

times at the open day, including...
the, multi-lecture, about 100
colleges, campus tours, research
demonstrations, and clinical
skills sessions, presentations,
about club and society life, infor-
mation on accommodation, and
a session for mature students
and students with disabilities.

For further details, see tcd.ie/le
admissions/undergraduate or
contact the school's liaison of-
ficer at 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 uni-
versity'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
spaces and serve as a hub for
various research centres and in-
stitutes.

Don't miss: Degree talks, and
department stands on the north
campus, and tours incorporat-
ing labs, sports facilities, the
new library, residences, and the
beautiful and historic south
campus. Partner bus compa-

Strengths: Maynooth has a par-

ties will run special services on
Saturday's open day for a re-
duced fare.

For more information, see
maynoothuniversity.ie, face-
book.com/maynooth or
[@gornaynooth](http://gornaynooth).

NUIG

When: The main undergraduate
open day takes place on
April 25th, 2015. Campus tours
are available all year round. In-
formation evenings will also be
held throughout the country.
For more information on dates
and times, see nuigway.ie/
open days.

Life on campus: Galway is a spe-
cial place to go to college, large-
ly due to the energy unleashed
by 17,000 students. The city is
creative, intimate, 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 im-
pressive. On the downside, it
rains quite a lot in Galway, and
the nightlife can be a bit repeti-
tive if you're not a drinker.

Strengths: The college scores
highly in terms of research and
teaching, as well as internation-

alisation and innovation. Bio-
medical science, human rights,
marine science, and drama,
film and theatre studies are
among the university's fields of
special expertise. The BA Con-
nect includes mainstream hu-
manities subjects, such as lan-
guages, philosophy and Eng-
lish, alongside interesting choic-
es, such as journalism, chil-
dren's studies, creative writing
and performing-arts studies.

What's new: There's a lot hap-
pening on the Galway campus,
with much of it focused on ac-
ademia and research. The new
Hardiman Research Building
brings together a number of ex-
isting research centres in the hu-
manities and social sciences,
while work on the Translational
Research Facility, a patient-con-
trolled clinical space with
high-technology science re-
search, is ongoing.

Don't miss: Information ses-
sions on the range of NUIG
scholarships, including the crea-
tive 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
nuigway.ie/open days

When: Saturday, January, 10th,
2015

Life on campus: UL was found-
ed in 1872 and now has about
12,000 students. Last month,
UL was announced as the *Sup-
erstar* of 2015. University of the
Year for 2015, with the judges
citing strong research commu-
nity, dedication to the stu-
dent experience and a rising ac-
ademic performance. The sur-
rounding 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 get-
ting to and from Limerick can
be a bit of a trek.

Strengths: It's always been par-
ticularly strong on business,
and the suite of programmes is
getting better and better. Sci-
ence is another strength for the
university, while the addition of
the Irish World Academy of Mu-
sic and Dance and some fine art
collections has seen increased
demand for UL's arts courses.

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

Education and the Mater Dei In-
stitute of Education all coming
together in a new Institute of
Education under the control of
Dublin City University. From
September 2015, all students at
Mater Dei and St Patrick's will
be registered as DCU students.
Their open days are on Novem-
ber 14th and 15th.

Hibernia College
There's no doubt that Hibernia
College has not only earned its
stripes, but that it has become a
serious challenger to the estab-
lished. State-funded teacher ed-
ucation colleges. School princi-
pals have major respect for the
quality of primary and post-pri-
mary teachers emerging from
this Government and Teaching
Council of Ireland-accredited
e-learning college. All teacher
education programmes are de-
livered online and anyone with
a level 8 degree enters a mas-
ter's level programme. The col-
lege is also carving out special-
ist expertise in education re-
search. On open days take
place on November 6th
(9pm-7:30pm) and November
8th (11:30am-2pm) at Hibernia Col-
lege on Fenian Street. Registra-
tion required.

UCC
The main open day has
already taken place, but anoth-
er one for schools is on April
17th, 2015. Departmental and
programme open days will be
held throughout the year.

of clubs and societies. And UCC
has a high graduate employ-
ment rate, so you've a good
chance of getting a job at the
end of it all.

Strengths: It's strong across all
major disciplines, but is particu-
larly known for medicine, den-
tistry, law, arts, and sciences.
Written science, it's strong on
microbiology and food science,
while the Tyndall National Insti-
tute has an international re-
nowned reputation for
high-end information technol-
ogy, nanotechnology and medi-
cal technology, as well as com-
mercialising research.

