

FY advice: What advice would you give to First Year students starting off in this course?

General Advice

Keep up to date with lectures and labs
If you fall behind, take action immediately
Ask as many questions as possible
Think, listen and do your work from day 1
If you don't understand the basics, go over it
Have your notes organised
Get the work done as soon as you get it
Get all the books
Try to solve problems in groups

Lab advice

Go to all the labs
Always study lab q's before the lab
Write solution on a piece of paper first and take notes of the lab
Do the problems yourself before asking for help
Do every lab exercise no matter how long it takes
Get to know your lab tutor
Keep lab book neat for revision

Doing this course

Don't sit back and assume you know what you're doing
The pace is very fast, much faster than the Leaving Cert
Stick at it - it's really hard at first
Don't get freaked out, you can do it.
It's easy enough if you do the work yourself and go to all the lectures and labs
Keep up with it, ignore the failure rate
Pick suitable options

Computer programming

Practice writing programs as much as possible
Keep a clear head for programming
Do all optional problems
Buy the CD and do Java at home

Computer architecture

Listen to Ray Walshe
Don't let Ray Walshe frighten you
Practice on the D6 - once a week is not enough
Don't ever think that the D6 is your friend
Don't fall asleep in comp. Arch.

Other

Get a computer
Maths is also a very big part of the course
Don't pick electronics
Develop an interest in computers outside the course

Non academic advice

Getting to know people in lab/class can be very helpful