

Student Life

Succeeding at your studies

8th September 2026

Meet the International Support Team



Sheila Mahon
International
Officer



Thais Ferreira
International Support &
Operations



Joana Rebola
International
Coordinator



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

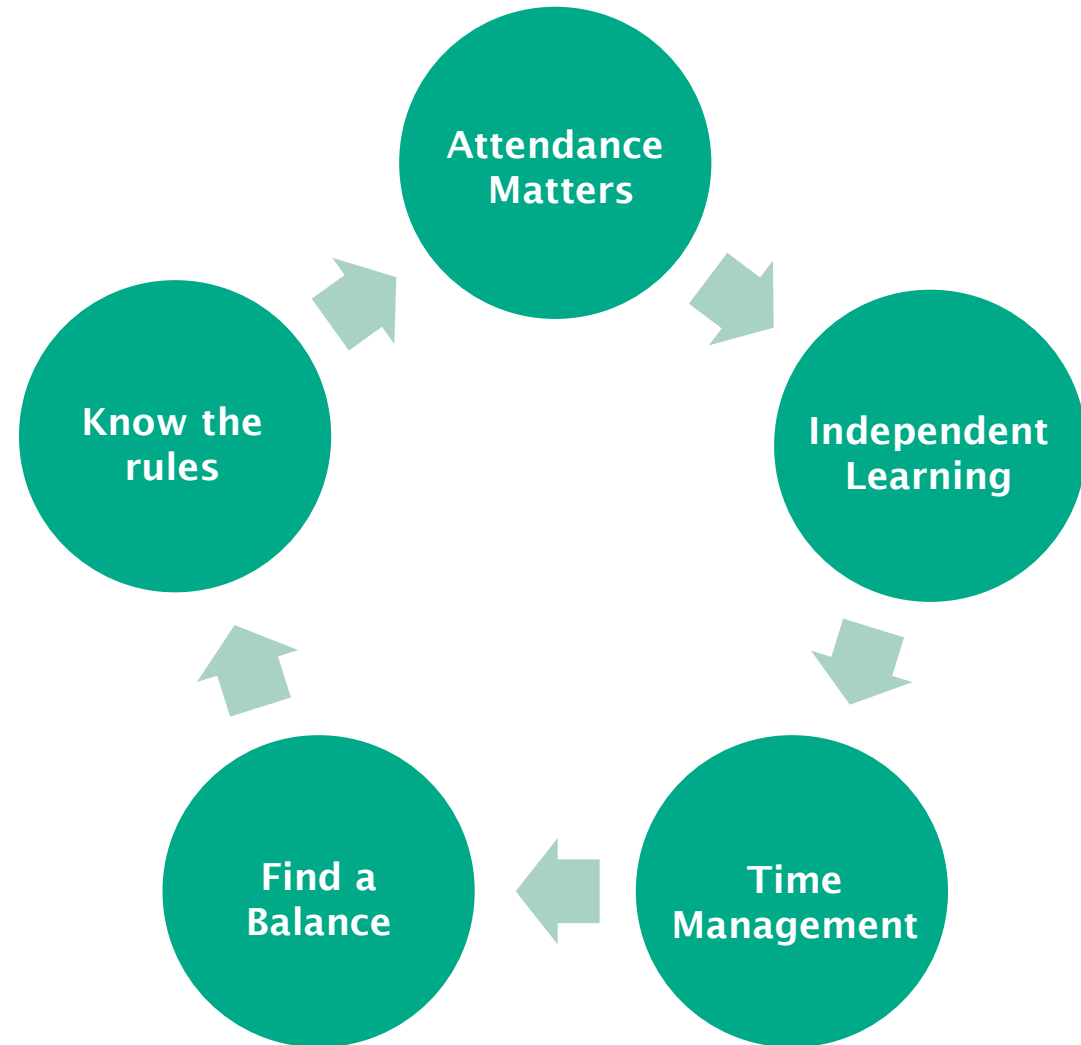
Succeeding at your studies:

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. [Use the NCI attendance system SEAtS to track your attendance in class](#)
2. [What is the attendance requirement?](#)
3. [NCI Policy & Procedure on Learner Attendance and Engagement](#)
4. Student Support articles on [support services articles on SEAtS and tracking attendance](#) e.g. [What happens if I miss a class?](#)
 - Refer to the [academic calendar](#) when planning trips
 - NCI will not give students permission to miss classes.

