

GCAS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much does the course cost?

The course costs €2500 for the year.

Can the fees be paid in instalments?

Yes. Any queries about fees should be sent to studentfees@mic.ul.ie

Entry Requirements:

A level 8 qualification or equivalent in any discipline or a Bachelor's degree at Level 7 or 8 is required for entry to this programme. If your degree has gone through an exam board by our closing date, we will accept the application.

When does the course start?

The course typically starts the last Saturday in August or the first Saturday in September. Dates will be given to students when accepted on the course and when the course board has agreed dates for the academic year.

How long does the course run for?

The course starts in September and finishes up in April.

How is the course run?

The course starts with orientation in Mary Immaculate College for all students. Module One typically runs over six weeks. There is usually a mid-term break for students (one week off) before commencing Module Two, which runs for six weeks. The first semester typically finishes for students the first week in December.

Semester Two usually begins the second week in January, Module Three runs for seven weeks. There is typically a week off between Module Three and Module Four (at the end of February). Module Four typically finishes by the end of April.

What are the possible career opportunities from this course:

This course does not qualify you for a particular career such as teaching. It provides you with very valuable skills to support individuals with autism in any setting thereby giving you 'an edge' over others when it comes to job applications or job promotions. We have had students in the past who were teachers, doctors, librarians, special needs assistants, nurses, therapists, social workers, parents and siblings. Many have used this qualification to better support the individuals with autism with whom they work or live. Others have used the qualification for promotion or for entry to other courses.

How many hours per week are required:

Feedback from students indicates that the course takes approximately nine hours of study per week. This includes engagement with online presentations, readings, podcasts and discussion fora.

How is the course assessed?

There is an assignment for each module and students are also required to contribute to various discussions on the online platform (Moodle) each week.

If I am not familiar with online work, will there be support available:

There is a session during orientation Saturday which introduces you to Moodle, our online platform. You will also meet our course Moderator who runs the discussions and activities for you during the year who will provide some support for engagement in Moodle work.