

UCD is considered Ireland's most connected and networked university, with more Irish Gaelic members educated at UCD than any other university. **What's new:** The Sutherland School of Law, the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science and the new student centre. New student residences will be available from January 2015.

**Don't miss:** Guidance counselling and *Irish Times* columnist Brian Mooney's open-day talks, *Helping Your Son or Daughter Make a Course Choice*, at 11am and 12.30pm in the William Jefferson Clonon Auditorium. There are also campus tours led by UCD student ambassadors throughout the day. The exhibition area in O'Reilly Hall will host more than 70 school and programme stands.

**DCU**  
**When:** November 14th (10am-3pm), November 15th (10am-2pm)  
**Life on campus:** DCU has about 12,000 students at its res-

much-needed gap in the well-paid ICT industry. The DCU sports campus, with elite Gaelic games, soccer, rugby and cricket facilities, has been redeveloped and improved.

**For more information,** see [dcu.ie/open-day](http://dcu.ie/open-day), a dedicated hub for prospective students.

**TCD**  
**When:** December 6th  
**Life on campus:** Trinity has an excellent international reputation for teaching and research with more than 120 academic courses, including arts, social sciences, business, science, engineering, dentistry and medicine. Trinity is situated at the heart of Dublin city centre, making it easily accessible and giving students a great choice of eating, drinking, shopping and cultural attractions. But what if you don't want to leave the campus? There are more than 50 sports clubs and 100 student societies to choose from on a beautiful campus that oozes history and charm.

**Strengths:** Consistently ranked as Ireland's leading university across all international measures. Trinity's place has slipped somewhat in recent years. By a very clear mile, Trinity has the best college library in Ireland, although most of the books are held off-campus, so you may have to wait a few hours for them to arrive. **What's new:** In recent years, Trinity has trialled new college-entry routes and opened up the Lit National Academy of Dramatic Art. Although the oldest university in Ireland is relatively well established in its traditions, much of the innovation at Trinity is in the form of new research centres.

**Don't miss:** There are more than 100 presentations and ac-

tivities at the open day, including mini-lectures about the courses, campus tours, research demonstrations and clinical skills sessions, presentations about club and society life, information on accommodation, and a session for mature students and students with disabilities.

**For further details,** see [tcd.ie/admissions/undergraduate](http://tcd.ie/admissions/undergraduate) or contact the school's liaison officer at [schools liaison@tcd.ie](mailto:schools liaison@tcd.ie)

**Maynooth**  
**When:** November 28th (9am-4pm) and November 29th (10am-3pm)  
**Life on campus:** Formerly known as NUI Maynooth, the name change reflects the university's ambition to make a name for itself internationally.

Small and friendly, the campus of 9,000 students and 800 staff is a visual treat: old, beautiful and compact. Maynooth University is situated in Ireland's only university town, and students here create a buzz in the surrounding city. The new library is very popular, boasting a variety of study, hangout and eating areas.

**Strengths:** Maynooth has particularly strong reputation for teacher education, being the only university to offer teacher training from preschool right through to adult and community education. The college is also strong in astrophysics, science, maths, humanities and music. **What's new:** Quite a lot. Fundamental transformation in the Maynooth curriculum, beginning in September 2015, will eventually mean more course options, flexibility and degree combinations for every student. Students will have opportunities for interesting electives and other creative academic and/or-curricular projects in subsequent years, which are designed to make them stand out to future employers.

Visitors to the open day will see the final stages of construction on the new information and communications technology building on the north campus, which will include teaching spaces and serve as a hub for various research centres and institutes.

**Don't miss:** Degree talks and department stands on the north campus, and tours incorporating labs, sports facilities, the new library, residences, and the beautiful and historic south campus. Partner bus company will run special services on Saturday's open day for a reduced fare.

**For more information,** see [maynoothuniversity.ie](http://maynoothuniversity.ie), [facebook.com/maynooth](http://facebook.com/maynooth) or [@gotmaynooth](http://gotmaynooth).

**NUIG**  
**When:** The main undergraduate open day takes place on April 25th, 2015. Campus tours are available all year round. Information evenings will also be held throughout the country. For more information on dates and times, see [nuigalway.ie/open-days](http://nuigalway.ie/open-days).

**Open campus:** Galway is a special place to go to college, largely due to the energy unleashed by 17,000 students. The city is creative, vibrant, exciting, and has great clubs and pubs. The cost of living is also relatively low compared to other cities. The campus itself, on the banks of the River Corrib, is very impressive. On the downside, it rains quite a lot in Galway, and the nightlife can be a bit repetitive if you're not a drinker.

**Strengths:** The college scores highly in terms of research and teaching, as well as internationalisation and innovation. Bio-medical science, human rights, film and theatre studies are among the university's fields of special expertise. The BA candidate includes mainstream humanities subjects such as languages, philosophy and English, alongside interesting choices, such as journalism, children's studies, creative writing and performing arts studies.