Attendance Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When will we get information on the NCI Attendance System SEAtS

A: Detailed information will be provided at Orientation. Students can view NCI Support Hub articles on [attendance Support Services articles](#)

Q: What if I miss classes?

A: You are marked as absent. You need to keep a record of your absences. Even if you have a 'reasonable excuse' such e.g. sick it would not change your attendance. See the article [What happens if I miss a class? – National College of Ireland](#)

Q: What if I need to travel (in emergency or planned)?

A: If planning trips / visits home you should refer to the [academic calendar](#).

NCI cannot give students permission to miss classes or travel during their programme.

Q: Can I get a letter to show proof of attendance for immigration ?

A: There is no letter that NCI provide for attendance. International Support provide letters to students to register with immigration for the first time and for renewals and % attendance is not required for these letters.

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?

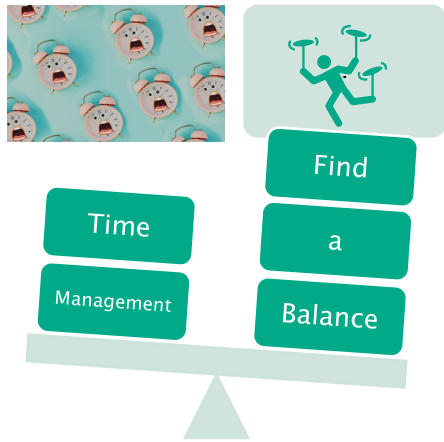
(Mynard and Sorflaten, 2003, p. 35)

Dependent learners	Independent learners
• rely heavily on the teacher	• are self-reliant
• cannot make decisions about their learning	• can make informed decisions about their learning
• do not know their own strengths and weaknesses	• are aware of their strengths and weaknesses
• do not connect classroom learning with the real world	• connect classroom learning with the real world
• think that the teacher is wholly responsible for their learning	• take responsibility for their own learning
• do not know the best way to learn something	• know about different strategies for learning

Resources

- [Student Support](#) -Academic Supports and Getting to Grips with tutor sessions [‘Moodle Page’](#)

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?

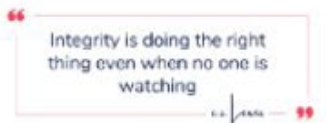
- If you don't know the rules and you breach them (**un-intentionally or intentionally**) there are **consequences!**
 - e.g. Missed deadlines, breach of exam rules or breach of academic integrity

