

Student Life

Succeeding at your studies

9th September 2025

Meet the International Support Team



Sheila Mahon
International
Officer



Romain Marret
International Support &
Operations



Joana Rebola
International
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International
Peer Mentors

Student Life

Succeeding at your studies



Succeeding at your studies



Supports to help you succeed



Academic Calendar and key dates



Programme Cycle & Sequence



International Support



Q&A

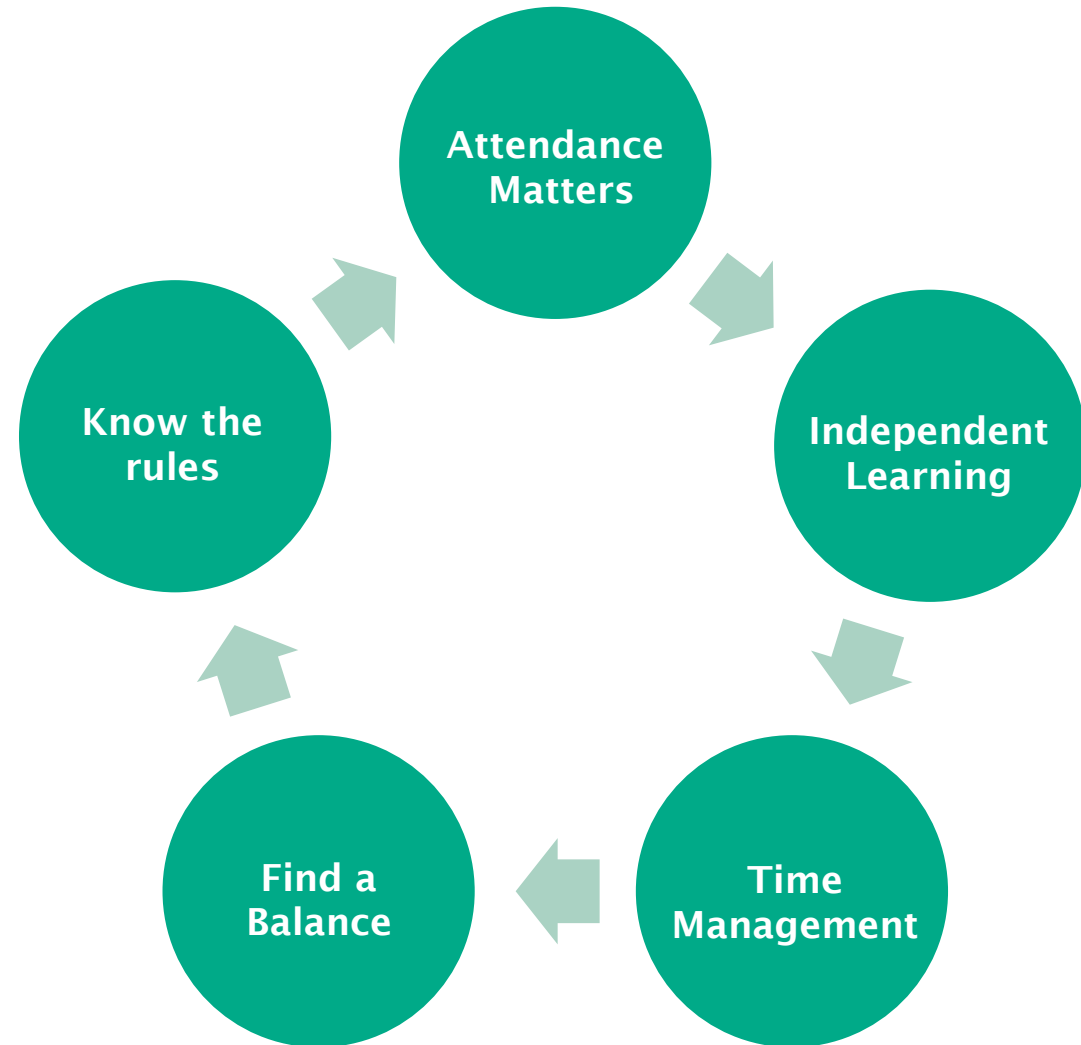
Succeeding at your studies:

You are here today as you have already succeeded in your studies

- **what helped your success?**

Succeeding at your studies:

From our experience,
these are the key
ingredients to help you
succeed at your studies



Attendance Matters:

Why?

Immigration **expect students to attend classes and to progress** in their studies and to graduate as planned.

NCI expect students **to engage with and attend all learning activities and events** associated with their course of study.

Dey 2018 *"...findings suggest that **class attendance has a positive and significant effect** on standardized exam scores."*

Graduate Advice

*"...connect with your professors, **be the part of the lecture, interact with everyone** and give support to others, it will enhance you, not only in your career but in person."*

"Don't skip the classes."

