Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland

BSc in Science Education [BSc(Ed)] UCC
Frequently Asked Questions 2/6/'22

This information sheet has been designed to answer questions that have been frequently asked by students about the programme. The official documentation provided by UCC contains the definitive rules and regulations and all prospective science education students are recommended to read this documentation on the UCC website.
The main information that is available for the BSc(Ed) is summarised as follows**:**

1. An overall summary of the programme may be found at:
https://www.ucc.ie/en/ck402/science-ed/

2. This document of *Frequently Asked Questions* may be downloaded from the School of Education UCC website at:
https://www.ucc.ie/en/education/programme/faqs/#bsc-in-science-education-queries

3. A short talk (20 mins approx.) on the BSc(Ed) degree may be viewed at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yNP9B_3Fdk

4. The UCC College Calendar with information on the BSc Science Education programme:
http://www.ucc.ie/calendar/science/sci006b.html

5. UCC College Calendar containing information of first year science programmes and degree outlets: http://www.ucc.ie/calendar/science/sci002.html#CK402

6. UCC Book of Modules containing details of each module (short course) covered within the overall programme: http://www.ucc.ie/modules/

7. The UCC online college prospectus of the BSc(Ed) (p. 342 - 343) may be viewed at:
https://www.ucc.ie/en/study/undergrad/downloadprospectus/

8. The subjects that you study in first year when you enter the BSc(Ed) programme via CK402 (Biological and Chemical Sciences) or CK404 (Biological Earth and Environmental Science) or CK406 (Chemical Sciences) or CK408 (Physics and Astrophysics) may be viewed at:
http://www.ucc.ie/calendar/science/sci002.html

It will be helpful to remember when reading the answers to the following questions that one full year of student workload is equivalent to 60 ECTS credits. All credits referred to in this document refer to ECTS credits as this is the system used throughout the European Union. (Some universities in the UK use a different system called CAT credits)

Note: If you already have a degree (level 7 or level 8) and wish to become a qualified science teacher, you may enter the programme in year 3. Further details of this Direct Entry route are given in the answer to Q29 in this document.

1. How do I become a qualified science teacher?
There are two main routes to becoming a qualified science teacher:

1. You undertake a BSc(Ed) degree in which you study both science and education as part of the degree. The BSc in Science Education degree, BSc(Ed) in UCC is an example of this type of degree. This route is often referred to as the **concurrent model** of teacher training. The BSc Science Education degree in UCC was initiated in 2001. It was entitled the *BSc Education in the Physical Sciences* initially (since students specialised in the Physical Sciences, i.e. Physics and Chemistry) but this name was changed to *BSc Science Education* in 2013 to facilitate the introduction of a biology stream into the programme.

2. You undertake a BSc degree followed by a two-year course called the *Professional Master of Education* (PME). In former years, the PME course was called the *Professional Diploma in Education* (PDE) and *Higher Diploma in Education* (HDE). This route of a BSc degree followed by a teaching qualification is often referred to as the **consecutive model** of teacher training.

2. How long does it take to become a fully qualified science teacher via the BSc Science Education route?
It takes 4 years via the BSc(Ed) route. At the end of this four year period, you will be fully qualified to teach your specialist subject to Leaving Certificate level and also to teach Biology, Chemistry and Physics to Junior Certificate level, i.e. to teach Junior cycle Science.

3. How long does it take to become a qualified science teacher via the BSc + PME route?
It takes 6 years to qualify as a science teacher via the BSc + PME route, i.e. 4 years studying for the BSc degree and two years for the PME.

4. Is the BSc(Ed) degree in UCC recognised by the Teaching Council?
Yes, the degree is fully recognised by the Teaching Council. The report of the Teaching Council on the degree may be viewed at:
http://www.teachingcouncil.ie/review-and-professional-accreditation-of-existing-programmes-of-ite/completed-reviews.4592.html

5. If I graduate with the BSc in Science Education from UCC, will I be a fully qualified science teacher?
Yes, you will be a fully qualified science teacher when you graduate with the BSc Science Education degree and you do not have to gain a further qualification in order to be recognised as a qualified science teacher by the Teaching Council.