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

All students must complete Epigeum's Academic Integrity Course

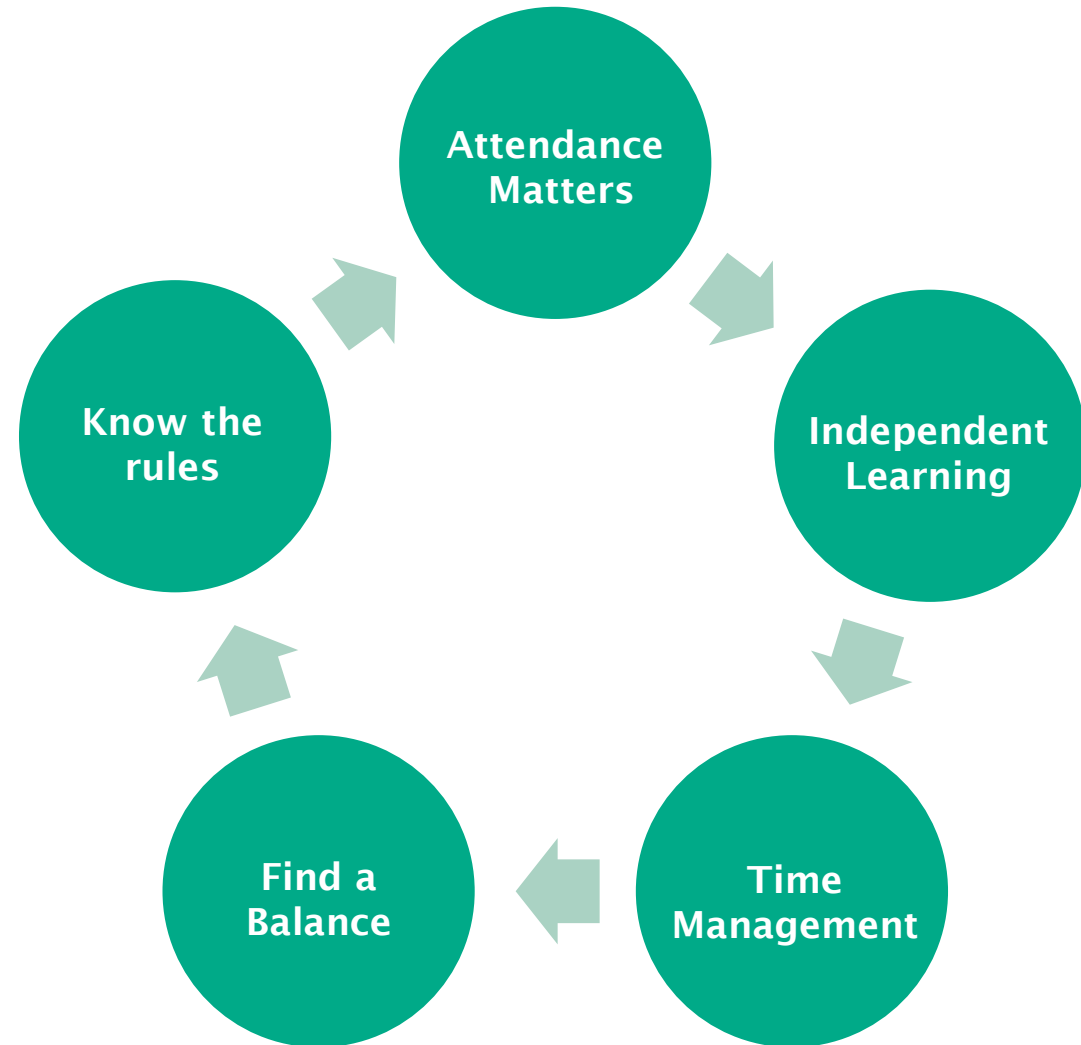
[Exam Regulations](#)

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

[NCI Policies & Procedures / Teaching](#) e.g. [Student Guide on Code of Practice for Academic Honesty and Integrity](#) and [Late Submission of Coursework Policy](#)

Succeeding at your studies:

What are the 5 ingredients to help you succeed at your studies?



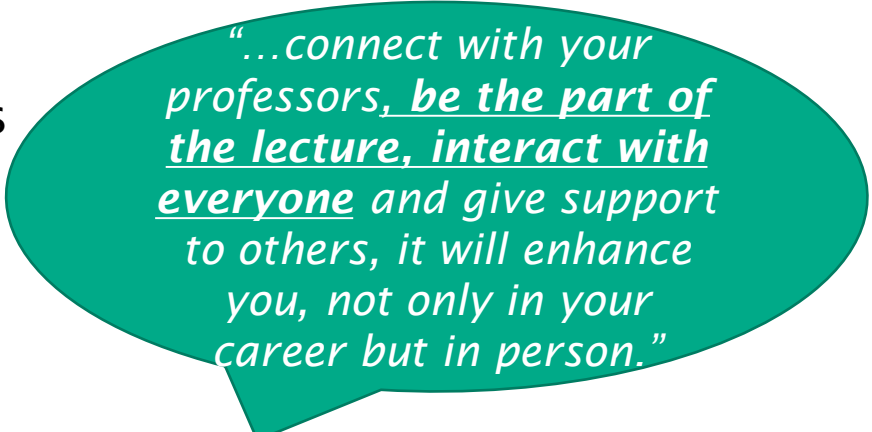
Supports to help you succeed:



Supports to help you succeed: ACADEMIC

Academic

- Attend all your classes / labs / tutorials. Track and monitor your attendance with the NCI SEAtS App.
- Engage with your lecturer / Lab Assistant and ask questions



“...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.”

Academic Operations

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

Supports to help you succeed: LIBRARY SUPPORT

Library

- The library will be key to your success as a student.

“I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the guidance and mentorship during this course. Thank you so much, my thesis wouldn't have been possible without your guidance.”
- MSC in Marketing

The Library Academic Support Team, Keith, Shannon and Isobel offer:

- one-to-one or small group support
- in person and online.



Keith
Brittle



Shannon
Mallon



Isobel Dunne

How can the Library Academic Support Centre support you?

1. Library Resources & Research
2. Referencing & Avoiding Plagiarism
3. Improve Your Grades

Supports to help you succeed: STUDENT SUPPORT

Student Support

Drop-In to the Support Hub to talk to a member of the Student Support team anytime. They are based on the ground floor of the Mayor building. If you would prefer to talk online, send us an email at studentsupport@ncirl.ie or make a request through the NCI Support Hub to organise a time they can call you through Teams.

Learning Support Service – run a online drop-in service with a tutor

- The service is called 'Getting to Grips with' and you can 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

[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: CAREERS SERVICE

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

- Set up your profile with Careers on Simplicity <https://ncirl-csm.symplicity.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

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

- Counselling Appointments (up to 6 sessions free)



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

Academic Calendar:

[Academic Calendar](#) - Important dates during the academic year

- Class Start and End Dates
- Reading Week
- Exam Dates
- 2026/2027 Bank Holidays (NCI closed and no classes scheduled)

Remember if planning to travel !

- refer to the academic calendar.
- Read the NCI Support Hub Article ‘[What is the attendance requirement?](#)’

Academic Calendar

Important dates during the academic year at National College of Ireland are listed here.

Semester 1: September – December 2026

Key Dates	From	To
Classes for first year and returning students (except incoming Springboard and ICT Skillnet students)	14/09/26	12/12/26
New incoming Springboard+ classes	21/09/26	12/12/26
ICT Skillnet classes	21/09/26	12/12/26
Reading Week – no classes (except incoming Springboard and ICT Skillnet students)	26/10/26	31/10/26
Semester 1 exams	05/01/27	16/01/27

Semester 2: January – May 2027

Key Dates	From	To
Classes for all students	18/01/27	24/04/27
Reading week – no classes	15/03/27	20/03/27
Easter Holidays – no classes	26/03/27	01/04/27
Semester 2 exams	04/05/27	22/05/27
School of Computing 4th Year Full-Time Undergraduate Project Showcase	26/05/27	26/05/27

Semester 3: May – August 2027

Key Dates	From	To
Classes for all students	17/05/27	07/08/27
Semester 3 Exams	03/08/27	21/08/27

Academic Calendar & Key Dates:

Semester 1 (S1)

Semester 2 (S2)

Semester 3 (S3)