*"Keep working hard and **focus on the classes as they are very important.**"*

Resources

NCI Support Hub Articles & NCI Policies & Procedures

1. [What is the attendance requirement?](#)
2. [Policy on Learner Attendance and Engagement](#)
3. Student Support articles on [attendance and engagement FAQ](#) e.g. holidays / absence
 - Refer to the [academic calendar](#) when planning trips
 - NCI will not give students permission to miss classes.

Independent Learning:

Why?

- Every programme / module descriptor sets out the hours required for independent learning
- Nobody is going to chase you do it – you must be disciplined

Graduate Advice

“To be a great student, you need to be independent. You need to do your own research, don't always ask lecturers to spoon feed you.”

“Read more, Research more.”

“Study hard for one year, and enjoy the success for rest of the life.”

What are the characteristics of an independent learner?

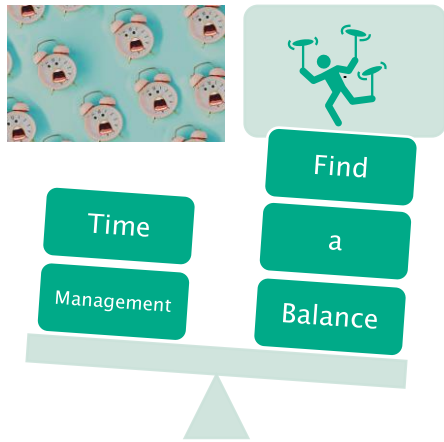
(Mynard and Sorflaten, 2003, p. 35)

Dependent learners	Independent learners
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• rely heavily on the teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• are self-reliant
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• cannot make decisions about their learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• can make informed decisions about their learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• do not know their own strengths and weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• are aware of their strengths and weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• do not connect classroom learning with the real world	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• connect classroom learning with the real world
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• think that the teacher is wholly responsible for their learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• take responsibility for their own learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• do not know the best way to learn something	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• know about different strategies for learning

Resources

- [Student Support](#) –Academic Supports and Getting to Grips with tutor sessions '[Moodle Page](#)'
- [Silvercloud](#) – a virtual platform designed to help you take control of your mental wellbeing. One of the programmes available is resilience

Time Management / Find Balance:



Graduate Advice

Time Management

- Keep on top of course work / reading / assessments. Study is your full-time job!
- Don't let things build up or leave submissions to last minute
- Penalties for late submissions

Find a Balance

- Important to get a balance between, attending classes, study and work.
- For post graduate students in the first semester it is recommended to work max of 10 hours a week, or if possible not at all

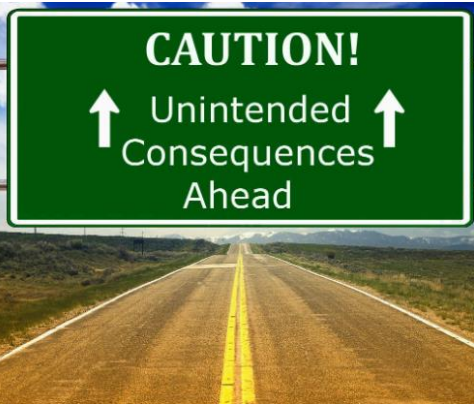
Resources

- [Student Support](#) - 'Getting to Grips' drop in service work with a tutor, 1-2-1 or in small groups. See information on [Moodle](#)
- [NCISU](#) and Clubs & SOCs
- International Support Events - [Website Noticeboard](#), Newsletters and Instagram [@nci_int](#)

"to be focused from the beginning of each semester, rather than waiting for the assessments to start."

"Just focus on your studies more even though part time are important to maintain the expenses, concentrate more on the studies.."

Know the Rules:



Why?

- If you don't know the rules and you breach them (**un-intentionally or intentionally**) there are **consequences!**
 - e.g. Missed deadlines, breach of exam rules or breach of academic integrity

What are the consequences?

- It depends on a range of different factors such as, if undergraduate or post-graduate student, if first time breach and the type of breach.
- Examples of some consequences are; reduced grade, or you may need to repeat, or you may be suspended for a year, or you may be expelled.

