



COLLEGE SELECT

Data Analytics for Careers

A Report for:

SAMPLE REPORT



Any Questions?

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June 2017

1. OVERVIEW

'Choose a career you love, and you will never work a day in your life' — Confucius

1.1 Introduction

This report presents an independent and evidence-based analysis to support your college course choices. We have identified a set of matched courses, based on your reported personal preferences and academic performance, which you may wish to explore further. Our model only presents courses in your preferred study areas and excludes those above your chosen points estimate. Figure 1 presents a summary of your Top 5 matches based on your responses.

FIGURE 1: Top-5 Course Matches

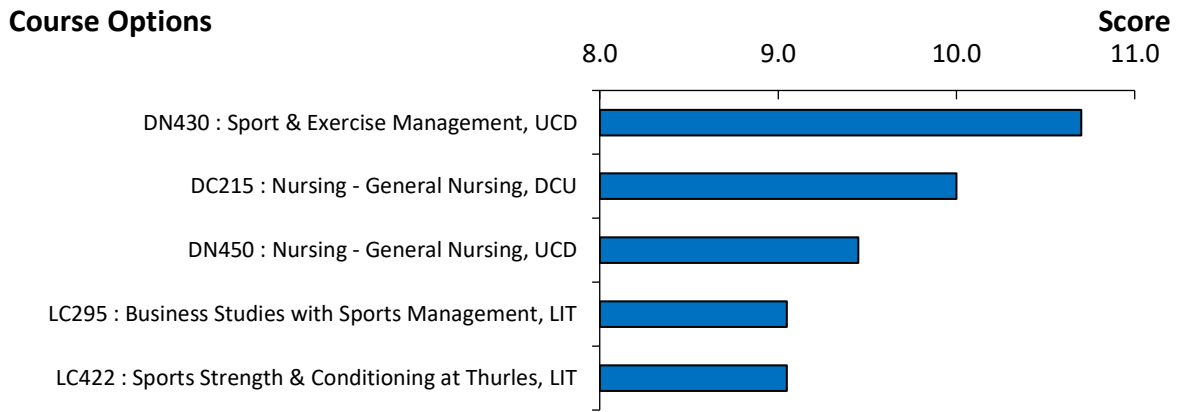
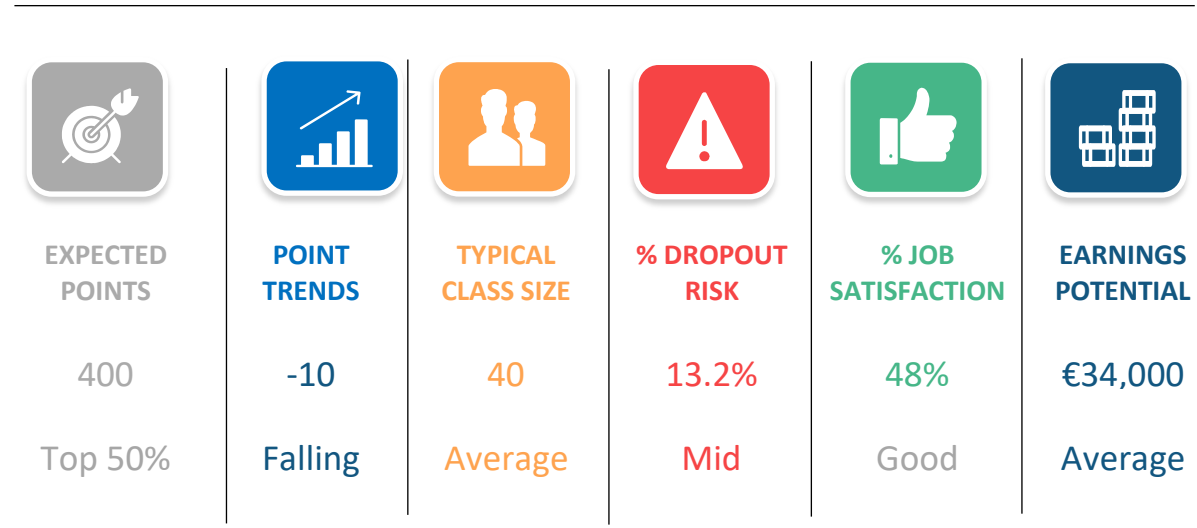