Classes
Commence

14 Sept 2026

18 Jan 2027

17 May 2027

Reading
Week

26 Oct – 31 Oct 2026

15 – 20 March 2027

Non-teaching days bank
holiday in June & August

Easter

26 March – 1 April 2027

Classes End

12 Dec 2026

24 April 2027

7 August 2027

Exams

5 to 16 Jan 2026

4 to 22 May 2027

3 to 21 August 2027

Results

Feb 2026 for S1 Results

June 2027 for S2 Results
Undergraduate Students who
pass S1 & S2 enjoy the summer
off

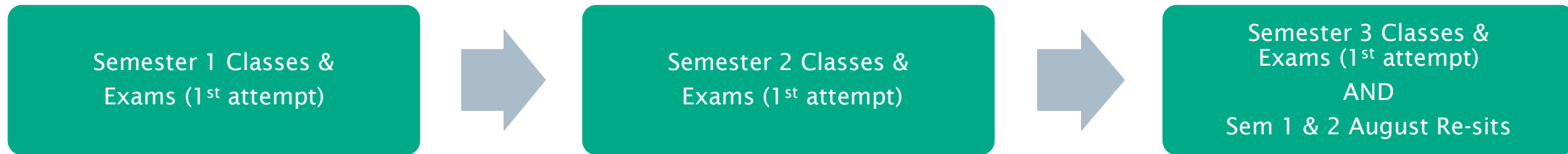
Apply for
Graduate
(1G) visa

End Sept 2027 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.
 - Students have a maximum of two years to complete each stage of study – refer to the [NCI Withdrawals Procedure](#).

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Supports to help you succeed



Academic Calendar and key dates



Programme Cycle & Sequence



International Support



Q&A



International Student Support



Sheila Mahon
International
Officer



Romain Marret
International Support &
Operations



Joana Rebola
International
Coordinator

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!"



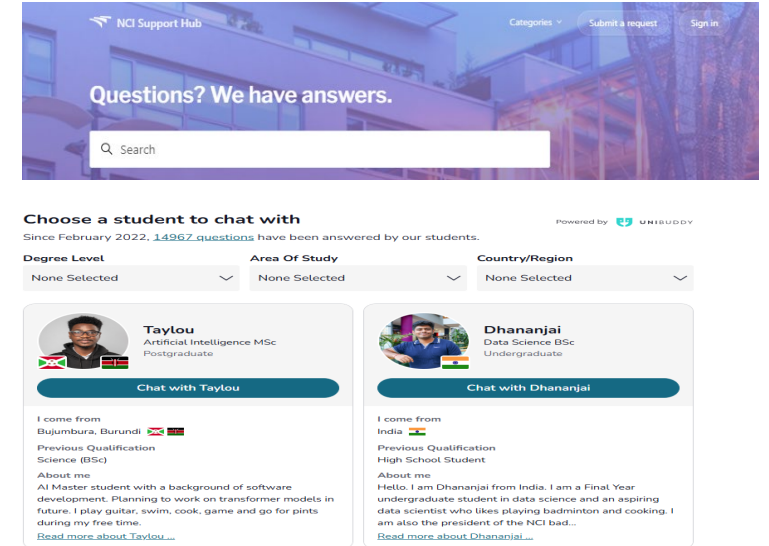
International
Peer Mentors



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

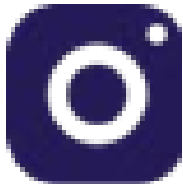
Contacting International Support
short video

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](#)



International Student Support

Preparing to Start at NCI

Your First Weeks at NCI

Supports for International Students at NCI



NCI Support Hub

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.