Resources

[Academic Integrity](#)



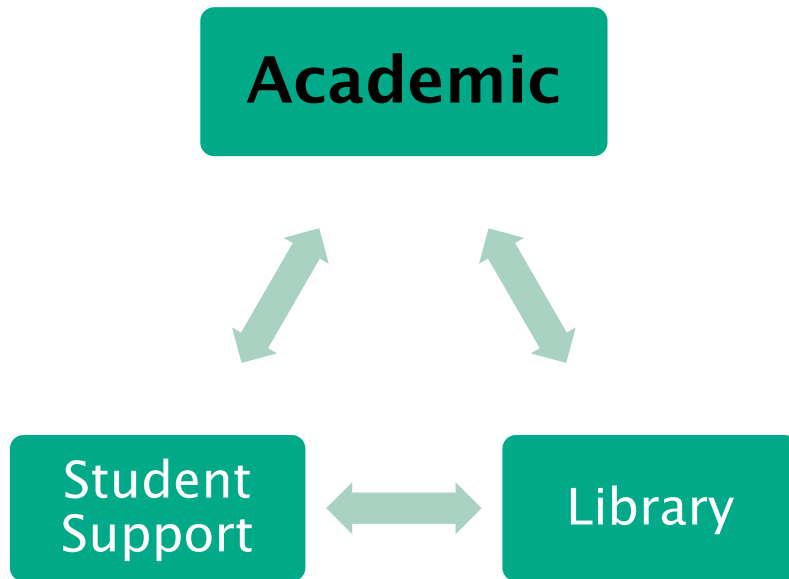
Academic Integrity Supports – AI Student Guide, Library Support Centre, Avoid Plagiarism Tutorial and Academic Skills Writing Guide

[Exam Regulations](#)

Examination Rules, What you can bring into the exam hall, use of English Translation Dictionary in exams etc...

[NCI Policies & Procedures](#) – [NCI Support Hub Article on Code of Practice for Academic Honesty and Integrity and Assessment](#) e.g., [section 4.7 Policy on Assessment Submissions](#) and [section 4.7.1 for Late Submissions and Penalties](#)

Supports to help you succeed:



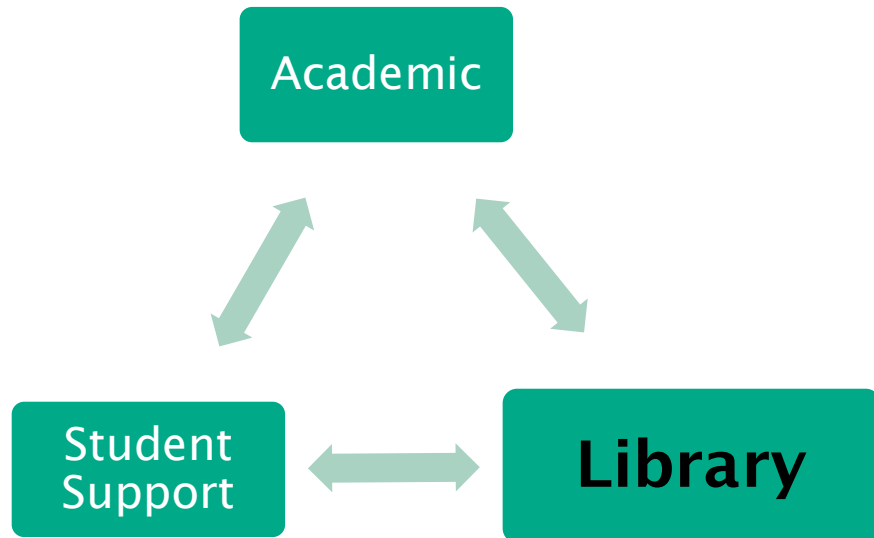
Academic

- Attend all your classes / labs / tutorials
- Engage with your lecturer / Lab Assistant and ask questions

Academic Operations

- Every programme has an Academic Director and Academic Co-Ordinator.
- Check Moodle for your programme specific information.
- Check student email for emails from your programme co-Ordinator.
- For any academic questions, submit a request on the Support Hub to academic operations

Supports to help you succeed:



Library

- The library will be key to your success as a student.
- You can make an appointment with the Library Academic Support Centre.
- Keith, Shannon and Isobel offer one-to-one or small group support in person and online.