6. Do I have to undertake the PME (Professional Master of Education) course when the BSc(Ed) is completed?
No. Graduates of the BSc(Ed) are fully qualified science teachers and do not need to undertake the PME course.

7. How do I apply for the BSc in Science Education programme in UCC?
There are four entry routes into the programme. These are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Routes into BSc(Ed) degree

CAO Code	Name
CK402	Biological and Chemical Sciences
CK404	Biological Earth and Environmental Sciences
CK406	Chemical Sciences
CK408	Physics and Astrophysics

The points requirement for entry to each route varies from year to year. The points requirement for last year's entry may be found at :
https://www.ucc.ie/en/study/undergrad/entryreqs/

Once you have obtained a place in first year, you are guaranteed a place in second year subject to the usual requirements of successful completion of first year exams, Garda Vetting, fitness to practice, etc.
Towards the end of first year (usually in early March), all first year students in the above streams will receive an email from the BSc(Ed) programme coordinator inviting you to attend an information session for those who intend to register for the BSc(Ed) programme in second year. At this meeting, you will receive all the information you need about the second year programme - particularly about school placement and Garda vetting.

You register online for the programme at the beginning of second year. You do not have to decide which modules to take as a "ready made" package of modules has already been decided for you to ensure that the degree is fully recognised by the Teaching Council. Also, do not worry about the apparent imbalance in modules between semester 1 and 2 as the Teaching Placement can bridge both semesters. Also, the two education modules in second year are assessed through continuous assessment so there are no terminal exams in these modules.

Note 1: If you enter through CK406 (Chemical Sciences) you must choose either Option 1 or Option 2 in first year as both of these options involve a minimum of 10 credits of Physics, 10 credits of chemistry and 10 credits of Biology in first year as this is a requirement of the Teaching Council for recognition to teach Junior Certificate Science. (Option 3 for first year of the CK406 entry route does not include Biology as a subject and therefore does not lead to a BSc Science Education degree but does lead to a degree in Chemistry or Chemical Physics)

Note 2: If you enter through CK408 (Physics and Astrophysics) you must choose chemistry and biology modules as a minimum of 10 credits of Physics, 10 credits of chemistry and 10 credits of Biology in first year as this is a requirement of the Teaching Council for recognition to teach Junior Certificate Science. Full details of the alternative choice of subjects which do not include Chemistry and /or Biology are given in the UCC College Calendar. These alternative choices lead to degrees in Astrophysics, Physics, Chemical Physics (chemistry modules compulsory), Physics and Mathematics, Physics and Applied Mathematics but not to the BSc Science Education degree.

8. Why is there not a CAO entry route into the BSc(Ed) degree in UCC directly from Leaving Certificate?

The programme is specifically designed to give more flexibility to students. In your first year at university you undertake a broad introduction to science and undertake the same introductory course as students studying chemistry, physics, biology and mathematics. You then have a choice at the end of first year as to whether you wish to pursue a BSc degree (i.e. all subjects studied are science subjects) or a BSc(Ed) degree (i.e. the subjects studied are a mixture of science and education).

If the BSc(Ed) programme in UCC were designed as an entry programme directly from Leaving Certificate via CAO, you would not have the flexibility described above as you would have already been registered for a degree in science education and have begun the study of education in first year. The model we use in UCC allows you time to settle into college, experience the study of chemistry, physics, biology and mathematics at university level and then decide on your career pathway at the end of first year. In a very small number of cases, students who registered for the BSc(Ed) in second year discovered when they began teaching practice at the beginning of second year that they were not suited to a career in teaching and then quickly transferred from the BSc(Ed) programme to the BSc programme. This transfer is possible since BSc(Ed) students follow the same programme in first year as the BSc students.

9. What choices do I have to make at the end of first year?

When you have completed the first year science programme in UCC, if you decide that you wish to pursue a career in science teaching, you may register for the BSc Science Education degree at the beginning of second year.

There are three routes within the BSc(Ed) degree. In Route I you specialise in the study of chemistry, in Route II you specialise in the study of physics and in route III you specialise in the study of biology. The route you are allowed to choose in second year depends on the CAO entry code as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Second year routes available in BScEd degree

CAO Code in first year	Route available in second year
CK402 (Biological and Chemical Sciences).	Route I (Chemistry) or Route III (Biology)
CK404 (Biological Earth and Environmental Sciences).	Route III (Biology)
CK406 (Chemical Sciences).	Route I (Chemistry)

CK408 (Physics and Astrophysics)	Route II (Physics)

The modules within each route have already been chosen for you and approved by the Teaching Council. Hence, once you register for any one route, the "ready made" package of modules automatically leads to recognition by the Teaching Council.

