



Progression to Higher Education 2013

FETAC has introduced a new awards system known as the Common Awards System, or CAS. All FETAC awards will be part of CAS from 2014. CAS awards will replace existing linked FETAC awards.

The Higher Education Links Scheme continues to develop and grow incorporating the CAS awards with other FETAC (NCVA) awards. It now provides systematic progression opportunities through the CAO for FETAC award holders at level 5 and 6 to first year of higher education programmes. Learners will continue to apply through CAO using CAS and other linked FETAC awards.

A new scoring system for eligible FETAC applicants

A new scoring system for FETAC awards will apply for entry through CAO to higher education from 2013. This scoring system will apply to all relevant FETAC level 5 and 6 awards listed on the CAO and higher education institution website.

Applicants submit their third level applications to CAO by 1 February 2013. (1 May for late applications, consult CAO handbook). FETAC results issue to CAO and the participating institutions in July.

Rules for eligibility

- Progression is on the basis of achieving a Level 5 or 6 major award, with a minimum credit value of 120. Component awards, or achievement of less than 120 credits, will not suffice.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their FETAC registered centre applies to FETAC for a major award prior to application to CAO.
- A major award may be achieved over more than one year. Some institutions require that an applicant's major award must be achieved and /or scored in a single sitting i.e. over one certification year, between 1 August and 31 July. Applicants should refer to the individual institutions requirements in this regard.
- In addition some programmes in higher education require achievement of specified component awards, specific grades in individual component awards, or additional awards such as mathematics. Applicants are advised to confirm details of any specific requirements with the CAO and with the Admissions Office of the individual higher education institution.

Scoring Process

Each level 5 and /level 6 component is scored by CAO as follows:

- 3.333 for a Distinction
- 2.222 for a Merit and
- 1.111 for a Pass grade

This is then multiplied by the individual component credit value to a maximum 120 credits, a total of 400 points.

For components with a credit value of less than 5 credits, multiply the credit value by 15.

Components leading to the best 120 credits are scored and applicants are ranked accordingly. The best 120 credits come from minor awards achieved with the highest grades.

The transcript for Major awards lists the award code and title, grade and date of achievement for individual components required for the major award, and for any components achieved in any other certification period. FETAC forwards all relevant results achieved by applicants to the CAO.

This scoring system replaces that of the original higher education links scheme and that of the 'pilot' scheme, and applies to **all** results achieved from 2013.

Some applicants will combine components achieved prior to the introduction of CAS with others which are part of CAS. The scoring is managed by CAO according to the system above.

Level 5 and 6 (NCVA) Certificates, i.e. major awards, achieved before the introduction of CAS are also scored according to the system outlined above.

To view the list of FETAC (NCVA) awards, please view the leaflet 'Progression for FETAC Level 5 Certificates and Level 6 Certificates' on http://www.fetac.ie/fetac/documents/Prog_HEC_2011.pdf

To map FETAC awards to new CAS awards, please view the 'Level 5 and 6 Information Note' http://www.fetac.ie/fetac/documents/Managing_Transition_to_CAS_L5_L6_Info_Note_June_12.pdf

It is the responsibility of all learners to check the website of the relevant higher education institution for specific links and or requirements.

Note: FETAC is amalgamating with HETAC, IUQB and NQAI to form a new single national agency. It is expected that this agency will be established in autumn 2012. Awards will continue to be made by the new agency.