Keith
Brittle

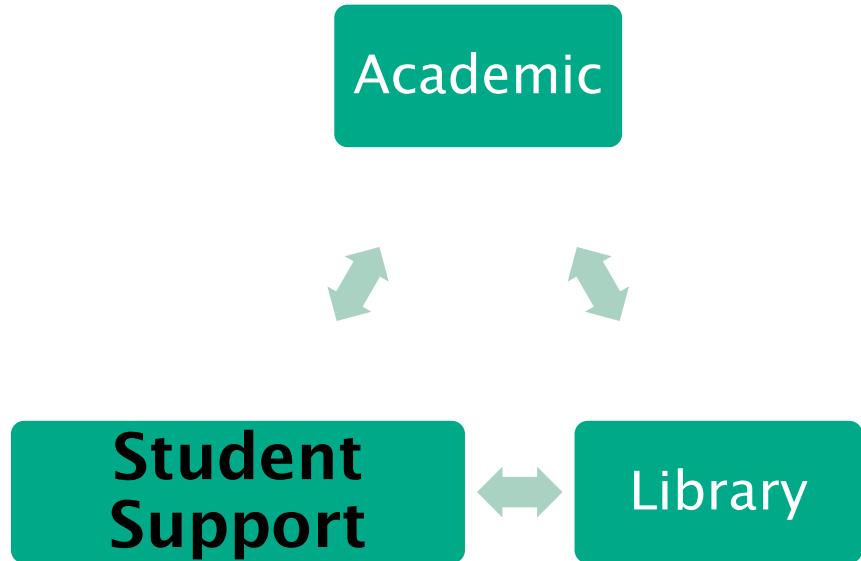


Shannon
Mallon



Isobel Dunne

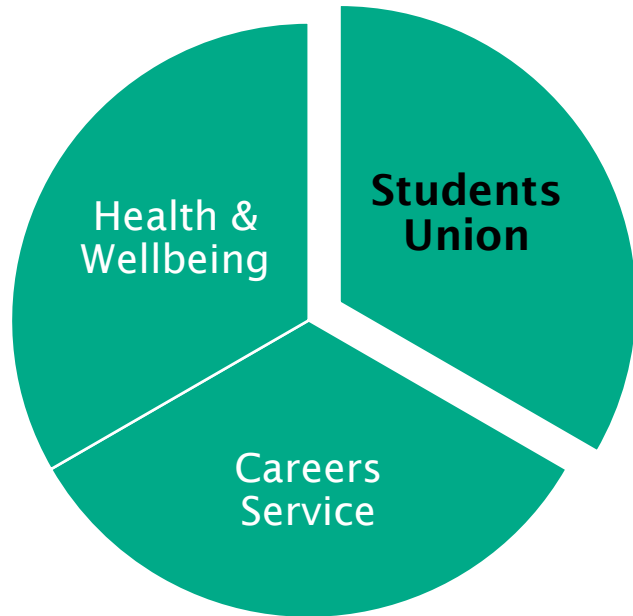
Supports to help you succeed:



Student Support

- [Learning Support Service](#) – run a drop-in service called 'Getting to Grips with'.
- With this service you work with a tutor on core areas such as academic writing, reading, researching, studying, note-taking etc.
- [Computing Support](#) - run one-to-one and small group tutorials.
- The Computing Support Moodle page provides students with access to online revision classes and tutorials as well as a suite of video tutorials and workshop resources.

Supports to help you succeed:



[Students Union - NCISU](#) and [Linktree with NCI Students Union](#)

- Represent the Student Voice at highest level at College
- Recruit and train Class representatives
- Clubs & Societies and run events during the academic year, such as Freshers Week and RAG Week



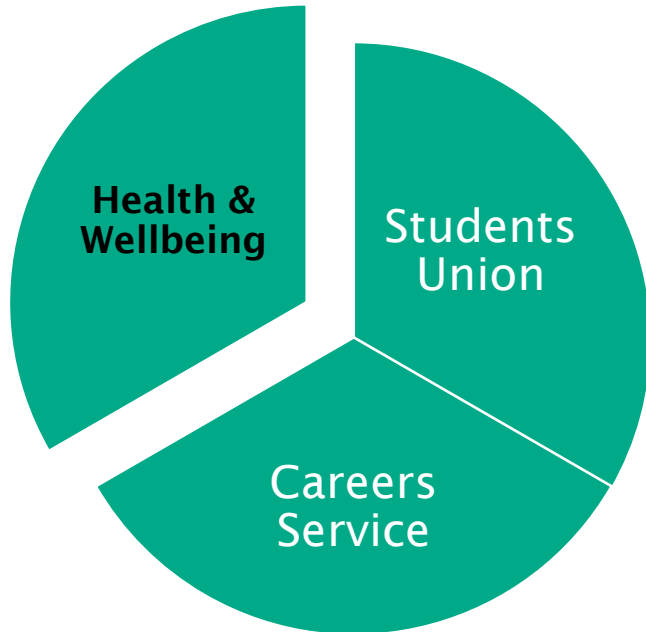
Supports to help you succeed:



Career Service - Award winning team that offers great support to students.

- Set up your profile with Careers on Simplicity <https://ncirl-csm.simplicity.com/>
 - When you have set up your profile you can register for Careers Events and get access Jobs Board and more
- Follow Careers on [Instagram](#)
- Sign up for the [NCI Careers & Vacancy newsletter](#)
- Find out who is the [Careers Advisor](#) for your programme.

