

Progression an overview - the Higher Education Links Scheme for 2013

All FETAC applicants to higher education programmes through CAO in 2013 are using a new scoring system for the first time from February 2013. The scoring system applies to FETAC level 5 and 6 awards that are linked giving eligibility to apply to first year of higher education programmes.

Some applicants who have accumulated component awards over more than one year may also be hoping to use component awards from two different awards systems, the FETAC (NCVA) awards and the new Common Awards System (CAS).

Progression an overview is a summary of Progression Opportunities for 2013 which contains broader and more detailed information on the Higher Education Links Scheme.

How does the new scoring system work?

The new scoring system applies where all the requirements for the major award are met, i.e. when the specified component awards have been achieved, totalling 120 credits. To calculate your score you must know the credit value of your component awards.

Achievement of each component award is graded, as Distinction, Merit or Pass. Distinction grade is weighted at 3.333°, Merit at 2.222° and Pass at 1.111°.

This is then multiplied by the individual component credit value to a maximum 120 credits, a total of 400 points.

For components with a credit value of less than 5 credits, multiply the credit value by 15.

Components leading to the best 120 credits are scored and applicants are ranked accordingly. The best 120 credits come from minor awards achieved with the highest grades.

QQI forwards all relevant FETAC results to CAO for each applicant, and calculates the best score obtained for each candidate.

Practical steps to calculating your own score

- List your component awards ranking them in order of Distinction, Merit, and /or Pass to a total credit value of 120 credits. The best score is achieved through counting the highest grades up to the point of achievement of 120 credits.*
- If you have any component awards with a credit value of less than 15, multiply the credit value by 15; e.g. a FETAC (NCVA) component might have a credit value of 1. $1 \times 15 = 15$, the equivalent credit value of the majority of FETAC CAS awards.
- Multiply the credit value by the grade weighting. It is simplest to do this by scoring 3 for Distinction, 2 for merit and 1 for Pass, multiplying the total by 10 and dividing by 9.
- To see worked examples, click [here](#)

Important Checklist

- It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the FETAC registered centre applies to FETAC for a major award prior to application to CAO
- Applicants **MUST** check both the individual higher education institution and CAO websites information to ensure that they meet any special requirements including e.g. achievement of a particular component, and whether the institution requires that all credits are achieved in a '*single sitting*'.

Useful FAQ's

How do I know if I have achieved 120 credits?

If you have achieved a 'full' certificate, you will have achieved a minimum of 120 credits.

How do I check the credit value of any component award?

Your transcript lists the award title, grade, type of award and date of achievement. You can check the credit value of any award by entering the award information into the search box of the [FETAC Award Directory](#). To calculate your score you must know the credit value of your component awards.

What does 'single sitting' mean?

Some institutions require that the 120 credits used for scoring is achieved within a 'single sitting'- between 1 August and 31 July of any academic year check the CAO and Institutions website.

I have achieved my award over several years. I have a mixture of 'old' FETAC (NCVA) and new (CAS) awards. How do I score?

The first step is to convert your FETAC (NCVA) component credit value. You do this by multiplying the credit value of the component by 15.

FETAC (NCVA) L5 and L6 components usually have a credit value of 1 for example, L5 component G20001 Communications credit value of 1, multiply by 15 = 15 credits.

L4 components have a value of .5 for example, B10135 Information Technology Skills credit value of .5 multiply by 15 = 7.5 credits.

FETAC will **only** score the best 120 credits. The best 120 credits come from minor awards achieved with the highest grades.

To calculate your final score follow the examples above.

It is the responsibility of all learners to check the website of the relevant higher education institution for specific links and or requirements.