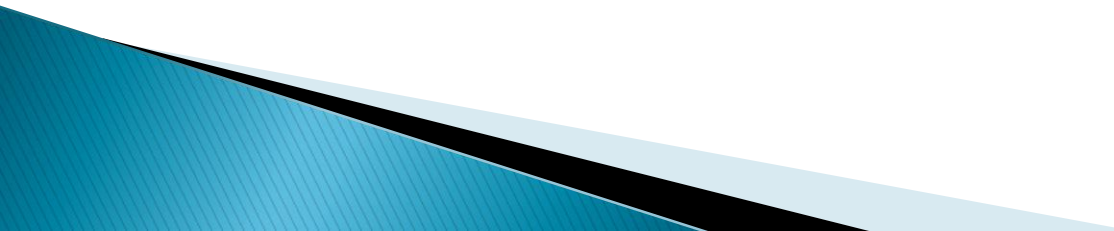


General PLC Information

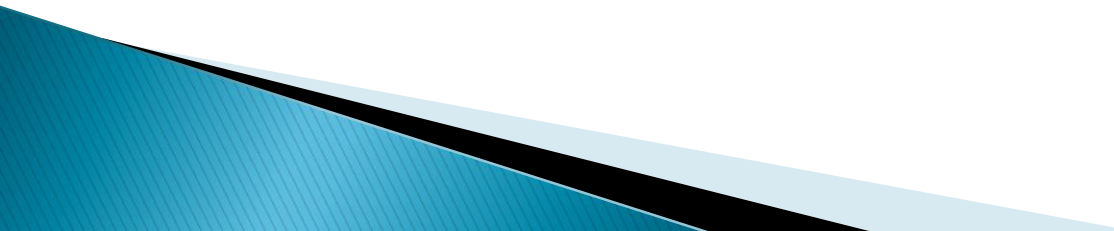
Overview

- ▶ FETAC
 - ▶ Higher Education Links Scheme
 - ▶ The Pilot Scheme
 - ▶ Additional Requirements warning
 - ▶ Nursing Applications
 - ▶ Students with disabilities
 - ▶ When to apply to a PLC – new trends
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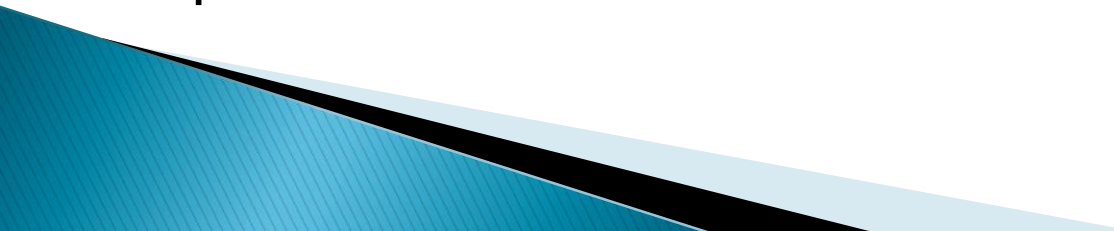
FETAC

- ▶ **The Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC)** is a great way of furthering your education if you are doing LCA or if you don't get the CAO points you need to get into college or university.
- ▶ Not only does it offer really worthwhile courses where you gain excellent training, skills and qualifications designed specifically to help you in the industry you want to get into, it also helps fast-track you into university or college.

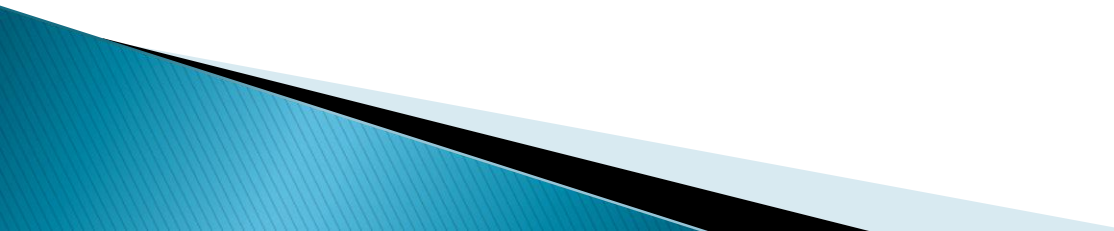
FETAC

- ▶ FETAC acts like a “stepping stone” into higher education as well as preparing you for the world of work by enabling you to gain the skills and training needed for a particular career.
 - ▶ FETAC courses are designed to help you progress either into a specific career or third level education. People who gain FETAC awards often go on to gain higher education and training awards too.
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Higher Education Links Scheme