Supports to help you succeed:



Health & Wellbeing

- Subsidised medical service with [Hanover Medical](#).
- Consultation with a Doctor (referred too as a GP (General Practitioner)) for the subsidised rate of €15.
- For more detailed information see the Support Hub Articles '[how to get help with medical, helpful information for international students](#)'

Counselling & Wellness Service

- SilverCloud a digital mental wellbeing platform
- Counselling Appointments (up to 6 sessions free)
- Textline 50808.

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Supports to help you succeed



Academic Calendar and key dates



Programme Cycle & Sequence



International Support



Q&A

Academic Calendar:

Academic Calendar - Important dates during the academic year

- Class Start and End Dates
- Reading Week
- Dates No Classes Scheduled e.g. bank holidays
- Exam Dates

Remember if planning to travel !

- refer to the academic calendar.
- Read the NCI Support Hub Article '[What is the attendance requirement?](#)' and [Attendance FAQ](#)

Key Dates for the 2025/26 Academic Year

Please see below important dates for the academic year starting in September 2025. Please note this is an indicative schedule and is subject to change.

Students Starting September 2025



Semester 1: 2025/2026

Key Dates	From	To
Classes Commence for returning and all other 1st years including returning Springboard and ICT Skillnet (except New incoming Springboard and ICT Skillnet- see below)	15/09/25	13/12/25
New incoming Springboard+ classes commence	22/09/25	13/12/25
ICT Skillnet classes commence	22/09/25	13/12/25
Reading Week (except New incoming Springboard and ICT Skillnet) Saturday classes will recommence on 01/11/24	27/10/25	02/11/25
No classes	27/10/25	27/10/25
Teaching concludes	13/12/25	13/12/25
Semester 1 exams	03/01/26	14/01/26

Academic Calendar & Key Dates:

Semester 1 (S1)

Semester 2 (S2)

Semester 3 (S3)

Classes
Commence

15 Sept 2025

Reading
Week

27 Oct -2 Nov 2025

Easter

Classes End

13 Dec 2025

Exams

3 to 14 Jan 2026

Results

Feb 2026 for S1 Results

19 Jan 2026

16 - 22 March 2026

3 - 9 April 2026

25 April 2026

5 to 23 May 2026

June 2026 for S2 Results
Undergraduate Students who
pass S1 & S2 enjoy the summer
off

Apply for
Graduate
(1G) visa

18 May 2026

Non-teaching days 1 June and
3 August

8 August

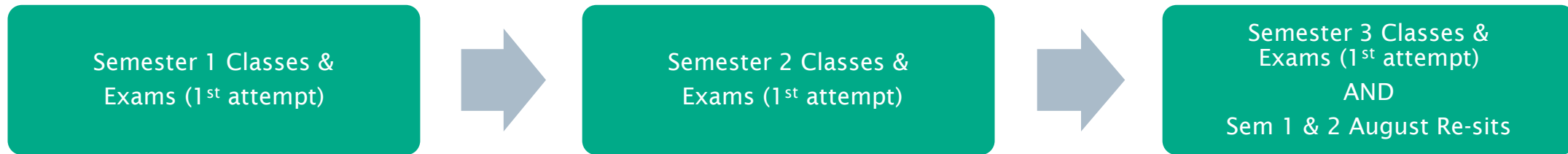
4 to 22 August

End Sept 2026 for FINAL RESULTS

End Sept is the earliest date to
apply for the graduate visa
(1G) to work full time.

Programme Cycle, Sequence & Timing:

- Students must follow the programme cycle, sequence & timing for their intake e.g.



- Students who don't attempt an assessment/exam are marked as NP (Not Present) = Fail
- Students who don't pass at the first attempt or the re-sits **MUST register to repeat by attending for a new academic year.**
 - NCI requires students to repeat by attending as it gives students the best opportunity to succeed.
 - It only applies for subjects not passed.
 - Students must register to repeat by attending within the timelines, which is usually within a week of results being published.

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What students say:

"It has been a wonderful journey throughout and my experience here in Ireland and at NCI has been amazing! It would not have been easy without your help and support from day one, reaching our places and getting to know the college was easy because of the NCI International group and peer mentor support!"



