

A NEW LEARNING JOURNEY

Going to college is a big step on the road to independence for every young adult. But we appreciate this could be a first time experience for you as well as for them. Which is the best course and college? How will they adjust to college life, especially if they need to live away from home?

We believe our 'community spirit' makes LYIT a particularly welcoming place to study. A place where your son or daughter can broaden their horizons safely and independently, yet where support is available if they need it. We hope not only to enable successful careers, but also to make the journey inspiring, stimulating and enjoyable.

The first step is to decide on the right course to study, and then look for the best college to deliver that course. This guide aims to offer practical information to adjusting to life at LYIT and third level in general, to help familiarise you with this new phase in your young person's life.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT COURSE

There are several questions to ask when choosing a course. Is this an area your Leaving Cert student enjoyed at secondary school and excelled in? Will it lead to the job they have in mind? Does it offer many career choices? Is it a very specialised or general qualification?

Cost of accommodation in Letterkenny & Killybegs is less than half that of all major cities

Career prospects

Find out about the employment opportunities now and upon graduation. Is it a new sector or a well established one? Better still, talk to the people who know. LYIT connects our graduates with top quality employment opportunities around the world.

We can put you in touch with former students or those currently studying at LYIT.

See what's covered

Take a close look at the detail of the modules and make sure it's what they expect. Research shows that misconceptions about what subjects will be studied are the most likely to cause student disappointment and lack of motivation.

Interest over CAO points

Always choose a course out of genuine interest, not the points required. Some courses are very popular which drives the entry requirements up, so consider second and third preference carefully on both CAO lists also.

Budget for the financial impact

Students living away from home face extra costs of accommodation, travel and living expenses. Will they need a monthly income? This is in addition to college fees. Visit www.studentfinance.ie for information on cost of living, fees and financing third level.

Compare courses at different colleges

It's good to compare courses from different colleges. Some may have more emphasis on a particular subject, while others are recognised by specific industry bodies. Many courses include work experience, like many at LYIT.

2, 3 or 4 years?

Undecided students can begin with a 2 year Higher Certificate before committing to a 4 year Degree. At LYIT we offer many routes to achieving national recognised qualifications.

Potential for progression

Does the course offer areas of further study, such as a Masters? LYIT currently has 14 Taught Masters and Postgraduate Diplomas on offer.

Many areas to study

We have 51 CAO courses in disciplines such as engineering, sport, science, computing, nursing, health and social studies, design, business, tourism, culinary arts and law. Many of our courses have been designed with direct industry input to maximise career prospects.

Course recognition

LYIT courses lead to awards which are recognised, on the National Framework of Qualifications, from Level 6 (Higher Certificate) right up to Level 10 (PhD). Each one is tailored to job opportunities and combines academic theory with practical skills development. For a full guide of courses on offer at LYIT go to www.lyit.ie

Professional body recognition

For certain courses, LYIT has gained professional body recognition with sector specific organisations. For example:

- The Law degree at LYIT is accredited by King's Inns
- Accounting courses at LYIT attract generous exemptions from the examinations of professional accounting bodies including ICA, AAC, CPA and CIMA.
- The Quantity Surveying degree is accredited by the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (SCSI)

CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLLEGE

Just like a job, ITs and universities can be the right match for a student for different reasons. We highly recommend visiting a college in person, both on Open Days and during regular term-time. These are the key facts you should ask about:

- Student to staff ratio
- Cost and availability of accommodation
- Range of student support services
- Strength of reputation in a subject
- Transport services and links
- Campus facilities and convenient location
- Links to industry and on-site business incubation hubs

At LYIT we would be delighted to show you around our state-of-art facilities, and meet staff and students. Just contact Fiona Kelly, fiona.kelly@lyit.ie or +353 (0)74 918 6105.

LYIT 2019 Open Days
9 May Open Evening 3-7 pm
21 August Information Day
11 am - 4 pm

THE CAO

School-leavers applying on the basis of school-leaving exams from within the EU (such as Irish Leaving Cert, GCEs, QQI/FET, International Baccalaureate, etc.) and mature students must apply via CAO (Central Application Office) for entry to year 1. Each course has entry/matriculation requirements as well as required points, so make sure you know the essential subjects for a particular course. Please contact the LYIT Admissions Department at +353 (0)74 918 6000 for more information.