10. I wish to gain a qualification to teach Leaving Certificate Chemistry and Junior Certificate Science, what CAO route should I choose?
You should apply through either CK402 or CK406.

11. I wish to gain a qualification to teach Leaving Certificate Physics and Junior Certificate Science, what CAO route should I choose?
You should apply through CK408.

12. I wish to gain a qualification to teach Leaving Certificate Biology and Junior Certificate Science, what CAO route should I choose?
You should apply through either CK402 or CK404.

13. What subjects will I be studying in first year?
All students study a common core of the subjects chemistry, physics, biology and mathematics in first year. The amount of credits studied in each subject depends on the CAO entry stream, e.g. CK402 students take 15 credits of chemistry whilst CK404 students take 10 credits of chemistry. Full details may be found at:
http://www.ucc.ie/calendar/science/sci002.html#CK402

14. Why does the route available in second year depend on the CAO entry in first year?
In order to specialise in one of the routes in second year, you need a good foundation in that specific subject area in first year. For example, students who enter via CK408 (Physics and Astrophysics) undertake 20 ECTS credits of Physics in first year as this is necessary for the detailed study of physics in second year. Students in the other entry streams do not undertake as many credits of physics in first year.

15. What subjects will I be studying in second year, third year and fourth year?
Students in Route I (Chemistry) study 30 credits of Chemistry and 30 credits of Education in both second year and third year.
Students in Route II (Physics) study 30 credits of Physics and 30 credits of Education in both second year and third year.
Students in Route III (Biology) study 30 credits of Biology and 30 credits of Education in both second year and third year.
In fourth year, all students study 60 credits of Education.
Full details of all modules studied in the programme are given in the UCC College Calendar. http://www.ucc.ie/calendar/science/sci006b.html

16. Do I have to study all three science subjects as part of the BSc Science education programme?
Yes you must study chemistry, physics and biology in the BSc Science Education programme in first year. The Teaching Council specifies that you must accumulate a minimum of 10 ECTS credits in biology, 10 ECTS credits in chemistry and 10 ECTS credits in physics in order to be recognised to teach Junior Certificate Science.

17. What subject will I be recognised to teach to Leaving Certificate level by the Teaching Council?
You will re recognised to teach the subject in which you have specialised in the BSc(Ed), i.e. students who have followed Route I (Chemistry) will be recognised to teach Chemistry to Leaving Certificate level, students who have followed Route II (Physics) will be recognised to teach Physics to Leaving Certificate level and students who have followed Route III (Biology) will be recognised to teach Biology to Leaving Certificate level.

It is important to remember that it is only necessary to have ONE science subject to honours degree level in order to be considered for recognition by the Teaching Council of Ireland. For example, your specialist science subject may be in chemistry. Therefore, your recognition by the Teaching Council will be in that subject, i.e. you will be formally recognised to teach chemistry and Junior Certificate Science However, once you take up a position in a school, you may be asked to teach biology or physics as well as chemistry. This depends on the needs of the particular school.

18. It is possible to be recognised to teach TWO science subjects within a four-year BSc Science Education degree?
Under the regulations published by the Teaching Council in 2011, it is not possible to gain recognition to teach two science subjects within a four-year BSc Science Education degree.

19. Can you give me a detailed explanation as to why it is not possible within a four-year BSc(Ed) degree to become qualified to teach TWO science subjects to Leaving Certificate level?
In the publication *Initial Teacher Education: Criteria and Guidelines for Programme Providers* (Teaching Council, August 2011), clear guidelines are provided for institutions involved in teacher training. Using the criteria outlined in the above publication, it is clear that it is **not** possible for a third level institution to award a qualification to a student undertaking a four-year concurrent BSc(Ed) degree to enable that student to be recognised by the Teaching Council to teach **two** science subjects to Leaving Certificate standard. The reason for this may be understood by reference to page 11 of the above Teaching Council publication. The Teaching Council criteria for the four-year concurrent degree are summarised in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Teaching Council specifications for four-year concurrent model of teacher education