**What's new:** There's a hot happening on the Galway campus, with much of it focused on academia and research. The new Hardiman Research Building brings together a number of exciting research centres in the humanities and social sciences, while work on the Translational Research Facility, a state-of-the-art clinical space with high-technology science research, is ongoing.

**Don't miss:** Information sessions on the range of NUIG scholarships, including the creative arts performance points scholarships, which are unique to the university. There's also a parents' programme during open days for parents to find out more.

**For more information,** see [nuigalway.ie/open-days](http://nuigalway.ie/open-days)

**UI**  
**When:** Saturday, January 10th, 2015  
**Life on campus:** UI was founded in 1972 and now has about 12,000 students. Last month, UI was announced as the *Sunday Times* University of the Year for 2015, with the judges citing strong research, commitment, dedication to the student experience and a rising academic performance. The surrounding housing estates are full of students and there's a great social scene both on and off the beautiful campus, which boasts some pretty impressive buildings. But be warned: The university isn't in the city, so getting to and from Limerick can be a bit of a trek.

**Strengths:** It's always been particularly strong on business, and the suite of programmes is getting better and better. Science is another strength for the university, while the addition of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance and some fine art collections has seen increased demand for UI's arts courses.

With 95 per cent of UI's class of 2013 in employment (or further study), the university has the highest graduate employment rate in the country. If you're

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# Some of the rest... Open days in other

**Peter McGuire**  
 There are more than 40 publically funded and fee-paying colleges in Ireland, and this number is growing.

As well as the seven universities, there are over 400 institutes of technology, five teacher training colleges, an art college and several other institutions including the National College of Ireland and the Shannon College of Hotel Management.

All host open days. There's a comprehensive list of these on page 4, with many of them hosting subject-specific open days or evenings between now and next May.

There are also open days run by the various colleges of further education around Ireland, which offer alternative third-level entry routes as well as valuable career-focused qualifications.

There's a guide to open day dates on the excellent student resource [qualifax.ie](http://qualifax.ie) (under the heading of 'Career Events in Ireland').

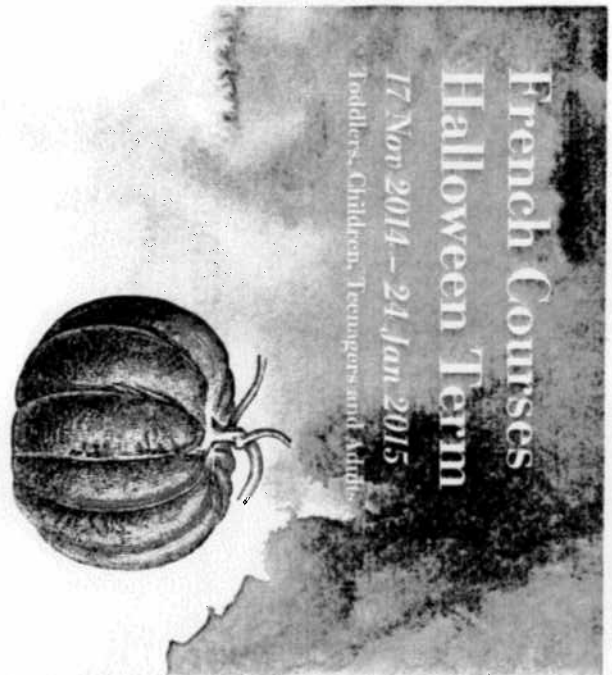
**Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dun Laoghaire**  
 The college has carved out an excellent reputation for animation, film and television production, design, model-making and visual communication, and also offers humanities options including psychology and English, media and cultural studies. The new National Film School opened on the campus last year.

**Royal College of Surgeons Ireland**  
 Right in the heart of Dublin city centre, RCSEI's courses are held in high regard internationally, and the student body is one of the most diverse and cosmopolitan in Ireland. The open day for school leavers is on January 6th, 2015, 10am-4.30pm. RCSEI will also run open days for graduate entry and mature students this month. Capacity is limited so registration is essential. For queries, email [events@rcs.ie](mailto:events@rcs.ie)

**St Patrick's Drumcondra**  
 The largest of Ireland's teacher training colleges has a great reputation. Based in Drumcondra in north Dublin, there's a great craic to be had in surrounding

pubs. The college punches well above its weight in sport, with strong teams in Gaelic football, hurling and soccer. As with all primary teacher training colleges, there's a big gender gap, with girls easily outnumbering boys.

In the coming years, teacher training is set to be radically restructured, with St Patrick's, the Church of Ireland College of



**French Courses**  
**Halloween Term**  
 17 Nov 2014 - 21 Jan 2015  
 Toddlers, Children, Teenagers and Adults

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