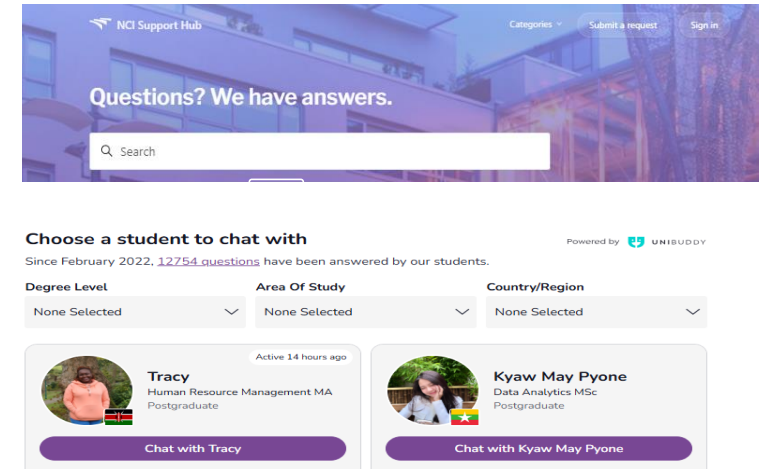
International
Peer Mentors



Connect with International Support

Ways to get information and to connect with us:

- [NCI Support Hub](#) – Answers to frequently asked questions.
 - If you can't find the answer to your question you can [submit a request](#) with your question.
- [Chat with an International Peer Mentor](#) to ask questions about life at NCI and Ireland.
- [International Support Team](#)
 - [Schedule an Appointment](#) - if you would like to speak to a member of the international office in person or on MS Teams
 - [Submit a request](#) in the NCI Support Hub with your full name, student number, nature of the request and your availability. The international team will be in touch with you with an appointment.



Please note: the International Office working hours are Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. Please allow 48 working hours for a response.

Connect with International Support

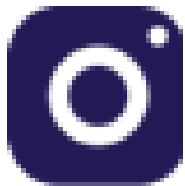
Contacting International Support short video

See [You Tube Video](#)

Follow us on Social Media



[@nci.int](#)



[@nci_int](#)



[@nci_int](#)



NCI Support Hub



How to find the NCI
Support Hub.

ncirl.ie/International
> [International Student Support](#)
> [NCI Support Hub](#)



The screenshot shows the 'International Student Support' page. At the top, there's a banner with the title 'International Student Support' and a subtitle 'Information for International Students to arrive, live and study at NCI'. Below the banner, there are six links arranged in two rows: 'Pre-Arrival Programme', 'Welcome Programme', 'Accommodation Information', 'International Letter Request', 'International Guides', and 'Meet the Team'. The main content area features a video thumbnail of three women, with the title 'NCI International Support Team' and a description: 'Find out how our support team can help you settle into life in Dublin, engage in a range of fun activities and get to know new people and Irish culture.' A 'Watch Video' button is next to the video. Below this, there's a section for the 'NCI Support Hub' with a description: 'Visit the NCI Support Hub to search for answers to frequently asked questions. If you can't find the answer to your question, submit a request to International.' and an 'Access Support Hub' button. On the right side of the page, there's a large blue graphic with the text 'NCI SUPPORT HUB' and an image of students.

1. Sign In with Student Account

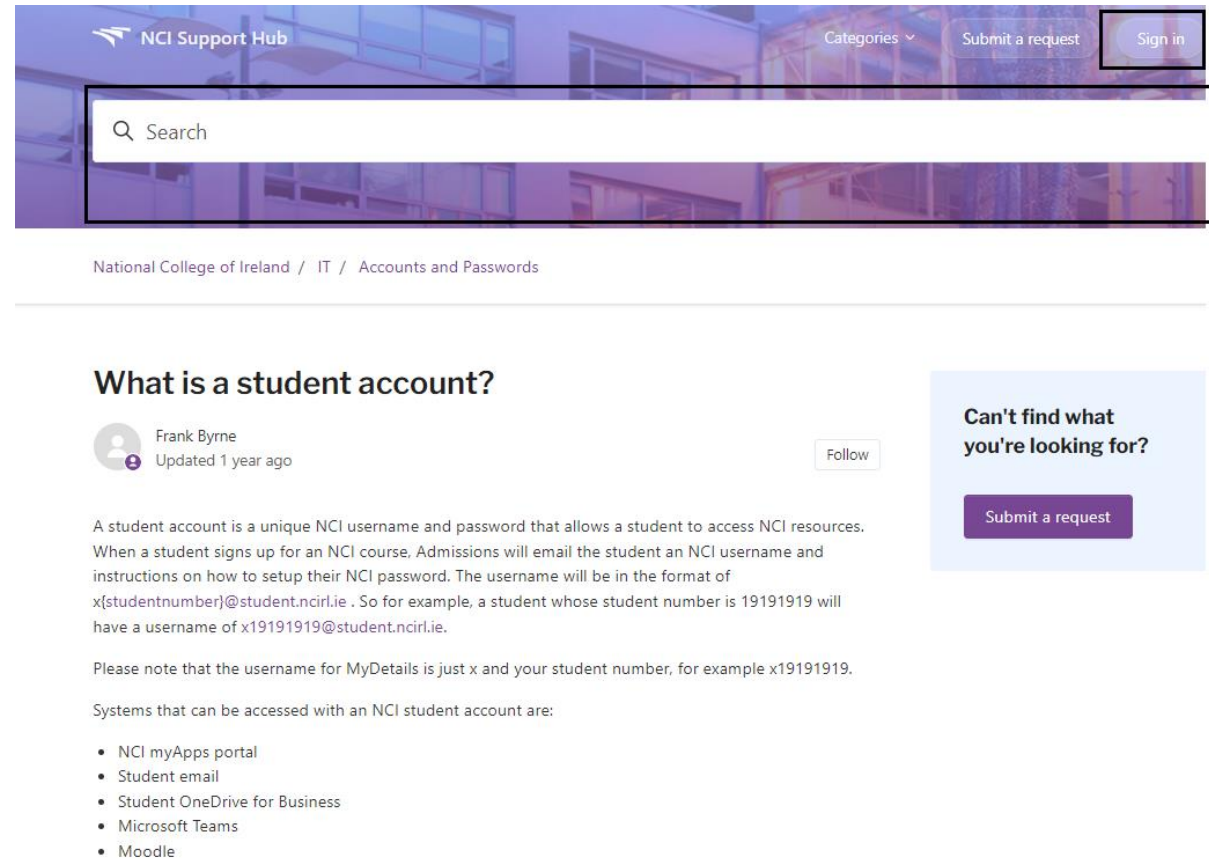
Username = Student Email ID
x1234567@student.ncirl.ie