List your course or it's money down the drain.

Last year 4,030 people forgot to name a course on their CAO application form! Check and double check to ensure that your Leaving Certificate student has listed at least one course preference.

A full guide to the CAO process, the entry requirements for courses at LYIT, and a demonstration app can be found at www.lyit.ie **Give it a try.**

KEY DATES IN CAO PROCESS

5 November 2018	2018 Application Opens
20 Jan 2019 (5.15 pm)	Early Bird (Discounted) Applications
1 Feb 2019 (5.15 pm)	On Time Application Deadline
1 May 2019 (5.15pm)	Late Application Deadline (Increased Fee)
1 July 2019 (5.15 pm)	Change of Mind Deadline
16 August 2019	Round 1 offers available

The CAO Handbook contains vital instructions.

Download it on <http://www2.cao.ie/handbook/handbook2019/hb.pdf>

Other useful websites include:

- cao.ie
- careersportal.ie

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THIRD LEVEL?

Third level study is a totally different experience from secondary school. At school, learning is highly structured, delivered face-to-face, closely monitored and assessed via homework and exams. Learning at third level is 'active', aimed to develop independent thought and problem-solving skills. Third level students are encouraged to find information for themselves (self-directed). And, they are responsible for managing their own study and meeting assignment deadlines and exams. Other differences include:

- Exams twice a year (January and May) known as Semesterised System
- Alternative assessment methods (e.g. Continuous Assessments or Exams)
- Blended Learning /Online learning – a combination of lectures and seminars, using online networks e.g video, preparation and tasks online
- Living away from home, independence, managing study and domestic life
- The confidential education contract is primarily with the student, not the parents

GETTING OFF TO A GOOD START

- Understand that the hard graft actually begins when you start your desired college course. Sometimes students fall into the trap of thinking they've already achieved their career by getting on the course
- Allow time to get used to the learning environment before getting a part-time job
- Work day by day

- Organise timetables and set study time outside lectures
- Avoid last minute cramming when there is a tsunami of study to do
- Plan ahead - continuous assessment means continuous, ongoing over the term

** Boland & McGinty 2016, Thomas 2012*

Being aware of the new teaching and learning environment and feeling like they 'belong' are key factors in a successful transition to third level for first years.* Students with a good attendance record are more likely to succeed. But it's just as important to develop a healthy work discipline outside lectures. Some students take instantly to independent study, others are slower to adapt. Our staff are highly skilled in spotting the students who need support early on. Good habits to encourage are:

HELPING FIRST YEAR STUDENTS SETTLE IN AT LYIT

It's crucial to feel part of a community early on. We make a big effort to help first year students get to know each other and staff in the first few weeks. Although LYIT is a growing and progressive campus, we have never lost our heritage of friendliness and community.

Scholarships

LYIT currently offers four scholarships to new entrant undergraduate students (REACH, New Entrant Sports Scholarship, Optum North-West Health Care Scholarships & the 1916 Bursary Fund and two for existing students of the Institute (Full-time Sports and Clubs & Societies Scholarship). Be sure to check out these schemes as your child might be entitled to apply.

Clubs and Societies at LYIT

Clubs and societies are the perfect way to make friends and develop skills or interests, many of which could be useful for a career. LYIT has everything from sports to debating, volunteering and charities. Here are a few but there's many more:

Hill walking, Surfing Club, Sub-Aqua Club, Canoe Club, Motor Club, African Society, Frisbee Club, Music & Concerts, Soccer, Social Dance, Astronomy, Gaisce, LGBT Society, Law Society, Science Club, Tandem Club (languages), Basketball, Gaelic, Fitness Club.

Positive student/staff relations

Students and graduates consistently say how accessible and encouraging the staff are at LYIT. Students are encouraged to let academic or support staff know if they are experiencing difficulties.

Students' Union

The SU provides student support and guidance on many areas, including study advice, clubs and sports.