	Subject Discipline	**Foundation Studies and Professional Studies**	**School Placement**	**Total**
Time allocation	50%	25%	25%	100%
No. of ECTS credits	120	60	60	240 ECTS credits

If you study the above table it is clear that the Teaching Council criteria require third level institutions to ensure that student accumulate a total of 120 ECTS credits in the Subject Discipline. According to the Teaching Councils guidelines for Leaving Certificate Science subjects, in order to be recognised to teach Leaving Certificate Physics or Chemistry or Biology, a graduate must have accumulated a minimum of 60 ECTS credits in each specialist subject. In addition, to be recognised to teach the Junior Certificate Science curriculum (consisting of Physics, Chemistry and Biology in equal amounts) a graduate must have accumulated a minimum of 10 ECTS credits in both of the non- specialist science subjects. For example, a graduate recognised to teach Physics, must also accumulate 10 ECTS credits in each of the subjects Biology and Chemistry. These "non-specialist" subjects are usually studied in the first year of a third level BSc(Ed) programme. Thus, subtracting the 60 credits (specialist subject) and the two non-specialist subjects (10 + 10 = 20 credits), from the Teaching Council's requirement of 120 credits, one is left with only 40 credits of the subject discipline to be allocated.

In an age where science teachers have to integrate literacy and numeracy into the teaching of science, it would be unthinkable that a person could qualify as a teacher of science without some study of Mathematics at university, e.g. in UCC all BSc(Ed) students accumulate a minimum of 10 ECTS credits in Mathematics in first year. Hence, the inclusion of a minimum of 10 ECTS credits in Mathematics brings the total number of Subject Discipline credits remaining for allocation down to only 30 credits. This is not sufficient to qualify a teacher to be recognised by the Teaching Council to teach a second subject to Leaving Certificate level. In UCC, these 30 credits are allocated to science subjects at first year level to give the students as good a foundation as possible in order to undertake 30 credits of the specialist subject in second year and 30 credits of the specialist subject in third year. As already explained, the BSc Science Education in UCC consists of three specialist routes (Chemistry or Physics or Biology). Students select one of the routes and each route consists of a minimum of 60 credits in the specialist subject. Hence graduates of the BSc Science Education fulfil all the requirements of the Teaching Council for recognition to teach one of these specialist subjects to Leaving Certificate level as well as recognition to teach Junior Certificate Science.

20. How do I gain a qualification to teach a second science subject to Leaving Certificate level?
In UCC it is possible to undertake a two-year part time programme called the Masters in Science Education in which additional modules in physics, chemistry and biology may be undertaken to fulfil shortfalls identified by the Teaching Council. Full details of this programme are available at http://www.ucc.ie/en/education/post/taughtmed/medscience/

In addition, after qualifying with the BSc(Ed) degree you could take additional undergraduate modules as an occasional student in order to satisfy shortfalls identified by the Teaching Council.

In the case of Direct Entry students, in the past it has been possible for them to take additional modules in their first year of their two years in UCC in order to satisfy any shortfalls. If you are in this category, please contact Dr Declan Kennedy (d.kennedy@ucc.ie) who will discuss this option with you.

21. Can I take additional modules while I am an undergraduate student undertaking the BSc(Ed) in UCC in order to gain a qualification to teach a second Leaving Certificate subject?

No this is not possible to take extra modules in any one year as the maximum number of ECTS credits that can be taken in any one year is 60 credits. The Bologna Process limits undergraduate degrees to 180 – 240 ECTS credits (http://www.eua.be/eua-work-and-policy-area/building-the-european-higher-education-area/bologna-basics/Bologna-an-overview-of-the-main-elements.aspx)
It is important to remember that 1 ECTS credit corresponds to a student workload of 25 – 30 hours (http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/docs/ects-guide_en.pdf)
Thus, 60 credits over the year corresponds to 1500 – 1800 hours workload for students. Taking into account the academic year (e.g. 24 weeks) and time for examinations (e.g. 4 weeks), 60 ECTS credits corresponds to a weekly workload of 1500 – 1800 hours divided by 28, i.e. equivalent to 54 – 64 hours per week. It would be most unfair on students to expect them to work more than this number of hours without lowering the standard of the degree.