[Access Support Hub](#)

1. Sign In with Student Account

Username = Student Email ID

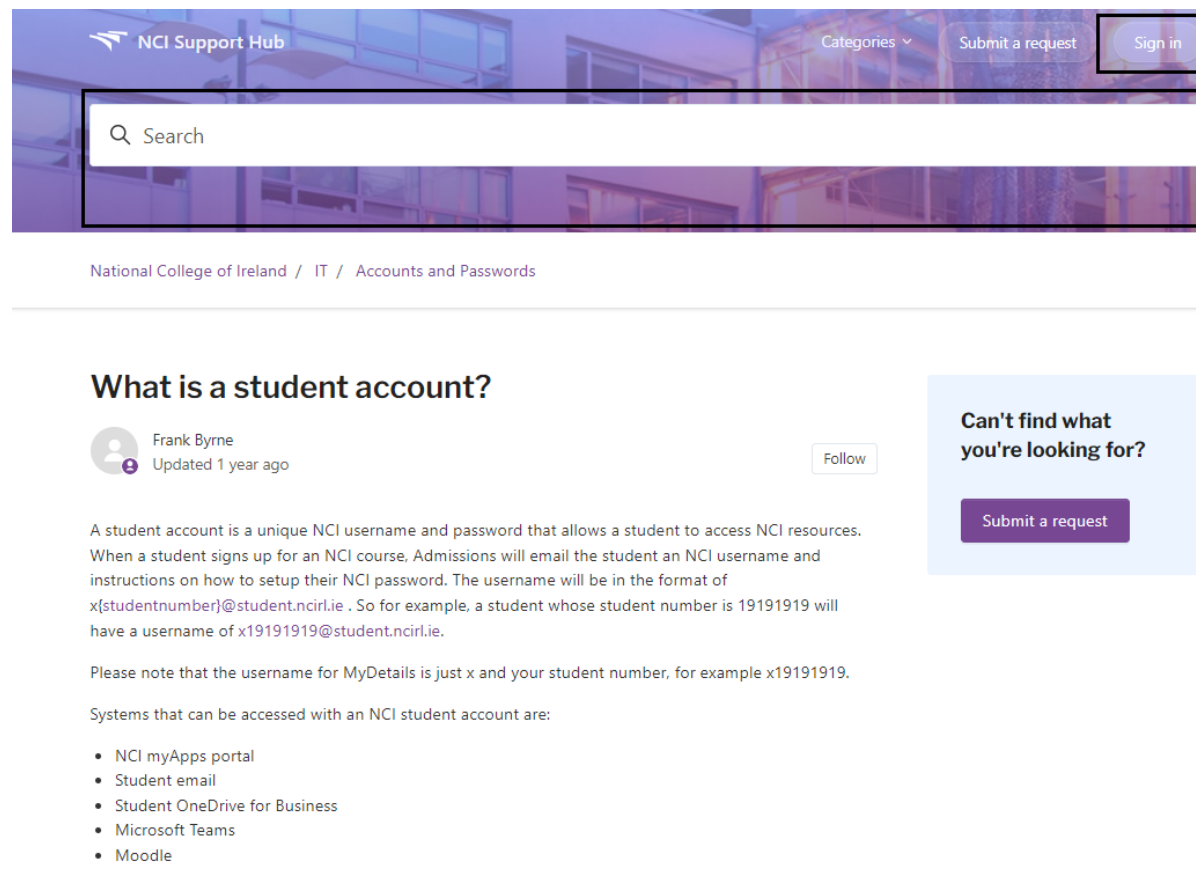
x1234567@student.ncirl.ie

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

Getting started at NCI

[International Webpage – Your First Weeks at NCI](#)

[Support Hub Articles - Starting classes as an 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 is a large search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the word 'Search'. 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 states that 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. It also notes that the username for MyDetails is just x and your student number, for example x19191919. Below the article text, it lists 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 'Submit a request' button. At the bottom right, there's a box that says 'Can't find what you're looking for?' 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

