

## Guidance for Progression to Third Level (morning report)

by John Hannon

Most careers are chosen by the hearts and heads of students.

We probably spend more time planning our holidays than our careers.

It is important for parents to talk to their children about career choices.

We are all individuals and have our own values.

What influences career choices? A student's abilities, traits and personality are all important.

Look to where the jobs are. Look at fast growing industries. At the moment the fast growing industries are in IT, Languages, care of the Elderly and Accounting. Identify where there are skill shortages.

An example of great skills combinations are

- \* Logistics and languages
- \* Marketing/sales and languages
- \* Sales and product knowledge
- \* Finance and quantitative modelling
- \* Finance and law
- \* Statistics and software modelling
- \* Web design; animation; programming.

When choosing a course it is important to choose something broad because employers are now looking for a combination of skills, it may take an extra year at college but a student will be more employable. If a student chooses Arts they open up other careers such as Business, IT, Health/Therapies, Law and Journalism.

It is important to do research before choosing a career. Do not go into a course without first speaking to a least two people already on that course and have a look through the text books. Also try and get some work experience in that area if possible. Knowing yourself what is important to you is very important.

Qualifax is a web site that offers plenty of information on career choice.

A parting point to ponder on:

"The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating, the paths are not to be found but made and the activity of making them changes the maker and destination forever".

PACCS CONFERENCE WORKSHOP REPORT (Afternoon)  
PROGRESSION FROM SECOND LEVEL TO THIRD LEVEL

GUIDANCE FOR THIRD LEVEL  
JOHN HANNON

John Hannon from NUIG gave an excellent workshop on progression from second level to third level. Workshop was a bit late starting waiting for people to make their way down to room and it was a pity as could have done with the full hour. Next year maybe give ten minutes for people to move.

Averages 50 14 3  
Average amount of years we work – 50  
Average job changes of job - 14  
Average changes of career – 3

For some career choice is very straightforward, black and white, for more very confusing too many choices, too much information, too confusing.  
Whether you have a rigid plan or go with the flow depends on what type of person you are.

Look for help on [www.gradireland.com/careers-report](http://www.gradireland.com/careers-report)

Employers say that key skills shortfalls of new graduates are: writing, communication, independent working, problem-solving, confidence.

There is growth in the following careers : IT, Healthcare, e-learning, social networking, telecoms, food, energy/environment, elder care, medical devices.

Key career influences : personality skills, interests, values ( also parents, peers, news, reports, “chance”)

Check out [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) a great resource for course and career information for both students and parents.

7 C’s for CAO choices = Course, Career implications, College (class size, subjects etc), Consequences, Contacts, Cert v Degree, Cost.

Learning is lifelong - If you really want something it does not necessarily mean you should not go for it because of lack of jobs.

A parting point to ponder on...

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John Schaar