- ▶ Links specific FETAC Level 5 & some Level 6 courses to reserved places on a variety of related University courses.
 - ▶ Apply through CAO by 1st February – in July results are supplied to HEI's
 - ▶ Full award from single sitting - 8 components – minimum 5 distinctions with specific component requirements!
 - ▶ Added up to give a total best tally, to a maximum of 400 points.
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Higher Education Links Scheme

- ▶ Places reserved for FETAC applicants are then offered in order of merit based on ranking.
 - ▶ Currently, approximately 13.5% of CAO applicants have a FETAC award.
- 

Higher Education Links Scheme

- ▶ Links are improving – UCC & UL in 2012-2013

Information

- ▶ www.cao.ie
- ▶ [www.fetac.ie/fetac/documents/Prog_HEC_2011.pdf /](http://www.fetac.ie/fetac/documents/Prog_HEC_2011.pdf)
- ▶ Request FETAC links brochures from Universities

- ▶ Applicants are advised at all times to confirm linked awards, any additional component requirements, application processes and scoring systems with the Admission Offices of the participating higher education institutions.

The Pilot Scheme

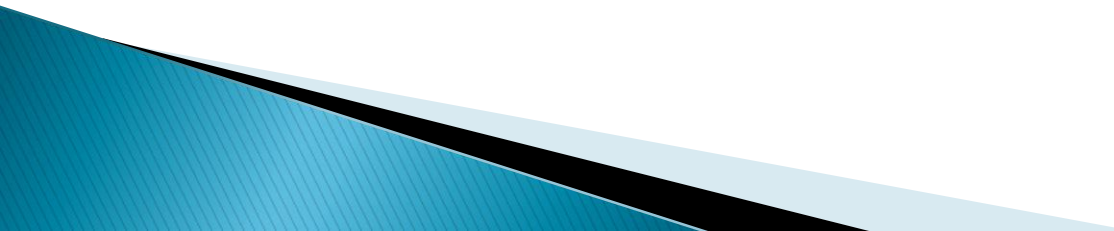
- ▶ Operated by all Institutes of Technology (except DIT)
- ▶ FETAC students can apply for Level 6, 7 & 8 courses through CAO and compete with Leaving Cert students for places based on points.
- ▶ FETAC students with a full award can achieve a max 400 points.

Distinction = 50 points

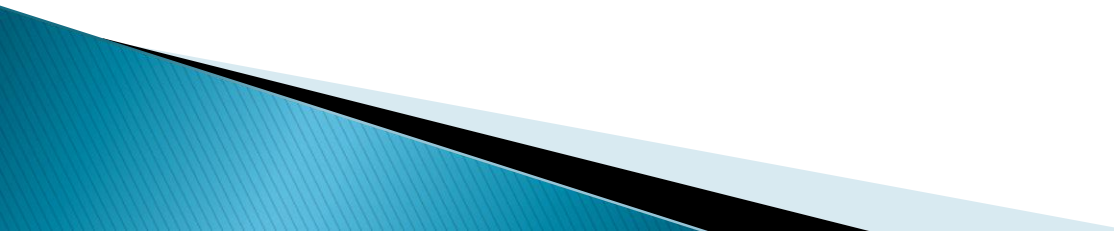
Merit = 35 points

Pass = 20 points

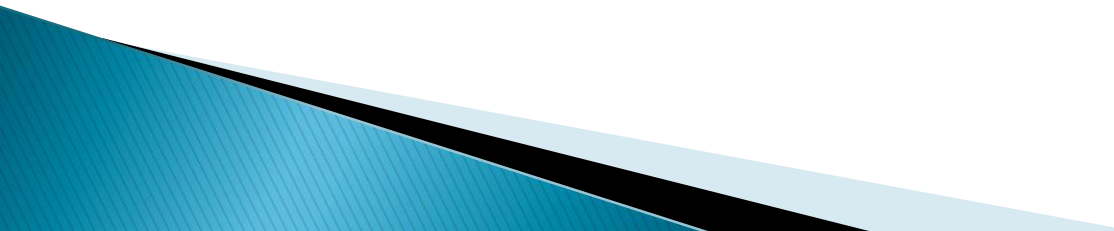
The Pilot Scheme

- ▶ Generally, FETAC results can be accumulated over more than one year.
 - ▶ The method for calculating FETAC points for the Higher Education Links Scheme & the Pilot scheme is changing for 2013-2014 but the premise remains the same.
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The Pilot Scheme

- ▶ Some courses may have specific component or award requirements. Always check with IT Admissions office.
 - ▶ E.g. Some additional requirements for Level 8 – minimum of 3 distinctions, Maths
 - ▶ E.g. CIT require FETAC students to meet their minimum entry requirements for Maths & English – Maths can be a big barrier for LCA students or students who have F Maths or failed Maths.
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Additional Requirements

