

FETAC Links

The Links system can be a little complicated so this is a broad overview.

If students are **under 23 years of age they can apply to higher education through:**

1. **Leaving Certificate** – as per the CAO
2. **FETAC Direct Links** – Relevant or similar courses have direct links between them E.g. Media Engineering EMEXX is linked directly to Music Technology in Maynooth. A student can apply for this course with their full FETAC certificate. A number of places are reserved for FETAC students. Students **must** always contact the third level institute directly to see if there are specific module requirements and how many places are reserved for FETAC students.
3. **FETAC pilot scheme** – This is where a student can apply for a third level course using their FETAC qualification instead of their leaving certificate results. You must have a full FETAC certificate and it can be worth up to 400 points. Students **must** always contact the third level institute directly to see if there are specific module requirements and to verify that the courses is eligible under the pilot scheme.

If a student is **over 23 years of age they can apply for higher education through:**

1. **Leaving Certificate** – as per the CAO
2. **Mature Student** – if you are over 23 years of age you are regarded as a mature student and can apply for most higher education courses through the CAO system.

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You will have to undergo an interview and submit a summary of life experiences with your CAO form. Relevant education qualifications are not necessary but are advantageous.

3. **FETAC Links Scheme** – You can also use your full FETAC qualification to apply for a course through the CAO in order to improve your chances of being accepted onto your course of choice.

Please Note:

Each college/university has different requirements therefore I cannot stress how important it is for a student applying under the links scheme to contact the college directly to clarify or confirm requirements under this system.