

TERTIARY DIFFERENT ROUTE, SAME DEGREE



**APPLICATIONS OPEN
UNTIL MID-SEPTEMBER**



INFORMATION FOR
GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS

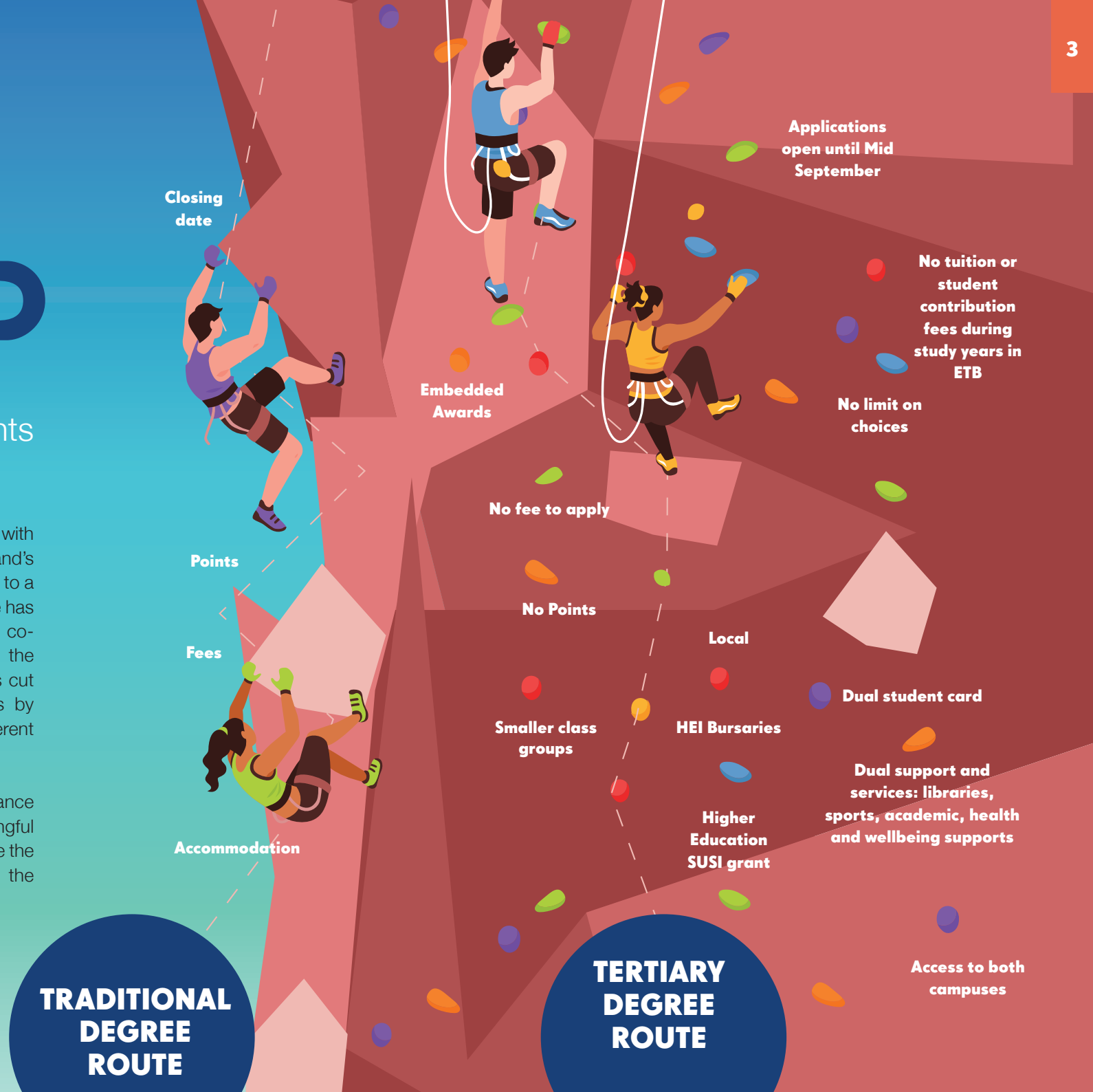


GO BEYOND

From being focused on points to being focused on people

Getting to college is just getting better and better with the introduction of the Tertiary Degree Route. Ireland's diverse population has outgrown traditional routes to a degree, and the right moment for access to evolve has arrived. Led by the National Tertiary Office and co-delivered by Higher Education Institutions and the Education and Training Boards, Tertiary Degrees cut through and create change that really matters by enabling progression across and between different institutions.