2. Ask questions: 'What is a student account'

Getting started at NCI

[Getting Started with NCI's Online Services](#)

[Getting started as a new International Student](#)



The screenshot shows the NCI Support Hub website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the NCI Support Hub logo, a search bar, and links for 'Categories', 'Submit a request', and 'Sign in'. Below the navigation bar, there's a large search bar with the text 'Search'. Underneath the search bar, there's a breadcrumb trail: 'National College of Ireland / IT / Accounts and Passwords'. The main content area features an article titled 'What is a student account?' by Frank Byrne, updated 1 year ago. The article text explains that a student account is a unique NCI username and password that allows a student to access NCI resources. It provides instructions on how to set up an NCI password and the format of the username, which is x{studentnumber}@student.ncirl.ie. For example, a student whose student number is 19191919 will have a username of x19191919@student.ncirl.ie. The article also notes that the username for MyDetails is just x and your student number, for example x19191919. Finally, it lists the systems that can be accessed with an NCI student account: NCI myApps portal, Student email, Student OneDrive for Business, Microsoft Teams, and Moodle. On the right side of the article, there's a sidebar with a 'Follow' button and a 'Can't find what you're looking for?' section with a 'Submit a request' button.

NCI Support Hub

Categories ▾ Submit a request Sign in

Search

National College of Ireland / IT / Accounts and Passwords

What is a student account?

Frank Byrne
Updated 1 year ago

Follow

Can't find what you're looking for?

Submit a request

A student account is a unique NCI username and password that allows a student to access NCI resources. When a student signs up for an NCI course, Admissions will email the student an NCI username and instructions on how to setup their NCI password. The username will be in the format of x{studentnumber}@student.ncirl.ie . So for example, a student whose student number is 19191919 will have a username of x19191919@student.ncirl.ie.

Please note that the username for MyDetails is just x and your student number, for example x19191919.

Systems that can be accessed with an NCI student account are:

- NCI myApps portal
- Student email
- Student OneDrive for Business
- Microsoft Teams
- Moodle