- ▶ Some institutions may require Maths in addition to an applicant's **FETAC** award (e.g. CIT) to meet their minimum entry requirements.
 - ▶ Applicants are advised to confirm details of any specific requirements with the Admissions Office of individual institutions.
- 

Important information about Pilot Scheme

- ▶ Any FETAC Level 5 CAO applicant who meets the points requirements under the Pilot Scheme is **guaranteed a place**. (Except Nursing!)
- ▶ There are no “reserved quota” for FETAC students under the Pilot scheme.
- ▶ Once students meet their FETAC points requirement Institutes of Technology do not differentiate between Leaving Certificate and FETAC Level 5 students.


Progression from FETAC Level 6

- ▶ **FETAC Level 6 Progression** – some centres have already made articulation agreements with specific Higher Education Institutions.
- ▶ E.g. Mallow College of Further Education have an agreement with Tralee IT that their FETAC Level 6 Business Learners can progress into Year 2 of Business in Tralee I.T. with a minimum of 2 Distinctions and 1 Merit at Level 6.

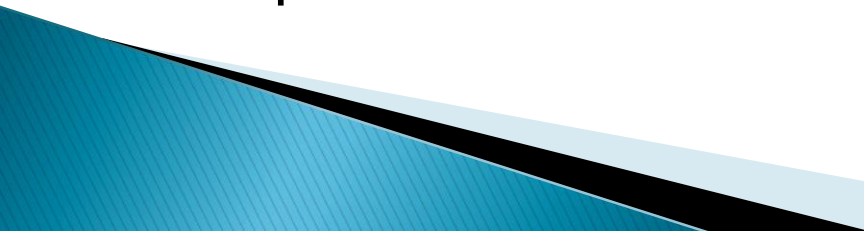
Progression from FETAC Level 6

- ▶ To apply to enter year 2 of a course, students must complete a Direct Entry Application form available from the Admissions Office of the IT. It is completely at the discretion of the Department Head whether they allow FETAC Level 6 students into second year of their courses.
- ▶ Some arrangements exist with Universities. E.g. Level 6 Supervision in Childcare & CK111

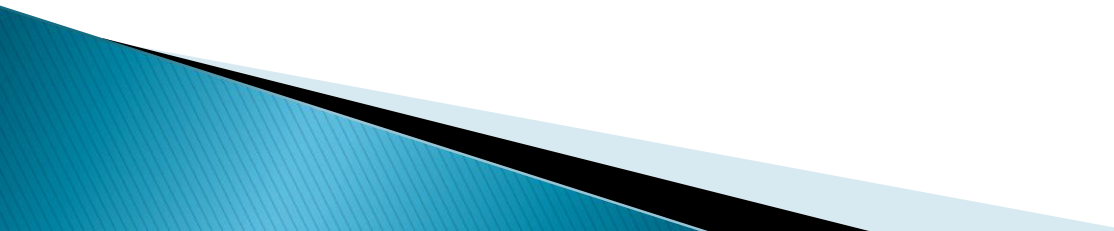
NURSING APPLICATIONS

- ▶ 10 Higher Education Institutions offer entry to Honours Degree Programmes in Nursing for applicants presenting with FETAC Level 5 awards.
 - ▶ The places reserved for FETAC applicants in Nursing degrees is limited so applicants must compete for places.
 - ▶ In all cases applicants must have achieved distinctions in at least 5 modules. These must include distinctions in Introduction to Nursing, Anatomy & Physiology, and Human Growth and Development or Biology.
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Students with Additional Needs (PLC)

- ▶ Student support from Secondary school is not immediately transferred.
 - ▶ College needs to reapply for student.
 - ▶ Students are entitled to same supports they received in Secondary school.
 - ▶ Students need to present Educational Psychologist's Report (MUST be less than 5 year's old!!!)/ Consultant's Report. Letters from GP's are NOT accepted.
- 

Students with Additional Needs

- ▶ PLC College will apply to Higher Education Authority (HEA) for the Fund for Students with Disabilities. However, money takes months to come in. The College may also look to external sources to support the student (NLN) (Adult Literacy Programmes).
 - ▶ The PLC College may also apply for accommodations for examinations provided the student presents a educational psychologist's report (less than 5 year's old) or a consultant's report.
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When should Guidance Counsellor's encourage students to apply to a PLC course?

- ▶ Gone are the days when you can put in an application after the Leaving Certificate results and hope to secure a place.
 - ▶ If a student is genuinely interested in a PLC course or wishes to have a PLC course as a back up plan then they need to apply as early as possible to get a place.
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