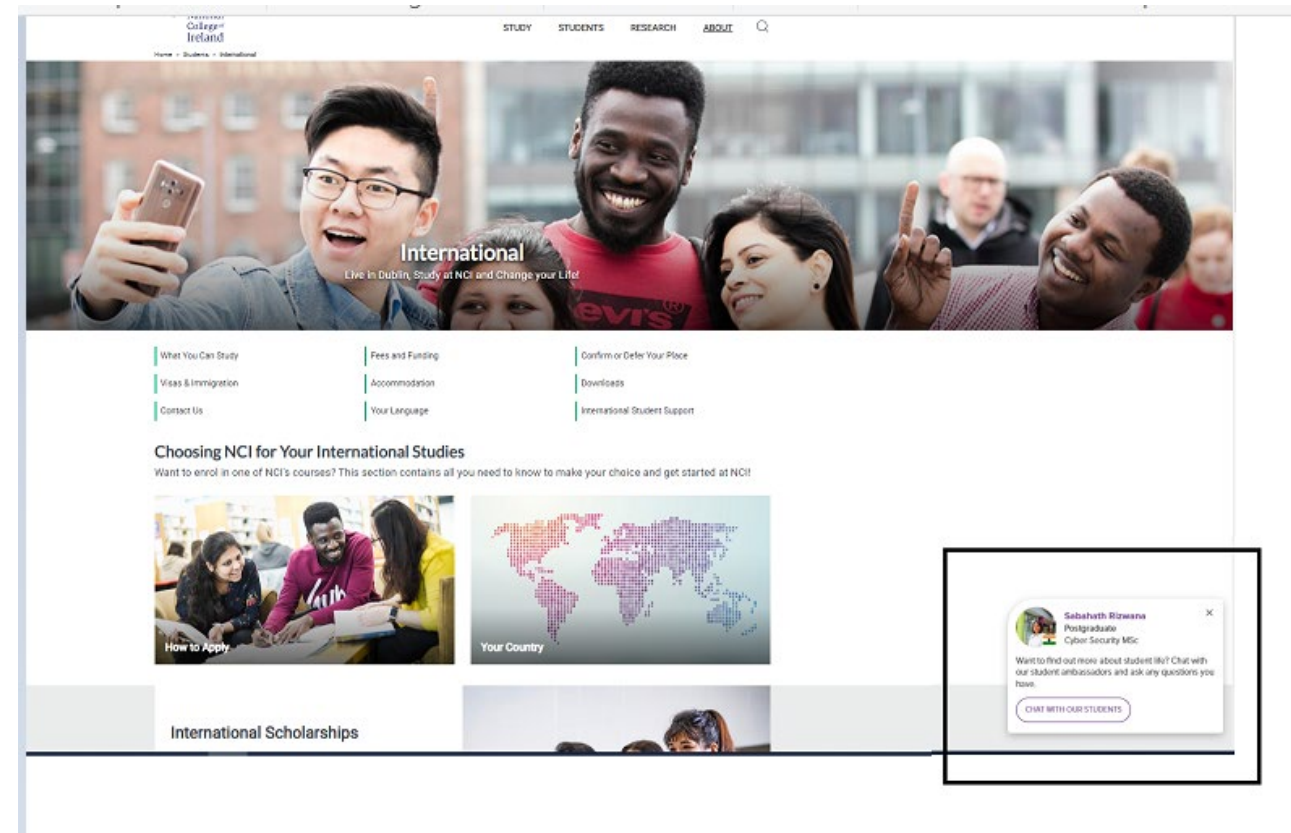
Chat to Students



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 2026

The Welcome Programme for the September 2026 intake begins on 24th September and is designed to help you feel confident and supported as you start your journey with NCI.

The event schedule will be updated on this page every Friday, one week before each programme week begins. Students who have confirmed their place will also receive a reminder newsletter by email on the same day.

Reminder: All students need to plan to be in Ireland for classes starting on **14th September 2026**.



Week 1

See what's on for the first week of the Welcome Programme



Week 2

Explore events, workshops and activities for week 2 of the Welcome Programme



Week 3

[Check out the events schedule for week 3!](#)



Week 4

Coming Soon

Student Life

Do you have any questions?



Succeeding at your studies



Supports to help you succeed



Academic Calendar and key dates



Programme Cycle & Sequence



International Support



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