22. How do I decide whether I should take the BSc + PME route or the BSc(Ed) route?
It is important to realise that at the present time, it is difficult for science graduates to obtain a place on the PME (Professional Master of Education) unless you have a good honours degree. Places on the PME are allocated by the Postgraduate Applications Centre (PAC) and take no account of subjects that are in demand by schools but simply allocate places on the basis of marks. Therefore, you must think carefully at the end of your first year at university about whether you wish to pursue a teaching qualification via the BSc + PME route or the BSc(Ed) route. Discuss your options with the Guidance Counsellor in your school, the Careers Service in UCC or feel free to contact Dr Declan Kennedy, BSc(Ed) programme Coordinator (d.kennedy@ucc.ie).

23. If I qualify as a science teacher via the BSc + PME route would I be qualified to teach two subjects?
If one examines the modules studied in each year of a typical honours BSc degree, it is clear that there is a high degree of specialisation in honours BSc degrees. It is not possible to undertake an honours degree in both chemistry and biology or an honours degree in both physics and chemistry or an honours degree in both physics and biology. Honours BSc degrees are specialist degrees in either chemistry or physics or biology.

24. How does the Teaching Practice Placement component of the BSc(Ed) programme operate?
The Education modules in second and third year BSc(Ed) may be summarised as follows:

Second year
ED2101 Science Education I (15 credits)
ED2102 Teaching Practice Placement Science Education I (15 credits)

Third Year
ED3101 Science Education II (15 credits)
ED3102 Teaching Practice Placement Science Education II (15 credits)

Note that in second year and third year you participate in Teaching Practice Placement where you gain experience of science teaching.

In second year, Teaching Placement usually begins in late September or early October. This enables you to attend some lectures in Education to prepare you for Teaching Placement. It also enables you to finalise your timetable of science lectures, education lectures, practicals, tutorials, etc. so that you can show the school when you are free to fit in your Teaching Placement lessons. The lessons that you teach during Teaching Placement are fitted in around UCC lectures and lab practical work. Under no circumstances can you skip lectures or other UCC activities to undertake Teaching placement.

Teaching placement takes place in local secondary schools (usually in Cork City and country) over a 10 week period and involves direct teaching of 2 hours per week (usually 3 × 40 minute lessons) + 1 hour of mentoring in the school. During this time you will receive two visits from your Teaching Practice supervisor.

Fourth Year
In fourth year, all modules are Education modules. Full details of these modules are given in the UCC College Calendar. In fourth year, the school placement module (ED4102) involves you teaching over the entire school year in a school within a 30 mile radius of UCC for 4 hours per week (usually 6 × 40 minute periods) or a minimum of 100 hours over the year. In addition, you will be involved in various associated activities in school. You will receive five supervised visits from your Teaching Practice supervisors during this time. In fourth year, your lectures in UCC will take place on Tuesday afternoons (2 – 6 p.m.), all day on Weds (9 – 6 p.m.) and on Thursday afternoons (2 – 6 p.m.). Thus you

are free to teach all day on Monday, Tuesday 9 – 1 p.m., Thursday 9 – 1 p.m. and all day on Friday.
Note: Payment is not made for teaching hours that fall within the compulsory minimum number of hours per week specified above. However, if you engage in additional teaching above the minimum number of hours, it may be possible to receive payment from your teaching placement school if funding is available.

25. Is the BSc(Ed) a route to qualification as a teacher of Mathematics?
No. To become a qualified teacher of Mathematics you must have studied mathematics to degree level.

26. How is the BSc(Ed) course assessed?
The course is assessed by means of terminal written examinations and continuous assessment. All Education modules are examined by means of continuous assessment. Details of the assessment of each individuals module are given on the UCC website http://www.ucc.ie/modules/

27. Is there a restriction on the number of students allowed to enter the BSc(Ed) in second year.
No, all students who have passed their first year examinations and who wish to enter the BSc(Ed) in second year are allocated a place on the BSc(Ed) programme.

