Can I put in a mini project for the links in the Personal Profile (Route B)?

The links are there for you to provide evidence to support your submission. All links (in both Route A and Route B) must be related to and support your response. If responding to Q4 in Route B, it may be appropriate to use a link to content to showcase your experience in Computer Science/ Programming.

Are group projects allowed?

Yes, but you must clearly explain and detail which elements of the group project were completed by you. We need to understand what your contribution to the project was in the case of group projects.

Are there specific requirements for the layout of the portfolio (i.e., font, format etc)?

There are no specific formatting requirements associated with the Entrance Submission. However, all responses must be typed and submitted as a PDF. The standard for academic writing at UL is to use a clearly legible font (e.g. Calibri or Times New Roman) font size 12 with 1.5 line spacing. We will be hosting an Entrance Submission workshop in UL on the 2nd of March and will email details of this in the coming weeks.

Can project work completed for the leaving cert be used for the project submission?

You can use work completed in the Leaving Cert but you must expand on or add to project work completed for your Leaving Cert. Remember you want your project to stand out so keep this in mind if you are planning on submitting something related to Leaving Cert coursework.

Can you include pictures in the portfolio/ how many?

Yes, screenshots of your project can be included. Technically there is no limit on these but they should be relevant and relate directly to the discussion in the text of your submission. If included, images must also be explained in the text and include captions.

I'm working as an intern in the running start-up, will my coding there count for the submission?

Yes this would be suitable for the Entrance Submission however you must clearly outline your exact contributions to the work, particularly if there were others involved in the project also.

What do you look for most in the Project Submission?

Please refer to our website here:
https://software-engineering.ie/about-the-ise-entrance-submission/.
We will also be running an Entrance Submission workshop on the 2nd of March and will email details for this to everyone who registered for the webinar in the coming weeks.

What was the average portfolio mark from the 300 points last year (to give an idea of what the CAO level was)?

The median score in 2023 was 160 points out of a maximum of 300 points which would equate to approximately 106 points in the new Entrance Submission which carries a maximum of 200 points.

What's the most important thing to focus on in the Technology Project? (When it comes to the write-up) I've made a website, should I focus more on the coding side of things, design side, or my general progress?
The main focus should be on the problem you are trying to solve by creating the website.

Would a link to a GitHub account be acceptable?
Yes you can use a link to GitHub.

Would participation in any competitions like canst, Big Idea etc.. be beneficial for the project submission ?
Yes participation in such competitions can help to develop ideas for Route A or could be used as a response to one of the prompts in Route B.

When is the deadline for the portfolio?
Please refer to our website here:
https://software-engineering.ie/about-the-ise-entrance-submission/

If called for an interview, will it be online or in-person?
Interviews will be carried out online.

What scholarships are available to ISE students?
There are currently 3 scholarships available to ISE students from our partner companies to promote equality, diversity and inclusion in ISE. In 2024, there will also be a prize for the best Entrance Submission in 2024. All scholarships including the Entrance Submission prize are worth €10,000. Further information on these can be found in the webinar recording.

Is maths taught on the course or just Computer Science/ Software Engineering?
Yes maths is taught on the course from first year. There is a prerequisite for a H4 in higher level maths for the course.

Are the students provided with necessary equipment like laptops, or are they expected to have their own?
There is a facility for students to borrow laptops temporarily if needed, however students are expected to have their own laptops to facilitate completion of coursework and group projects.

Do you need to have coding experience for course?
No, coding experience is not a prerequisite for the course however it is recommended that prospective ISE students attempt to gain some coding experience before joining ISE. There are a wealth of free short courses available online in programming languages such as Python. We recommend that students engage with some of this content prior to joining ISE to ensure that the course will be of interest to them.

Does the Ericson bursary apply to this course?
As this Bursary is not run by the University of Limerick we cannot provide information on this. Please contact the bursary provider for information.

Do you need to have two H5 and four H7/O6?
Please refer to the UL Website for details on entry requirements:
https://www.ul.ie/courses/bachelor-science-immersive-software-engineering

How does having DARE affect your entry point requirements?
Please refer to UL Access Office for further information:
https://www.ul.ie/student-affairs/access-office

How many DARE students do you admit each year?
Please refer to UL Access Office for further information:
https://www.ul.ie/student-affairs/access-office

How many students will you take in this year for the programme?
We will be taking a minimum of 50 students in 2024.

Is there designated time during the school day where students are able to explore topics/ languages related to computer science themselves, or is it largely lesson/class based?
Self-directed learning is expected. The course is mainly based around content taught through guided sessions with our instructors. ISE classes are different to tradition lectures however in that they are extremely interactive. ISE is very much geared towards project, group, and practical work.

What is the male to female ratio?
This varies year on year but typically ranges from 17% to 30% female students.

Does the course arrange the work placements?
Yes ISE arrange placements for all of our students.

How does one register for the submission workshop in March?
We will be sending information on this over the next few weeks so please keep an eye on your inbox

Roughly what points range should we be looking to get in the Leaving Cert exams? I realise the portfolio makes it difficult to predict.
While we cannot predict what the points for ISE will be this year, it is likely you would need to get over 500 points to meet the entry requirements for the course. For example, taking the median Entrance Submission score from 2023 (160 points), students would have needed to get a minimum of 516 points in their Leaving Cert to meet the minimum points requirements for the course. The Entrance Submission for 2024 is worth a maximum of 200 points and based on last year's data the median would be 106 points. Hypothetically, if the points requirements for ISE remain unchanged for 2024 (676 points) students would need to achieve 570 points in their Leaving Cert to qualify for the course.