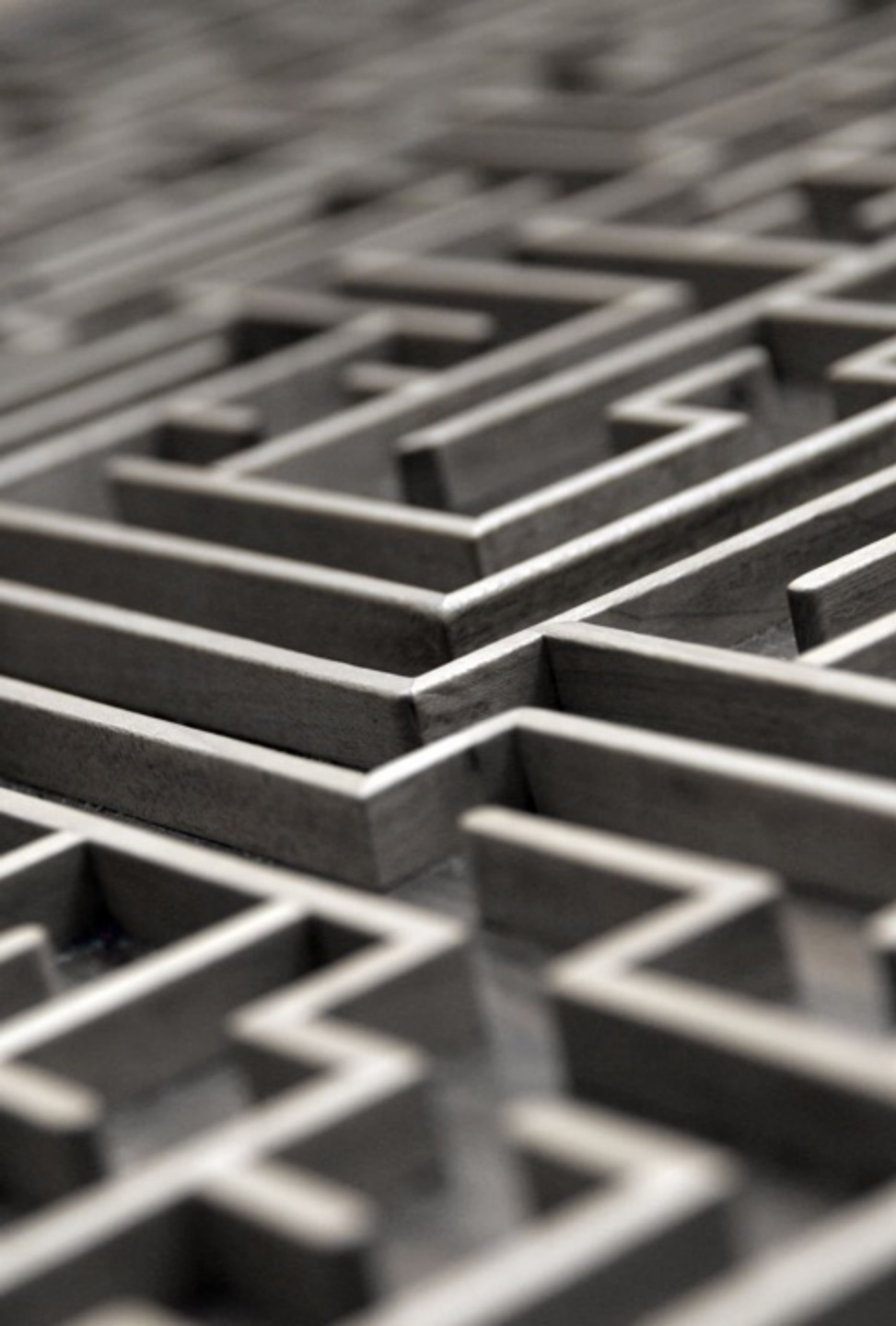
Career Sectors

Site Search

by Course Title or Code...

by College here... ▾

[SEARCH NOW](#)



Remember

- Choosing your subjects isn't the biggest deal in the whole world, but it is important.
- Think about your goal destination, even if it is vague, choose the subjects that will help you most and make sure you are not creating obstacles for yourself by not choosing certain subjects.
- Ask to borrow books from senior cycle, see what the content looks like, ask them about the subject.
- Do what you are interested in.
- Try to balance theory and practical.
- Keep your options open.

A person wearing a dark jacket and a white cap stands on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a vast, hazy mountain range. The landscape is filled with rolling hills and valleys, with a soft, blueish-grey atmosphere. The person is positioned in the center of the frame, slightly to the left of the middle.

Thanks for listening.

If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to ask or send me a message on Teams!