28. If I find at the beginning of second year that I do not like teaching, is it possible to change back to mainstream BSc course.
In a very small number of cases, students may find that they do not enjoy classroom teaching when they go on Teaching Placement. Since Teaching Placement in second years occurs in the first term, this gives you the opportunity to get a "taste of teaching". If you find that you do not like teaching, contact the Programme Co-ordinator who will assist you in the application to transfer to the mainstream BSc.

29. What is the "Direct Entry" route into the BSc(Ed)?
This entry route is designed for graduates of Physics or Chemistry or Biology or Agricultural Science or Computer Studies who wish to teach their specialist subject(s) to the highest standard at secondary school level. Applicants who hold a degree (at least NFQ Level 7) in Physics or Chemistry or Biology or Agricultural Science or Computer Studies which satisfies the requirements of the Teaching Council for recognition to teach the subject to the highest level in secondary school or an equivalent qualification may enter this programme in Third Year and take **ED2101, ED2102, ED3101** and **ED3102** in Third Year before proceeding to Fourth Year. Students who enter the programme via this route must pass **ED2101**, **ED2102**, **ED3101** and **ED3102** in Third Year before proceeding to Fourth Year.

To facilitate direct entry students, in third year all lectures, tutorials, laboratory practicals, etc are held on Weds evenings in UCC from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. In addition, in third year you will participate in Teaching Placement in a local school (3 × 40 min periods). In third

year you will receive four supervision visits from your Teaching Placement supervisor during the year.

In fourth year, the school placement module (ED4102) involves you teaching over the entire school year in a school within a 30 mile radius of UCC for 4 hours per week (usually 6 × 40 minute periods) or a minimum of 100 hours over the year. In addition, you will be involved in various associated activities in school. You will receive four supervised visits from your Teaching Practice supervisors during this time. In fourth year, your lectures in UCC will take place on Tuesday afternoons (2 – 6 p.m.), all day on Weds (9 – 6 p.m.) and on Thursday afternoons (2 – 6 p.m.). Thus you are free to teach all day on Monday, Tuesday 9 – 1 p.m., Thursday 9 – 1 p.m. and all day on Friday.
An application form to enter the BSc(Ed) degree via the Direct Entry route may be obtained from the Admissions Office UCC ((**admissions@ucc.ie**) or may be downloaded from http://www.ucc.ie/en/study/undergrad/how/

Completed application forms to enter the BSc(Ed) Direct Entry route must be submitted to the Undergraduate Admissions Office, West Wing, UCC, Tel (021) 4903571. The closing date for applications is usually mid June but it may be possible to get a late application accepted if there are any vacancies still available after the closing date. Once your application is officially approved and you are set up on the students' database and the fee paid, you will be registered in August prior to the commencement of the programme. If you have any queries about the Direct Entry route, please contact the Programme Director (d.kennedy@ucc.ie).

If you are currently in third year of a level 7 degree programme, please wait until you have your academic transcript confirming that you have passed your level 7 degree before you apply for a place on the programme via the Direct Entry route. If you do not have your exam results before the closing date, you may submit your application as soon as possible after the closing date.

If you are entering the BScEd programme via the Direct Entry route from a level 7 programme, the fee is €5400 in third year and €3130 in fourth year. (The fee is lower in fourth year as you have not undertaken a fourth year in your undergraduate degree previously and UCC can claim the tuition fees from the Government on your behalf). This amount of €3130 includes the student contribution fee of €3000 and the capitation fee of €130.

If you are entering the BScEd programme via the Direct Entry route from a level 8 programme, the fee is €5400 in third year and €5400 in fourth year.

If you identify any shortfalls in your qualifications for recognition by the Teaching Council, please contact the Programme Director to discuss taking additional modules to satisfy these shortfalls. There is no extra charge to the above fees for additional modules undertaken by you to satisfy Teaching Council requirements.

Note re possible shortfalls in your science modules to satisfy Teaching Council requirements:
In former years the Teaching Council provided a service that enabled Direct Entry students to submit their qualifications to the Teaching Council for prior approval before entering the BSc(Ed) degree. This service is no longer provided by the Teaching Council. Hence, it is important that you are aware that the onus is on you to ensure that you meet the subject requirements for registration with the Teaching Council after graduation. The subject requirements may be found at:
https://www.teachingcouncil.ie/en/news-events/latest-news/curricular-subject-requirements.pdf

Please study the subject requirements for your own specialist area and check that you satisfy these requirements. Please note that it is recommended that you have a minimum of 10 ECTS credits in biology, 10 ECTS credits in chemistry and 10 ECTS credits in physics to assist you to teach Junior Cycle science.