Figure 2 presents a suite of college and career indicators based on your responses, particularly your course preference of **Sports and Nursing**. We begin with your expected leaving certificate points and how you compare to all other Irish students nationally. Next, point trends indicate whether entry points are rising or falling in your preferred course area. Points for popular courses can rise creating an entry risk. Typical course class size is useful if you are more suited to working in larger or smaller classes (for class sizes on specific courses see Figure 5). Current dropout rates in Ireland are 1 in 6 (16%). Dropout risk estimates the average dropout for students with similar characteristics to you. It is calculated as a weighted average of current dropout rates associated with your course and college choice in addition to your expected academic performance (lower academic achievement is a strong predictor of dropout in Ireland). Job satisfaction and potential early-career earnings are based on the responses of employees in matched career areas.

FIGURE 2: College & Career Prospects



1.2 Benefits of Modelling

The challenge of choosing the right college course for students, parents and career guidance professionals has intensified in recent years following an expansion in the number of available courses (CAO, 2015). Research by the ESRI (2014) shows that students who regretted their career choices were likely to say that they 'did not have enough information about post-school options' and 'would like to know more about possible jobs and courses after leaving school'. Our models help resolve this by suggesting options to students based on their personal interests and current academic performance. Key benefits include:

1. **Focused:** Compared to manual searching, the models can efficiently search, score and rank thousands of potential courses and return a refined and manageable list of only relevant courses.
2. **Personalised:** Unlike the publicly available information sources on career guidance which are general in nature, the models only produce options which match strongly with personal preferences.
3. **Time-Saving:** Instead of investing hours trawling through online resources, these models produce results automatically following completion of a short survey.

1.3 How to Use this Report

To put this information to best use, we suggest considering these steps:

1. **Use Course Matches to Focus your Research:** While the options are ranked, any of those listed may be worth considering. Note the course code and name and research the course further on Qualifax.ie and the college website.
2. **Discuss with a Guidance Professional:** We suggest discussing this report with a Guidance Counsellor. The findings are distinct from, but complementary to, other aptitude and interest tests which you may wish to complete.

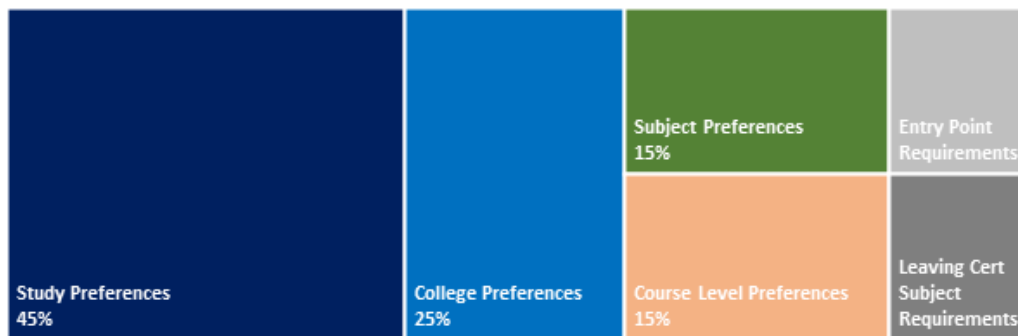
2. COURSE OPTIONS



2.1 Introduction

Choosing the right college course is an important decision which can have important implications for your future career. The model has matched, scored and ranked your reported preferences against over 1,400 CAO courses in Ireland. Figure 3 illustrates how the model uses a weighting system to score your survey responses against each course. For example, a 45% weighting is attached to your study preferences (i.e. engineering, politics or nursing), 25% to college preferences and 15% to subject preferences (i.e. English or Business Studies). Where the course entry requirements significantly exceeds your expected Leaving Certificate points (+ 50 points), or if you are not taking a required subject, the model removes that course.

