

CAO Mature Admission Policy

Who is considered a mature applicant?

A mature applicant is an applicant who is aged 23 and over on the 1st January of the year in which they seek admission regardless of whether an applicant selects Mature Applicants from the Qualifications & Assessment Summary on the CAO application form.

What is the application process?

Applicants apply via the [CAO website](#). To be considered under the mature route, there are two closing dates: 1 February and 1 May. Note that there are a sub-set of courses which are restricted and must be applied for by the 1 February closing date i.e. [SE914 Mental Health Nursing](#), [SE915 General Nursing](#), [SE916 Intellectual Disability Nursing](#)

What is the application and selection process for SE Nursing courses?

To compete as a mature applicant for SE915 BSc (H) in General Nursing, SE914 BSc (H) in Mental Health Nursing or SE916 BSc (H) in Intellectual Disability Nursing, applicants must have applied to the CAO by the 1st February. Mature applicants must also apply directly to the NMBI. Full details on the NMBI application process are available [here](#). Note that SETU are not involved in the assessment of mature applicants to nursing courses.

The table below sets out the number of mature places currently available in SETU:

Course	Total Places	Quota for Mature Intake	Total Places Available for Mature Intake
SE915 - General Nursing	75	15%	11
SE914 – Mental Health Nursing	50	35%	18
SE916 - Intel. Disability Nursing	25	35%	9

Applicants may not enter on a Change of Mind any Nursing Course Code (SE914, SE915 & SE916), unless at least one such course code was among the applicants choices at 1st February and the applicant has completed the NMBI assessment in the year they seek admission.

Additional Courses with quotas for Mature Places

Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine also include a designated quota of places specifically for mature applicants.

Course	Total Places	Quota for Mature Intake	Total Places Available for Mature Intake
SE525 - Pharmacy	40	15%	6
SE526 – Veterinary Medicine	40	15%	6

Both courses also require a submission of a portfolio for Mature applicants as a entry requirement with Pharmacy also requiring an interview for Mature applicants. These portfolios are not used as part of the Mature assessment but strictly for entry requirement purposes. Applicants should review the course pages for further details on entry requirements for Mature applicants.

Sending supporting documents to CAO

All relevant supporting documentation must be submitted via the CAO. Timelines and instructions are available [here](#).

- Certificates/transcripts should be supplied in their original language and should show dates, subjects and results.
- A certified English translation is required in the case of qualifications not issued originally in English or Irish, in addition to the certified A4 photocopies of the documents themselves.
- Certified copies should only be submitted – certified typically by a school stamp, a HEI Admissions Office stamp, or by a notary. (CAO or SETU will not return original documents.)
- If documentation is in a different name, then a certified copy of the applicant's official name change document must also be provided.

Applicants whose first language is not English

Instruction in SETU is through English. English language proficiency is required for all undergraduate programmes at the University. If English is not an applicant's first language, such applicants must present one of the English Language qualifications listed [here](#) as evidence of competence.

Selection process for courses other than Nursing

SETU allocates places to mature applicants through its mature applicant selection process, assessing candidates across four categories, second-level education, third-level education, relevant training and work experience. SETU retrieves this information from each applicant's CAO application and considers it alongside supporting documentation submitted to the CAO to assess their suitability for the chosen programme. Admission may also require an interview and/or portfolio. Applicants who add a new programme through Change of Mind where admission requires an interview and/or portfolio will compete for a place on that programme using their Leaving Certificate or QQI FET/FETAC results only. They will not compete as mature applicants for that programme. The Registrar makes final admission decisions. Mature applicants who do not secure a place through the mature route may still compete using their Leaving Certificate or QQI FET/FETAC points in CAO Round 1.