

Evaluation of FETAC (NCVA) qualifications

1. **Applicants should consult HEI literature to establish how FETAC level 5/6 (NCVA level 2/3) awards are assessed.**
2. Certain Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) reserve a quota of places in specific courses for applicants presenting FETAC level 5/6 (NCVA level 2/3) awards. Such applicants are assessed separately from ALL other applicants.
3. **IMPORTANT:**
FETAC level 5/6 (NCVA level 2/3) awards are made up of a number of modules. Different sets of modules may lead to different awards. Some courses require specific awards. It is important to know which awards are accepted for entry to these courses. Details are shown in the HEI prospectus or in the FETAC Guide to the Higher Education Links Scheme.
4. Applicants must have obtained a full FETAC Level 5 (NCVA Level 2) major award. A Component Certificate will not suffice.
5. Certain courses may require a Distinction in specific modules within the FETAC level 5/6 (NCVA level 2/3) award, and certain courses may require a number of Distinctions, e.g. 5 Distinctions. See the following pages for summary details of Awards and Modules required by HEIs. See HEI prospectuses for details of such specific requirements.
6. All HEIs consider only the best 8 Modules in a single award for the calculation of points. Different points are awarded by different institutions for Distinction, Merit and Pass grades (See below).
7. If an applicant has the correct award linked to the HEI course in question, then the points for the best 8 modules are added together to give a Points Score for ranking purposes.
8. Note that a full FETAC major award normally contains 8 modules. A major award may be accumulated over more than one academic year. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the applicant to apply to FETAC for a major award where courses are taken over more than one year.
9. If an applicant is presenting only FETAC level 5/6 (NCVA level 2/3) results, the FETAC level 5/6 (NCVA level 2/3) score is retained for further rounds in the event that a vacancy might arise in the quota for FETAC level 5/6 (NCVA level 2/3) applicants.
10. Applicants presenting FETAC level 6 (NCVA level 3) Awards should contact the relevant HEI for information on the admissions process.

Additional Notes

UNIVERSITIES AND DIT IN THE CAO SYSTEM (GP8)

Students with **appropriate** FETAC level 5/6 (NCVA level 2/3) qualifications and modules, with a minimum of five module distinctions, may be admitted on a competitive basis to certain degree programmes (including nursing courses).

The best eight modules are used for ranking purposes for a reserved quota of places on a small number of courses.

A module with a credit value of 1.0 receives 3 points for a Distinction, 2 points for a Merit, and 1 point for a Pass. See credit value table below for details of points awarded for modules of credit value other than 1.0.

Specific courses may have specific FETAC module or FETAC award requirements. Such requirements are listed in individual University prospectuses.

To calculate the number of points earned per module, use the following equation:

Factor based on level	x	Credit Value of the module	x	Factor based on result	=	Grade Points per Module
Foundation: factor is 0.5		i.e. 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 3.0, or 4.0		Pass: 1		
FETAC Level 4, 5, & 6: factor is 1.0		majority are 1.0		Merit: 2		
				Distinction: 3		

For example, a student who receives a merit in a FETAC Level 5 module with credit value of 1.5 will receive 3 grade points for that module:

Factor based on level	x	Credit Value of the module	x	Factor based on result	=	Grade Points per Module
1.0		1.5		2		3
FETAC Level 5: factor is 1.0		Credit value of 1.5		Merit: 2		

The scores for each of the best 8 modules are then added up to give the total best 8 grade points tally. The total best 8 grade points tally is then **multiplied by 15** and rounded to the nearest whole number to give a ranking. Places reserved for FETAC applicants are then offered in order of merit based on the ranking.

Applicants presenting FETAC Awards should contact the relevant HEI for further information on the admissions process.

Institutes of Technology (PT8) (excluding DIT)

The following entry arrangements apply to graduates of FETAC level 5/6 (NCVA level 2/3) courses seeking admission to courses at Institutes of Technology (excluding DIT) from 2005.

The minimum entry requirement for graduates of FETAC level 5/6 (NCVA level 2 or 3) awards to:

- Higher Certificate (NQAI level 6) courses is a full FETAC level 5/6 (NCVA level 2 or 3) major award.
- Ordinary Degree (NQAI level 7) courses is a full FETAC level 5/6 (NCVA level 2 or 3) major award.
- Honours Degree (NQAI level 8) courses (with the exception of nursing courses) is a full FETAC level 5/6 (NCVA level 2 or 3) major award in a course in a cognate area and including a Distinction grade in at least three modules.

In addition to the minimum entry requirements listed above, specific Higher Certificate and Ordinary Degree courses may have specific FETAC module or FETAC award requirements. Such requirements are listed in individual Institute prospectuses. In the case of entry to Honours degree courses, relevant cognate courses and specific module requirements, where relevant, are listed in individual Institute prospectuses.

Students are eligible for consideration for entry to nursing courses when they achieve the FETAC level 5/6 (NCVA level 2/3) award DCHSN (nursing studies), DCHSX (community and health services), or DHSXX (healthcare support), and obtain a distinction in 5 modules in the FETAC level 5/6 (NCVA level 2/3) course, including a distinction in D20001 (anatomy and physiology), D20012 (introduction to nursing), and D20032 (human growth and development or C20006 (biology).

An overall points score is calculated based on the best 8 modules presented. For FETAC Level 5 modules with a credit value of 1, scores awarded are as follows:

Pass:	20 points	Merit:	35 points	Distinction:	50 points
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Scores are adjusted to take account of module credit values other than 1. Scores are also adjusted to take account of the module level.

The majority of FETAC Level 5 modules have a credit value of 1. Some modules have a credit value of 0.5, 1.5, 2, 3 or 4. A module which has a credit value of 1, is designed to be completed within a notional 80 hours of directed learning time. If the credit value of the module is other than 1, the points are calculated by multiplying the points listed by the value of the module. For example, if the value is 2, then this is worth double points.

To calculate the number of points earned per module, use the following equation:

Factor based on level	x	Credit Value of the module	x	Points based on result	=	Points per Module
FETAC Level 4: factor is 1.0		i.e. 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 3.0, or 4.0		Pass: 20		
FETAC Level 5: factor is 1.0		majority are 1.0		Merit: 35		
FETAC Level 6: factor is 1.25				Distinction: 50		

For example, a student who receives a merit in a FETAC Level 6 module with credit value of 1.0 will receive 43.75 points for that module:

Factor based on level	x	Credit Value of the module	x	Points based on result	=	Points per Module
1.25		1.0		35		43.75
FETAC Level 6: factor is 1.25		Credit value of 1.0		Merit: 35		

The scores for each of the best 8 modules are then added up to give the total points tally. The total points tally is then rounded to the nearest whole number to give the CAO points score.

Applicants presenting FETAC Awards should contact the relevant HEI for further information on the admissions process.