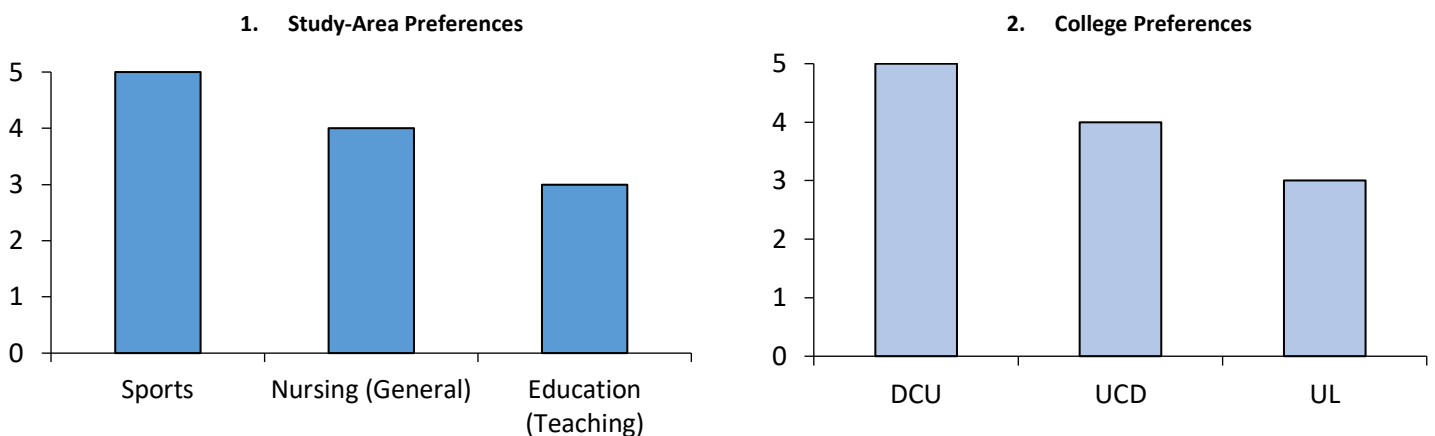
FIGURE 3: How the Model Matches You to Courses (Model Weightings)



2.2 Preferences

Before presenting the findings, Figure 4 shows your study and college preferences, as indicated in your survey response.