This guide has been developed for Guidance Counsellor colleagues to forge lasting, meaningful connections around these changes and to promote the points of uniqueness that are on offer through the Tertiary route.



TERTIARY DEGREES: POINTS OF UNIQUENESS FOR STUDENTS

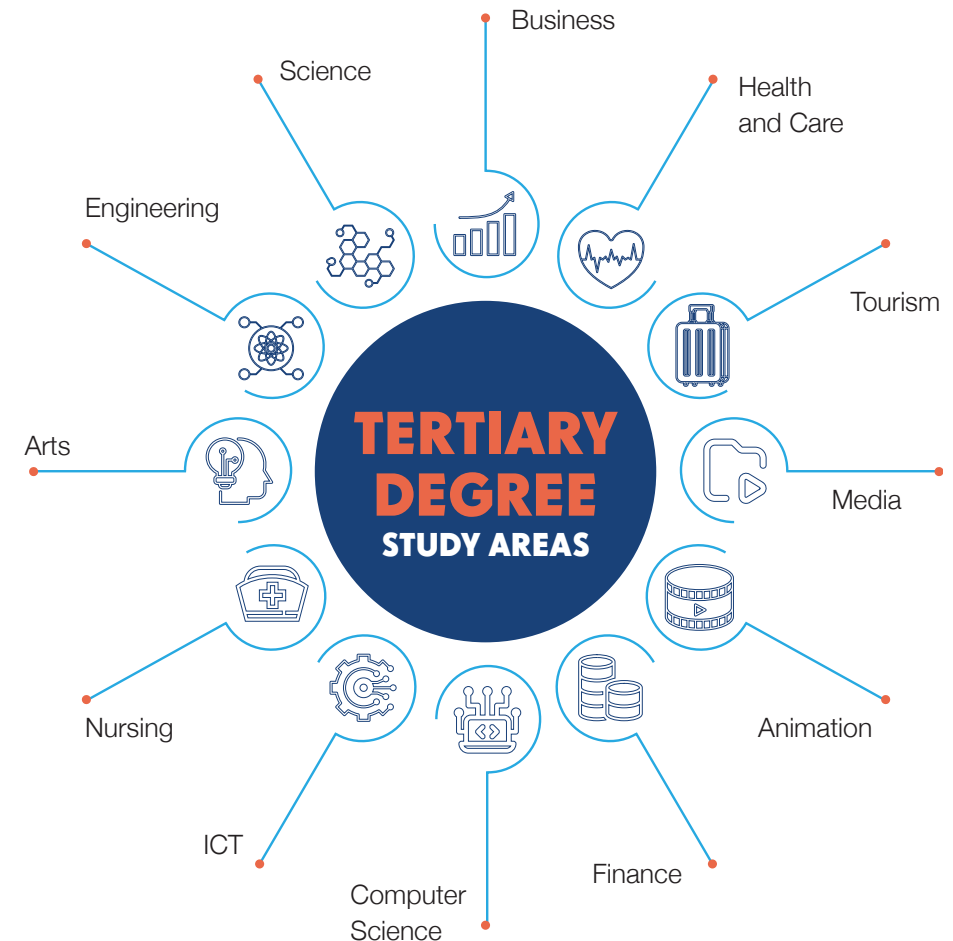
Tertiary Degrees offer a unique NFQ level 7 or 8 pathway opportunity for applicants of all ages and backgrounds to achieve the degree of their dreams which otherwise, due to various challenges, could be out of reach.

Students can also apply for Higher Education SUSI grants and bursaries throughout the duration of the degree and with embedded awards, students' learning and academic achievements are recognised throughout their degree.

These and other benefits of a Tertiary Degree work in tandem with each other to create a unique support mechanism through; lower fees, tailored entry requirements, unique programme design and local opportunities for study. These combine to level the playing field by taking a holistic approach to increasing equitable access.