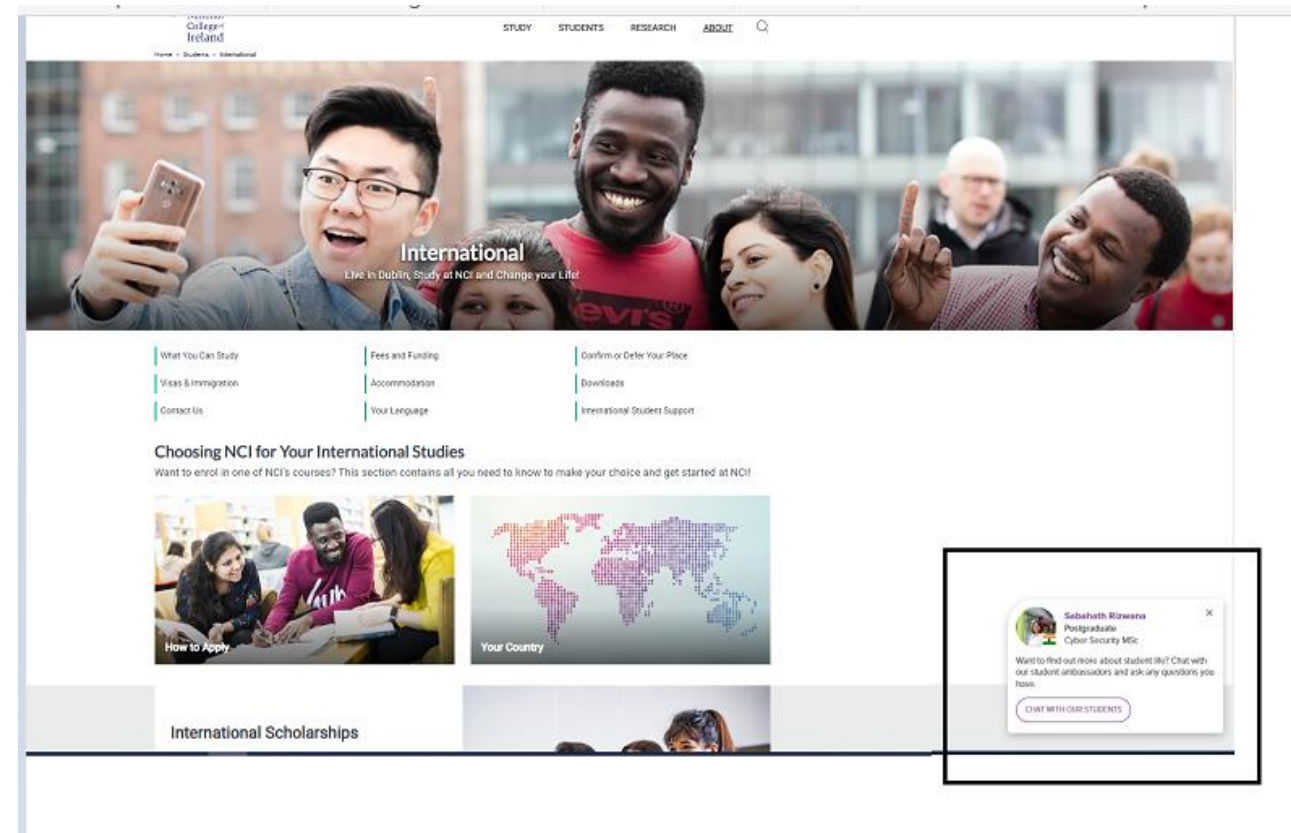
Chat to Students



How to find Chat to Students

ncirl.ie/International

- Pop Up Window [Chat with our Students](#)
- Chat with current NCI Students who are also International Peer Mentors
- Ask questions about Student Life at NCI and life in Ireland



Welcome Programme



How to find the Welcome Programme schedule?

ncirl.ie/International

> [International Student Support](#)

> [Welcome Programme](#)

- Check the schedule and join events

Welcome Programme Schedule: September 2025

The Welcome Programme for the upcoming intake starts one month before classes begin 25th August, and is tailored to suit every student's needs. There will be a mix of in-person and some online events for students in Ireland or arriving shortly. You can't miss this opportunity!

The website will be updated with the event schedule every Friday, one week before the event starting week. Students who have confirmed their place will also receive a newsletter reminder to their personal emails on the same day.

Reminder: All students need to plan to be in Ireland for classes starting on **15th September 2025**.



Week 1

See everything that's on during Week 1 and make the most of your Welcome Programme.



Week 2

Coming soon!



Week 3

Coming soon!



Week 4

Coming Soon!

Student Life

Do you have any questions?



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Q&A

Some last words of wisdom from NCI Graduates!

*"I come from a different background with no idea about computer languages and I have scored honors by putting in some amount of effort. **If I can do this course successfully anybody can do it.***

Keep up the good work study and enjoy the process and make more friends."

"Try to consistently improve yourself and keep your eyes on the prize"

"Study and enjoy your time in Ireland"

"Don't hesitate to look for support "

*"To succeed as an incoming student, prioritize time management **by creating a balanced schedule for classes, study, and personal activities.** Engage **actively in lectures and discussions** to deepen understanding and build relationships with peers and professors. Discover effective study techniques like spaced repetition and active recall, and review material regularly instead of cramming. Don't hesitate to seek help from professors, tutors, and classmates. Maintain a healthy lifestyle with proper sleep, nutrition, and exercise, and practice stress-relief techniques to support mental well-being."*

THANK YOU