

College Choices: Guiding Teenagers Through The Process



We asked 2,000 first year students in colleges across Ireland what influenced them when selecting their college course. The answers highlight some interesting facts for parents and teachers when helping students make this important decision. The full survey, conducted by Amárach Research for SFI Discover's Smart Futures Programme, may be seen on www.smartfutures.ie.

What's important for students when choosing a college course?



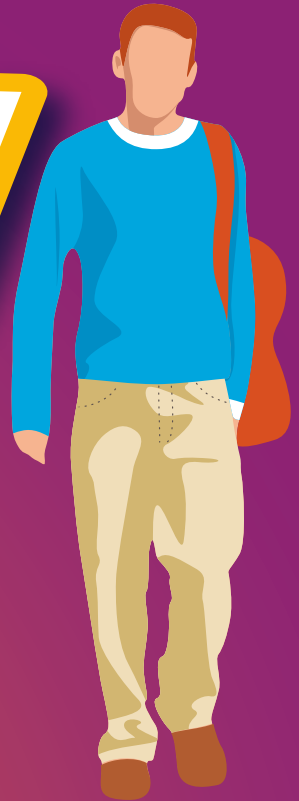
→ **62%**

of students said 'fitting in' was the main reason they chose their college course. More important than

- > Career prospects (56%)
- > Entry requirements (28%)

**#1
'Fitting in'**

Is parents' advice filtering through?



→ **51%**

of students influenced by their parents said they were advised that the college course would suit their personality.

Fitting in is important - so how can you help?

You have a role as a parent or teacher



→ Too many students miss opportunities in science, engineering or the tech sector because they have no idea what kind of work people in this area do.

CHALLENGE misconceptions about careers in STEM. Stereotypes can prevent students from seeing that there's something for everyone in the STEM sector.

HELP your teenager open their eyes to the vast choice of exciting career paths and opportunities in the STEM sector.

ENCOURAGE students to explore these opportunities so they can make informed choices for their future.

HOW? Visit www.smartfutures.ie to see examples of the people, diverse career stories and opportunities within STEM careers. You can also organise a visit from a Smart Futures volunteer to your school.

Did you know this about science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM) careers?



- > **84%** of STEM students are extremely positive that they will get a job they enjoy after college
- > **80 NEW jobs per week** are announced in the technology sector alone
- > **Top 5 paying jobs** in Ireland are in financial services, technology and multilingual roles
- > **IT, Finance, Risk, Life Sciences, Pharma and Engineering professionals** in high demand

www.SmartFutures.ie