If you identify any shortfalls in your qualifications, please contact the Programme Director to discuss taking additional modules to satisfy these shortfalls. Since your education lectures in third year take place on Weds evenings, then third year is a good time to make up any shortfalls identified by you. Requests for registration for additional modules must be made through the Programme Director.

If the Teaching Council identifies any shortfalls after you have graduated, then you will be required to make up for these shortfalls as specified by the Teaching Council.

30. I have successfully completed a first year science course in another third level institution. Is it possible to transfer into second year of the BSc Science Education degree in UCC?

Information about transferring from one institution to another ("Advanced Entry") is available at

https://www.ucc.ie/en/study/undergrad/entryreqs/transferadvancedentry/

Advanced entry is **not** processed by the Programme Director of the BSc Science Education degree but rather by CAO.

31. What is the situation about Garda vetting?
All teachers and student teachers have to undergo Garda vetting. Thus, you will have to complete a form that will be sent to you by the UCC Garda vetting office (**studentgardavetting@ucc.ie**) of the Admissions Office UCC who will arrange Garda vetting for you. To avoid any delays in starting your Teaching Placement in second year, it is recommended that you contact the UCC Garda vetting office in June, prior to commencing second year to arrange for your Garda Vetting to be carried out. Please be aware that any delays in completing Garda Vetting may result in a delay in commencing your Teaching Practice

32. I would like to speak to some former graduates of the BSc(Ed), is this possible?
Since the programme has been running since 2001, there are many former graduates teaching in local schools. If you wish to speak to any of these former graduates of the programme, please contact the Programme Co-ordinator (contact details below) and he will be happy to put you in touch with some of these graduates.

33. I would like to travel after doing this degree and I am wondering if it is recognised in countries outside of Ireland or are there additional courses that must be done to teach in countries outside of Ireland?
The degree is fully recognised outside of Ireland and there are no additional courses to be done in order to teach outside of Ireland.

34. If I do not obtain sufficient points to gain a place on the BSc(Ed) programme via CK402, CK404, CK406 or CK408, is it possible to obtain a place via a Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) course?

UCC has a QQI FET route that allows entry into specific Science programmes. A student would need to undertake a QQI FETAC award for a year (either 5M5267 or 5M3807) and then compete for a place on one of the science courses listed below based on the results from the QQI FETAC course.

Science Education is available through the following UCC programmes:
CK402 3 places (for QQI FETAC)
CK404 5 places (for QQI FETAC)
CK406 2 places (for QQI FETAC)
CK408 2 places (for QQI FETAC)

There are certain requirements that will need to be meet and places are allocated on a competitive basis on a quota basis as indicated above.

The entry requirements for the above mentioned CK programmes are common for all of these and are as follows:

Entry Route:

Code	Title	Old Code
5M5267	Food Science	CASFX
5M3807	Laboratory Techniques	CASLT

With Distinctions* (i.e. 80% or greater) in 5 modules which must include the following modules:

Module Code	Module Code	Module Title
5N1833/6N3395/5N0556	5N1833/6N3395/5N0556	Mathematics/Mathematics for STEM
And one from	**And one from**	
5N2746/5N0737	5N2746/5N0737	Biology/Microbiology
5N2747	5N2747	Chemistry
5N1460	5N1460	Physics

**(5N1356/6N1946 Work Experience and 5N1433/6N1947 Work Practice cannot be used as one of the required distinctions but will be allowed for scoring purposes - also W20008).*

All of these details, updates and further information is available on http://www.ucc.ie/en/study/undergrad/fetac/

35. Is there any video clip summarising the BSc(Ed) programme?
A short (18 min) video clip was produced for a conference of Career Guidance Counsellors in UCC and this may be viewed at:
http://www.ucc.ie/en/education/und/bsced/

If you have any questions which are not answered in this information sheet, please contact:
Dr Declan Kennedy, Programme Coordinator,
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Tel: (021) 4903469