Learning communities

LYIT encourages "learning communities", where students can offer support to each other in first year. Peer-to-peer learning develops many other skills too, meeting new people, teamwork and exploring new ways to learn.

Student Support Services

We take a proactive approach to student care with practical student support services education and a Learning & Development Module in most first year courses which covers:

- Learning styles
- Academic writing skills
- Team-working skills
- Presentation skills
- Research skills
- Referencing skills

The standard & availability of accommodation in Letterkenny & Killybegs is excellent

The Curve

The Curve offers advice and support to a diverse range of students with specific needs and from particular backgrounds. It's responsible for Learning Support and Lifelong Learning, and reflects our commitment to developing and promoting initiatives that seek to counter socio economic and learning disadvantage. They assist students with disabilities, from ethnic minorities, low income families, as well as mature students. To learn more about The Curve, contact Brian on brian.mcgonagle@lyit.ie or +353 (0)74 918 6170.

Other LYIT Student Services

- Night-time safety bus, Security nightly patrols,
- Free Health Service, Student Counselling Service, Careers Service,
- Free gym and fitness suite
- Crèche subsidy
- Maths Learning Centre
- Communications Learning Centre (one to one and group work and tutorials)
- QuickScan which all first year students undertake at LYIT to identify specific areas of learning strengths and weaknesses.

WELCOME TO THE LYIT DIFFERENCE

Our goal is to provide a rewarding student experience and strive for every student to fulfill their potential academically, but also to embrace education in the richest sense. Maybe that's one reason the student population has grown by a third since 2011. Students consistently rank the college 9/10 for overall student experience. Awarded runner up in the Sunday Times College Guide in 2018, LYIT has been recognised for its success in student engagement and teaching and was the first participant on the National Student Engagement Programme 2016 Pilot (NSTEP).

We continue to develop innovative links with industry, with industry, educational establishments, and have a strong track record of business incubation on campus. LYIT is leading the way in initiatives designed to enhance student engagement, employment and collaboration such as; **Enabling Maths initiative between LYIT and Donegal Education and Training Board; Education Partner of CLG Dhún na nGall; North West Cross Border Education Partnership; and MoU with Donegal County Council to name but a few.**

LYIT is already working hard to prepare for the challenges and opportunities that Brexit will bring.

We think it's the 'community spirit' on campus, the culture of camaraderie, a desire for everyone to achieve and the rapport, which students have with lecturers, which makes the LYIT difference. We invite you to see for yourself.

lyit IMPORTANT INFORMATION

55 x €800 REACH Scholarships awarded in 2018

LYIT Sunday Times College Award 2018

6 x €5,000 1916 Bursary Awards in 2018/19

8 x €1,000 New Entrant Sports Scholarships awarded in 2018/19

Accessible lecturers and staff

Excellent student support services

Affordable Student Accommodation

Good relationships between staff and students

Acknowledged for quality of teaching and student engagement

Use of advanced technology and virtual learning networks

Established links with industry and education, economic development and collaboration

Modern state of the art facilities including sports

North West Regional Science Park on campus, one of the largest incubation centres in Ireland

Reputation for friendly campus

Contacts

Main Reception (Letterkenny Campus)

T: +353 74 918 6000
W: www.lyit.ie

Killybegs Campus (School of Tourism)

T: + 353 74 918 6600
W: www.lyit.ie

Admissions Office

T: +353 74 918 6120 (CAO Entry)
T: +353 74 918 6125 (Direct/Advanced Entry)
E: admissions@lyit.ie

Examinations

T: +353 74 918 6124
E: exams@lyit.ie

Schools Engagement Officer

T: +353 74 918 6105
E: fiona.kelly@lyit.ie

Student Services Reception

T: +353 74 918 6855

Access/Learning Support

T: +353 71 918 6175
E: thecurve@lyit.ie

Accommodation

T: +353 74 918 6825

Careers Office

T: +353 74 918 6812
E: careers@lyit.ie

Students' Union

T: +353 74 918 6820
E: supres@lyit.ie

Health Service

T: +353 74 918 6850
E: health@lyit.ie

Counsellor

T: +353 74 918 6817
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GOING TO COLLEGE: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS