

## **Mature Age Entry to CK704 Occupational Therapy Application and Selection Procedure**

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### **Introduction**

- The Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at UCC welcomes mature applicants to its four year full-time undergraduate Occupational Therapy degree programme.
- Five places are allocated for mature applicants each year. Competition is very high for these places.
- The information detailed below describes the selection procedure and will assist you in making your application.
- Before applying on mature grounds, if you require further information you should contact the Admissions Office or Mature Students Officer at UCC well in advance of application closing dates.
- **Applicants are strongly advised to contact local practising Occupational Therapists and research relevant websites and books when considering Occupational Therapy as a career.**

### **Minimum requirements:**

To be considered as a Mature Student, you must be 23 years of age or over on or before 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year of proposed entry.

Applicants must have achieved a minimum Higher Level C3 (H4 if presenting from 2017 onwards) in a Laboratory Science subject in the Leaving Certificate, or equivalent (e.g. 'Anatomy and Physiology QQI/FETAC Level 5'). Evidence of how this entry requirement has been met should be included in the application form. Most students will find that having Biology at Leaving Certificate level or equivalent will be advantageous in their subsequent Occupational Therapy studies.

### **Stage One: Screening and Shortlisting of CAO Applications**

Applications are reviewed to ensure minimum requirements are met.

CAO application forms are assessed under three headings:

1. Educational background
2. Relevant life / work experience
3. Personal statement

*Educational background:* A score of up to 5 points is awarded on the basis of evidence of prior formal learning and academic success in a relevant subject area.

*Relevant life / work experience:* A score of up to 5 points is awarded for relevant experience including work experience associated with the life sciences, social sciences, health sciences, physical sciences and / or life experience including experience of parenting or caring for the disadvantaged, ill or infirm.

*Personal statement:* A score of up to 5 points is awarded for the personal statement which should include strong evidence of:

- motivation to study Occupational Therapy

- knowledge of the Occupational Therapy course / profession
- ability to express ideas / concepts
- preparedness to commence a full time degree programme
- excellent presentation, including spelling and grammar

### **Stage Two: Interviews**

Applicants are ranked and are shortlisted to attend for interview in mid / end April.

Those who are invited to interview are required to bring a recent personal reference attesting to suitability for a career in Occupational Therapy.

Following the interview, applicants will be ranked by interview results. Five places are offered each year.

### **Notification of Decision**

All mature applicants (including those who are not successful) will receive an email decision from the UCC Admissions Office in June. The first round of mature offers will issue from the CAO in July.

### **Please note:**

- Applicants for whom English is not a first language / primary mode of expression will be required to have attained a minimum score of 6.5 in all sections of the IELTS English language proficiency examination, or equivalent.
- UCC Occupational Therapy students are subject to Garda vetting and are also subject to tests to establish health status to practise. The nature of the tests will be reviewed in line with medical best practice but are likely to include tests for Hepatitis and for TB. UCC Occupational Therapy students are also required to receive vaccinations in line with medical best practice. These may include Hepatitis and TB.

### **For further information, you can contact:**

#### **Martha Henchion/Diane Murphy Admissions Office**

West Wing  
University College Cork  
Cork  
T +353 (0)21 4902272/4903496  
E [marthahenchion@ucc.ie](mailto:marthahenchion@ucc.ie)/[diane.murphy@ucc.ie](mailto:diane.murphy@ucc.ie)  
<http://www.ucc.ie/en/ProspectiveStudents/Admissions/>

Admissions Officer:  
Jennifer Murphy  
[jennifer.murphy@ucc.ie](mailto:jennifer.murphy@ucc.ie)

#### **Mature Student Office**

1st Floor,  
1- 2 Brighton Villas,  
Western Road,  
Cork.

T +353 (0) 21 4903671

Mature Student Officer: Mary O'Sullivan [mary.osull@ucc.ie](mailto:mary.osull@ucc.ie)  
Undergraduate Links Coordinator Gary Mulcahy [g.mulcahy@ucc.ie](mailto:g.mulcahy@ucc.ie)

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