

Can a student go to Further Education and Training?

Yes. The Leaving Certificate Applied is accepted for a wide range of apprenticeships and Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses at FETAC Level 5. This includes apprenticeships in diverse sectors such as hospitality, construction, logistics, laboratory science, hair & beauty, financial services and motor industry along with other vocational training awards.

Can a student go to Higher Education?

Graduates of Leaving Certificate Applied do not have direct access to Higher Education through the Central Applications Office (CAO). However, achieving an appropriate further education award e.g. FETAC Level 5 may provide access for those who wish to progress to Higher Education.

Who should consider Leaving Certificate Applied?

Students who excel in **hands-on learning** settings where their efforts lead to tangible outcomes.

Students who benefit from **continuous assessment**, project based learning and a supportive classroom environment.

Students who want a clear path into **further education, apprenticeships, or employment**.

Students who want to build the foundations for **lifelong learning**, gaining **real-world skills** and confidence that will support them in education, work, and personal growth for years to come.

Recent Changes

Students engaging with Leaving Certificate Applied may also access Leaving Certificate Established (LCE) Mathematics and/or Modern Foreign Languages. Students can either study LCE Mathematics instead of LCA Mathematical Applications or study LCE Mathematics in addition to LCA Mathematical Applications. Similarly, students may study a LCE Modern Foreign Language in addition to the LCA programme.

Senior Cycle Social Personal and Health Education Curriculum

The new specification for SPHE will replace Social Education modules 1 and 4 of the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme and this change will apply for all LCA students entering 5th year/Year 1 in the 2025/26 academic year. The other four modules in Social Education will remain as they are currently (until reviewed and/or updated).



Website: www.oide.ie
Contact: lca@oide.ie
Follow us on X [@Oide_LCA](#)



Oide

Senior Cycle Redevelopment

Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

Information Leaflet

What is Leaving Certificate Applied?

The Leaving Certificate Applied programme is a two year Leaving Certificate available to students who wish to follow a practical Leaving Certificate programme with a vocational focus. LCA offers a structured yet flexible curriculum built around three main elements: Vocational Preparation, Vocational Education, and General Education.

What is different about Leaving Certificate Applied?

It is a practical Leaving Certificate programme which places particular emphasis on preparation for the world of work and life-long learning.

Work experience is a significant component of the programme and students get to sample a range of jobs and get first hand experience of the world of work.

The learning experiences provide opportunities for students to apply their knowledge, skills and experience to real life situations in the school, in the workplace and in the wider community.

The programme provides a wealth of opportunities which enhance the self esteem and confidence of students.

There is less emphasis on the final examinations as course work is assessed throughout the two years and students gain credits as they go along.



What are 'credits'?

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a single award made on the basis of credits accumulated over four sessions and in final examinations.

There are 200 credits available in total which are awarded as follows:

68 credits	34%	Key assignments and 90% attendance
74 credits	37%	7 student tasks (project work)
58 credits	29%	6 final examinations

Awarding Criteria for the Leaving Certificate Applied

The Leaving Certificate Applied is awarded at three levels:

Pass	120-139 credits	60-69%
Merit	140-169 credits	70-84%
Distinction	170-200 credits	85-100%

What are 'electives'?

Schools must provide four elective modules for which credit will be given. Schools may choose from the suite of modules and courses available, including courses/modules in Science and Religious Education.

Schools decide on electives and vocational specialisms based on student needs and interests.

What courses (subjects) are offered in Leaving Certificate Applied?

Arts Education
Elective Modules
English and Communication
Gaeilge Chumarsáideach
Information and Communication Technology
Leisure and Recreation
Mathematical Applications
Modern Language
Social Education
Vocational Preparation and Guidance

In addition to the above, schools choose two vocational specialism options from the following list:

Active Leisure Studies
Agriculture/Horticulture
Childcare/Community Care
Craft and Design
Engineering
Graphics and Construction Studies
Hair and Beauty
Hotel Catering and Tourism
Information and Communication Technology
Office Administration and Customer Care
Technology

NB: A Vocational Specialism is a practical course or area of study that students choose to focus on, allowing them to develop skills and knowledge relevant to specific careers.