

What is the Leaving Certificate Applied?

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two-year Leaving Certificate, available to students who wish to follow a practical or vocationally orientated programme. It is one of three Leaving Certificate options offered by the Department of Education and Science.

What does "Applied" mean?

The word "applied" is used because the programme is designed to allow the students to apply the learning and experiences they gain over the two years of the programme to practical educational tasks at school, in the workplace and in the wider community.



What is different about the Leaving Certificate Applied?

The Leaving Certificate Applied is different in a number of ways:

- it is a distinct and self contained programme made up of a number of courses
- it is a practical programme that makes wide use of active and student centred learning methodologies
- it includes seven Student Tasks that bring together the different learning experiences that the students have gained from the courses they have taken
- it uses a unique system of assessment. The students' work is assessed over the two years of the programme and they gain credits as they go along. Practicals, interviews and terminal written papers are among the different forms of assessment used. The students' communication, problem solving and practical skills are also assessed.

How are students awarded credits?

As students complete their Leaving Certificate Applied course work they collect credits. It is possible to collect a total of 200 credits.

A maximum of 62 credits are awarded for completing the required courses, 70 credits for the seven Student Tasks completed over the two years, and 68 credits for the examinations at the end of Year 2. 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%)

Students who accumulate fewer than 60 credits will receive a Record of Experience.

What courses are offered in the Leaving Certificate Applied?

The programme is divided into three main areas:

(i) Vocational Preparation

Work experience is essential to this element of the programme. Students are prepared for adult and working life through a range of courses and modules including English

and Communication, Guidance, Jobsearch, Work Experience, Enterprise, Community Work, Work and Living.

(ii) Vocational Education

All students take courses in Mathematical Applications and an Introduction to Information and Communication Technology. They also choose two specialist courses from the following career related areas

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

(iii) General Education

Students experience a broader dimension to their education through courses in Arts Education, Gaeilge, Modern Languages/Sign Language, Leisure and Recreation, Social Education. Students can also take other approved elective courses such as Religious Education and Science.

Each of the courses mentioned above are designed on a modular basis. A module is of thirty hours duration. Students must take a total of 44 modules over the two-year programme.

For further information please contact

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or

The National Co-ordinator
Second Level Support Service for Schools
Blackrock Education Centre
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The National Council for Curriculum
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Can a Leaving Certificate Applied student go on to Higher Education?

Graduates of the Leaving Certificate Applied do not have direct access to Higher Education through the Central Applications Office (CAO).

However, graduates of the Leaving Certificate Applied who progress to an appropriate further education award can become eligible for admission to some third level courses in the Institutes of Technology and following that to some degree courses in the Institutes of Technology and in the Universities.

Can a student go on to further education and training?



Yes. The Leaving Certificate Applied is accepted for most Post Leaving Certificate Courses (PLCs). Completing these courses will in many cases allow a student to progress to third level Institutes of Technology. The Leaving Certificate Applied provides access to most apprenticeships.



Can a student get a job straight from school?

Yes. The programme places particular emphasis on preparation for the world of work. This Leaving Certificate is generating a good degree of interest among employers, who regard Leaving Certificate Applied students as being eligible to apply for many career vacancies in their organisations. The Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC) and the Irish Small and Medium Employers (ISME) have warmly welcomed the introduction of the Leaving Certificate Applied.

Annual surveys of Leaving Certificate Applied graduates for the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 show that on average 89% of these graduates are employed or attending further education courses in the year immediately following completion of the course.



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