Important to note!

- Starting at an ETB is a bridging pathway to ease the jump from the secondary school dependant learning style, to the independent learning expected at a HEI.
- The semi-independent pedagogy at ETBs is student-centred, with smaller classroom sizes, more hands-on learning support for core academic skills, and courses created with the student in mind. This creates a sense of psychological and academic safety, early in the degree, which will allow students to thrive as they progress. Foundational academic skills and student confidence are addressed early and effectively.
- Tertiary Degrees bridge the space between secondary school classrooms and impersonal lecture halls, both in terms of support available and the actual structures of learning spaces. No one is wandering into a daunting 500+ person lecture theatre their first year which breaks down the 'psychological barriers' students may have about traditional tertiary level study.
- Students have many engagements with the HEI and meet lecturers on the HEI campus during their ETB years. This allows the student to become familiar with the campus environment, understand the course expectations, build relationships, and clarify any doubts or concerns they may have about progressing into the next stage, increasing student participation and retention.



TERTIARY DEGREES EXPAND THE REACH OF HIGHER EDUCATION BY ENABLING NEW GENERATIONS OF TALENT AND SKILLS

TERTIARY DEGREES: ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry requirements for tertiary degrees are tailored to each course and detailed on individual course pages at nto.ie/courses and have been developed to facilitate access, widen participation, diversify student population and open new doors.

- Entry isn't based on Leaving Certificate points but instead looks at student drive, suitability, skills, and ability. This is currently the only direct entry pathway for school leavers into NFQ level 7/8 outside of the traditional entry route.
- Tertiary Degrees have a combination of multiple entry options (i.e. Leaving Cert, LCA, mature students, RPL, based on personal statement and interview). These were designed to create the most equitable access possible for a wide range of applicants. Not a 'one size fits all' approach; instead, it is more student centric and student led.

Entry Requirements may include:

- Specific subject requirements – e.g. a Bachelor of Science degree might require experience of studying science subjects.
- A portfolio of work.
- A personal statement or interview.
- Relevant work experience.

Tertiary Degrees: Application Process

1. Application submitted via nto.ie.
2. Request for additional applicant details or supporting documents issued if required.
3. Invitation for applicant to attend interview / engagement.
4. Provisional offer issued.
5. Applicant confirmation of acceptance of provisional offer.
6. Final confirmed offer issued.

How Guidance can help students:

- Remain up-to-date with tertiary degree offering at nto.ie/courses – new courses may be added throughout the year.

- Inform students about tertiary degrees, the application process and how it differs from traditional applications based on points.
- Inform students about the support documents such as portfolios, personal statements, interviews or engagements.
- Inform students of the value of embedded awards. This feature is not found in other degree programmes and is designed to meet the actual realities of study in contemporary Ireland, including a high drop-out rate, often due to non-academic factors such as student housing, financial requirements and personal life challenges.

Tertiary Student Academic and Social Supports

All tertiary students have access to:

- Academic, health and wellbeing support on both FET and HEI campuses.
- Libraries, sports and other facilities on both campuses.
- Student clubs and activities on both campuses.
- Visits to the HEI campus while studying at further education, so they know what to expect and are prepared to progress.

Student Financial Support

- While studying in further education no tuition or student contribution fees apply.
- While studying in higher education student contribution arrangements apply, and students can apply for the Free Fees Initiative.
- Throughout the duration of their degree students can apply for HE SUSI grants at www.susi.ie. Students must meet the eligibility criteria for the Free Fees and SUSI initiatives.
- Students can apply for all Higher Education bursaries available.





GO

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Closing date | Points | Fees | Accommodation

What makes Tertiary Degrees different?

- No leaving certificate points requirement for entry. No lottery system or numbers game.
- Direct application process made through www.nto.ie.
- Tailored entry requirements helping students access their dream course and career.
- Guaranteed progression based on attainment of learning outcomes.

Can the NTO come to talk to our students?

- Absolutely! book a Tertiary Degree Talk by emailing info@nto.ie.

How are tertiary degrees different from the Links scheme or Advanced Entry?

- Tertiary degrees are currently the only guaranteed pathway for direct entry and seamless progression from further to higher education in Ireland.