What's new: A state-of-the-art
dedicated student hub to sup-
port student learning and em-
ployability. The college is also
introducing several new pro-
grammes, including BA de-
grees in film and screen media.

degree courses with specialised
and technical focuses, and
many have carved out their own
niches (such as Ashbone Insti-
tute of Technology's polymer
qualifications). Aside from the
big four lots (DIT, CIT, WIT
and GMIT), local institutes are
a good option for students who
wish to study locally though
there's a sense that there may
be too many of them in Ireland.

Dublin Business School,
Griffith College, Independent
Colleges
Three fee-paying colleges with
excellent Dublin city centre lo-
cations. DBS is the largest, offer-
ing courses in business, account-
ing, IT, arts, psychology, law,
journalism, marketing, digital
media and film studies. Griffith,
the oldest and most established
of the three, includes law, busi-
ness, accounting and finance,
hospitality management, com-
puter science, applied digital
media, journalism and media.
French courses, conversation
music and drama, and training
and education. All three have
small class sizes; lecturers and
services that are responsive to
the needs of their students, offer-
ing entry to otherwise

DIT
When: December 5th and 6th,
9.30am to 2.30pm
Life on campus: Arguably
more than any other third-level
institution in Ireland, Dublin In-
stitute of Technology is under-
going a radical physical, acade-
mic and social transforma-
tion. This year, students began
moving on to DIT's centralised
Orangegorm campus in Dub-
lin 7, although the majority of
students are still on its campus-
es around Dublin.

DIT is one of Ireland's largest
higher-education institutions,
with more than 10 per cent of all
students.
Strengths: DIT is the place to
go for culinary arts, hospitality,
optometry and, increasingly,
music. BIMM Dublin focuses
on modern commercial music

high-points courses including
journalism, law and psychol-
ogy.
Royal Irish Academy of Music
Those considering studying mu-
sic at third level can explore the
options on its open afternoon
on December 2nd, with infor-
mation on diploma, bachelor,
master and doctor in music per-
formance and composition
courses. There are vocal, string,
keyboard, composition and
wind/brass/percussion work-
shops, Q&As, and tours of the
college. See riam.ie/open-day

Alliance Française
Although it's not a college
course, the Alliance Française
in Dublin is offering free
French assessments on November
4th, 5th, 10th, 11th and 12th,
from 5pm-7pm - a good way of
checking how your language skills
are. The centre runs general
French courses, conversation
classes, cultural workshops,
and exam preparation. No book-
ing is required and enrolment
can be made online. For more
information, see alliance-fran-
caise.ie

entry to otherwise
ing entry to otherwise

ing entry to otherwise

Some of the rest... open days in other

Peter McGuire

the student section - download-
able as a pdf file) and on career
portal.ie.

Here's a taste of others to
look out for:

National College of Art and Design

The place to study fine art, de-
sign and visual culture in Ire-
land, based on Thomas Street
in Dublin - and arguably, it's the
art students who have made
such an impact on the young
and creative area that is Dublin
8. Undergraduates start with a
common entry first year before
going on to specialise. Fine art
degree courses include paint-
ing, sculpture, fine print and
media. Design options include
jewellery, metalwork, fashion,
ceramics and glass, textiles, vis-
ual communication and prod-
uct design. There are events
open to the public and a series
of portfolio brief information
sessions throughout this
month, and an open day on No-
vember 26th.

Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dun Laoghaire (ADT)

The college has carved out an
excellent reputation for animat-

Royal College of Surgeons Ireland

Right in the heart of Dublin city
centre, RCSI's courses are held
in high regard internationally,
and the student body is one of
the most diverse and cosmopol-
itan in Ireland. The open day for
school leavers is on January
6th, 2015, 10am-4.30pm. RCSI
will also run open days for grad-
uate entry and mature students
this month. Capacity is limited
so registration is essential. For
queries, email events@rcsi.ie

St Patrick's Drumcondra

The largest of Ireland's teacher
training colleges has a great rep-
utation. Based in Drumcondra
in north Dublin, there's a great
creative to be had in surround-



Cliona O'Brien, from St
Aloysius, and Dara O'Keefe,
from Mount Mercy, in Cork, at
the Royal College of
Surgeons' open day last year.
PHOTOGRAPH: ALAN BETHSY

colleges around the country

There are 66 also open

various Colleges of
Further Education
around Ireland,
which offer
alternative third-
level entry routes

The 10's
Institutes of technology offer fe-
cused level 6, level 7 and level 8

open day.

open day.

open day.

open day.

open day.

open day.

open day.