

What's New

2026/27

Entry Requirement Changes for 2026/27

The 'Third Language' Requirement is being dropped for all NCAD programmes.

Leaving Cert Minimum Entry Requirements for entry 2026 — 2x H5 and 4X O6/H7, subjects must include Irish O6/H7 or English O6/H7

How to Apply to NCAD

Studio Programmes

- Applications are through the CAO by 1st February 2026.
- Portfolio submission is digital through our Portfolio Submission platform, deadline Friday 6th February 2026.
- AD212 Product Design and AD222 Interaction Design are not restricted on the CAO. A portfolio submission is optional, submission is by 6th February 2026.

Minimum Entry Requirements

www.ncad.ie/undergraduate/making-an-application-undergraduate/ncad-entry-requirements/

AD212 Product Design & AD222 Interaction Design

Portfolio Optional for 2026/27

From 2026 onwards a Portfolio submission will not be an Admission Requirement for AD212 Product Design and AD222 Interaction Design. Applicants who submit a portfolio will get up to 200 bonus points to add to their CAO / Leaving Cert points.

Common Entry

Applicants have the option of a Common Entry (AD101) route or entry through designated routes into specific areas. Regardless of entry route, all students participate in the common First Year Art & Design experience by following the same programme for the first semester before branching off into their specialist areas.

Visual Culture

NCAD offers a BA in Visual Culture AD215 for those with an interest in studying the history and theory of art, design, fashion, media and digital culture. On completion graduates take up opportunities to work in arts and heritage management, exhibition, curation and education, in festivals and event organisation, and in the media. Offers are made based on the LC Points, QQI FETAC points, or on mature grounds. No portfolio required, just curiosity!

NCAD Important Dates

October 2025

Portfolio Preparation Workshops

Online 20 October 2025

On Campus 21 & 22 October 2025

November 2025

Open Day

26 November 2025

January 2026

Product & Interaction Design Portfolio Workshops

29 October 2025

7 January 2026

February

CAO Deadline

1 February 2026

Portfolio Submission Deadline

6 February 2026

All details available on the NCAD website

www.ncad.ie

Contact

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Join our Guidance Counsellor
and Teachers' Mailing List

A close-up photograph of a person's back, showing a gold chain necklace and several white letter tiles with green letters (M, E, G, A) scattered on the skin.

**NATIONAL
COLLEGE
OF ART
& DESIGN**