



## UCD Guangzhou- Dublin International College

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## Coláiste Idirnáisiúnta Guangzhou Baile Átha Cliath

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### **GUANGZHOU DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE**

### **Understanding your degree award: BSc Biological Science**

#### **Key Features**

Guangzhou Dublin International College of Life Sciences & Technology (GDIC) is a collaborative joint international college established, in 2020, by University College Dublin (UCD) and South China Agricultural University (SCAU). Upon successful completion of the programme a student is awarded two degrees, one from each university.

GDIC undergraduate degree programmes are delivered through the medium of the English language. To facilitate this programmes have more than twice as much English language tuition than is currently required by the Chinese educational system. Students are supported and prepared for this through Academic English modules in stages 1 and 2. Assessments on these modules are aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), with an exit level of C1, indicating proficient users who can 'use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes.

UCD is responsible for 50%, and SCAU 50%, of the major related content of 240 ECTS credits. General education courses required in addition for the SCAU degree only are delivered by SCAU.

Study abroad opportunities exist for GDIC students to do their third year at UCD.

The award GPA, for the separate UCD and SCAU degrees, are calculated in accordance with the academic regulations of each institution based on grades achieved during the programme of study. Separate final transcripts of results are also provided.

Grading at GDIC uses a letter system and not percentage marks. Letter grades are awarded for each module (see Appendix) and these letter grades appear on UCD Statement of Results and Transcripts. Percentage marks are awarded on SCAU Statement of Results and Transcripts.

Associated with each letter grade is a grade point (GP). The GP's allow calculation of grade point averages (GPA's) for each stage of the programme and the final degree award. Because the general education courses, required by the Chinese Ministry of Education, form part of the SCAU degree structure only, the stage and final award GPA's, for UCD and SCAU degrees, can be different.

#### **Stage GPA's**

The stage GPA is the average of the GP's achieved, weighted by credit value where required, for an individual stage of a programme. All programmes have four stages.

## Final Award GPA's

For the SCAU degrees the final award GPA is the credit weighted average, of grade points awarded, across all four stages of a programme.

For the UCD degrees the final award GPA is a weighted sum of Stage 3 and Stage 4 outlined below. Additionally UCD classifies degree awards at levels outlined in the Appendix.

<b>Degree GPA Calculation</b>	<b>Stage Weightings</b>
<b>Final and penultimate stages (stage-weighted)</b>	<b>S4 - 50.00%</b> <b>S3 - 50.00%</b>



Professor Paul Fanning  
Provost, Guangzhou Dublin International  
College





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## Appendix of Definitions and Guides

### Module Grade Scales

		<b>Grades</b>
Standard	Excellent	A+, A, A-
	Very Good	B+, B, B-
	Good	C+, C, C-
	Acceptable	D+, D, D-
	Fail	E, F, G
	No Grade	NG
Non Standard	Audit. No Credit Awarded	AU
	Distinction	OS
	Pass	p
	Pass by Compensation	PC
	Non Module Credits	XG
	No Work	NW
	Withdrawn (Future sittings may or may not have the grade point capped - see Regulations)	W
	Incomplete	I, IX, IP

### Qualification and Award Classification

GPA: Grade Point Average

The award GPA is the average grade earned by a student, calculated by dividing the the grade point of the applicable modules (determined by the programme) by the number of credits earned for those modules. The GPA Range is 0 - 4.2

The level of award is determined with reference to the following GPA scale:

<b>GPA</b>	<b>Award</b>
3.68 to 4.20	Distinction
2.48 to 3.67	Merit
2.00 to 2.47	Pass

### Stages and Credits

A student will progress through a programme in stages. Completion of each stage normally requires the successful accumulation of credits specified for each programme.

Programme specifications define the credit requirements of each stage of a programme, and will specify the range of modules which must, or may, be taken in order to satisfy these credit requirements.

1 Credit is equivalent to 1 ECTS credit and is associated with 20-25 hours of learning.



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For further information, see UCD's Academic Regulations, available at:  
[https://hub.ucd.ie/usis!/W\\_HU\\_MENU.P\\_PUBLISH?p\\_tag=GD-DOCLAND&ID=123](https://hub.ucd.ie/usis!/W_HU_MENU.P_PUBLISH?p_tag=GD-DOCLAND&ID=123)

## National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

The National Framework of Qualifications was established in 2003 and provides a structure to facilitate the comparison of qualifications within Ireland. The Framework categories awards as either Major, Minor, Special Purpose or Supplemental. Universities generally make awards between NFQ levels 8 - 10 as follows (with Minor and Special Purpose awards may be awarded at level 7 such as University Certificates and Diplomas)

<b>UCO Major Award</b>	<b>NFQ Level</b>
Honours Bachelor Degree Awards / Higher Diplomas	Level 8
Masters Degree Awards / Graduate Diplomas	Level 9
Doctoral Degree Awards	Level 10