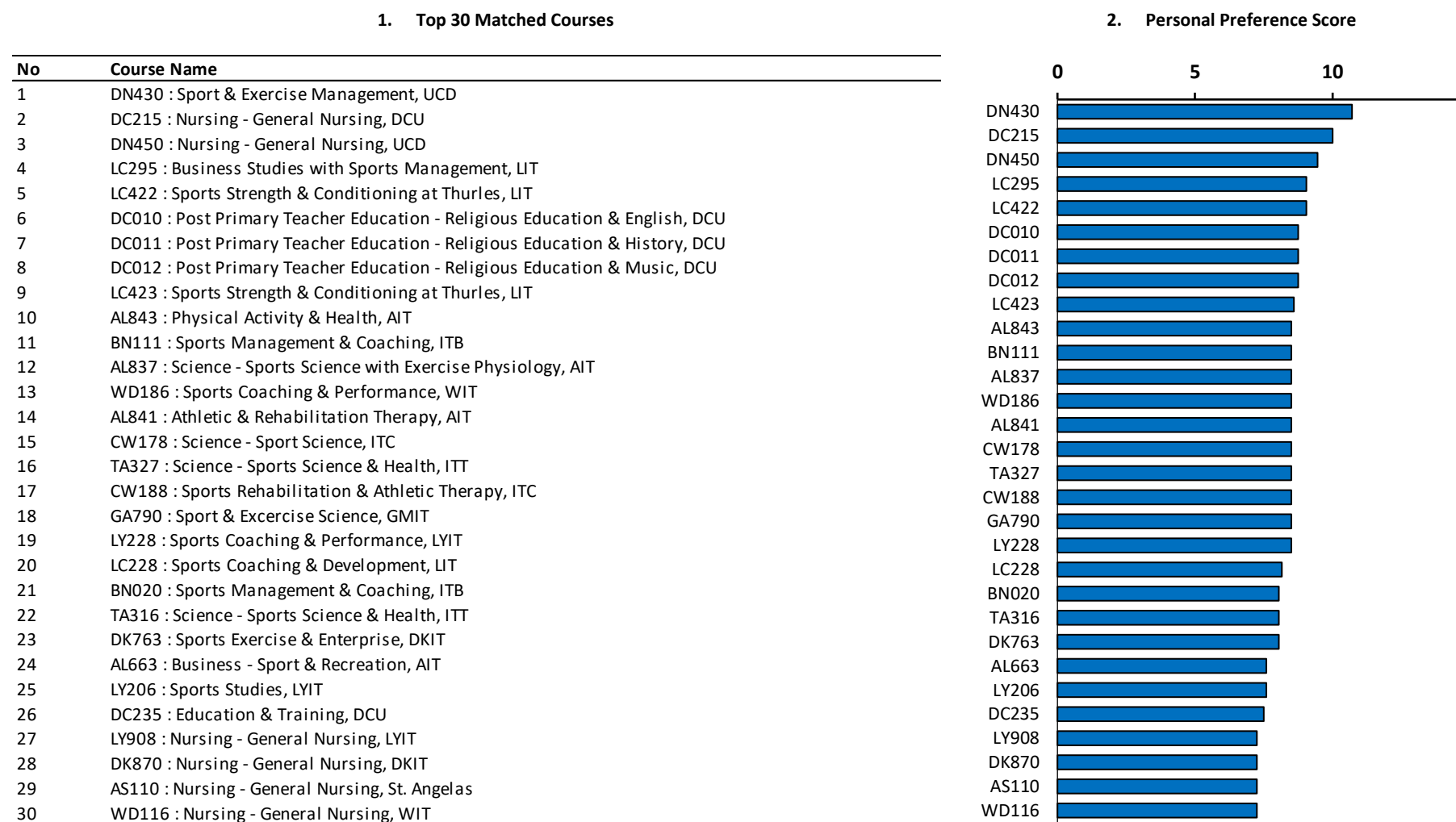
FIGURE 4: Preferences



Source: Analysis of survey responses

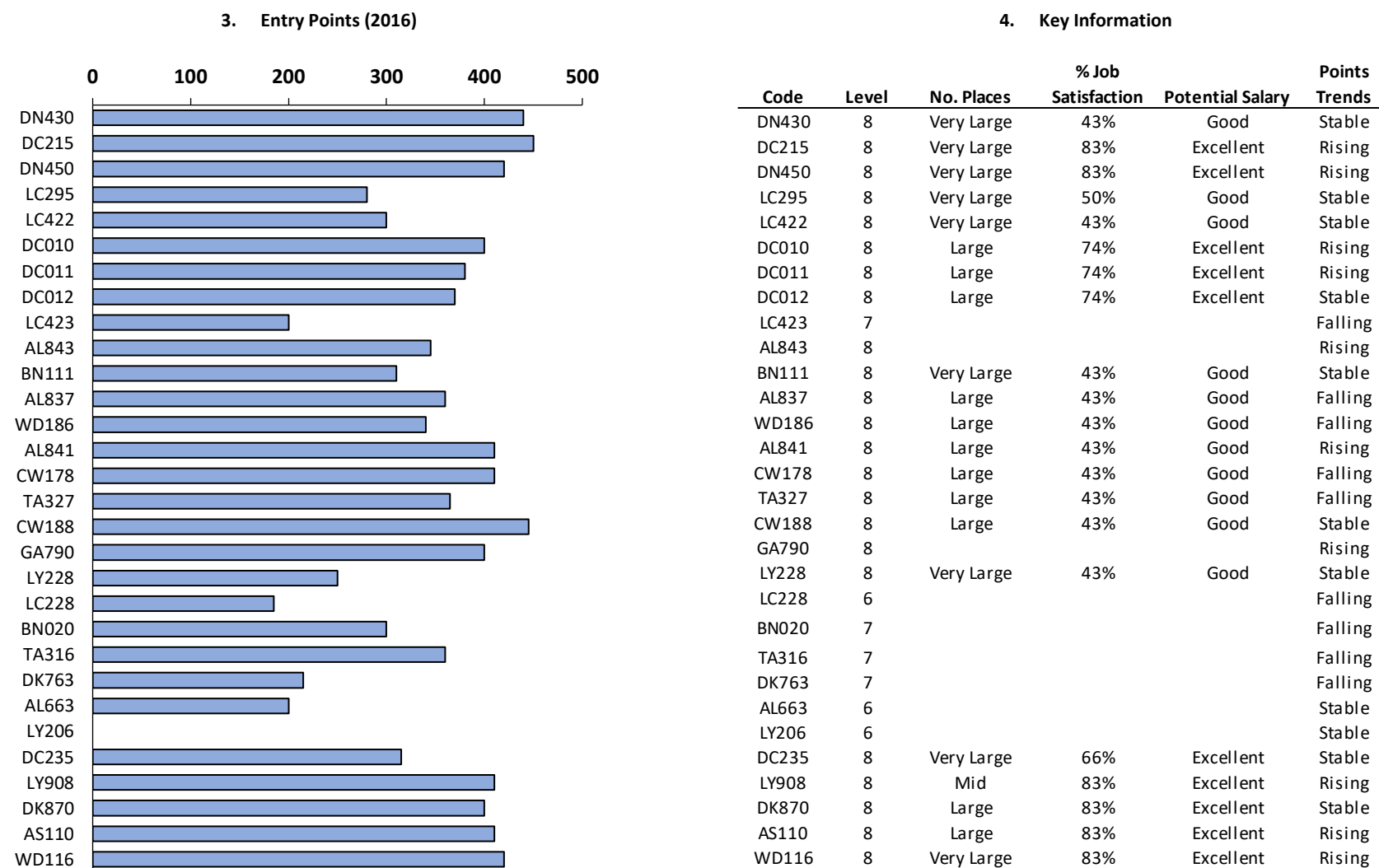
Figure 5 overleaf presents the Top 30 ranked courses suggested by our modelling. For each course, the official course code, title and college (abbreviated) is shown. The courses are ranked by how closely they match your preferences. The personal preferences score shows the extent of the match. Figure 6 on the next page uses the course code identifier to provide key insights on the same set of courses including course entry points, recent point trends, the number of places and potential job satisfaction based on employees who work in related areas (where these data are not available, a blank is shown). Finally, the purpose of these models is to refine your options. The 30 courses identified represent only about 2% of all courses so it is important to complement these findings with your own research including discussions with guidance professionals.

FIGURE 5: Your Matched Courses



Source: CAO; Survey Responses; Model scores up to 3 choices across 123 study areas and up to 3 third-level institutions across 7 universities, 13 IoT's and 24 colleges. Each study-area and institutions are scored from 1-5 and multiplied for each course. Courses with points exceeding 50 of the amount indicated or with subject requirements not listed are excluded.

FIGURE 6: Your Matched Courses – Key Insights



Source: CAO; Payscale data; Irish Times; Survey Responses; Model methodology same as previous Figure.