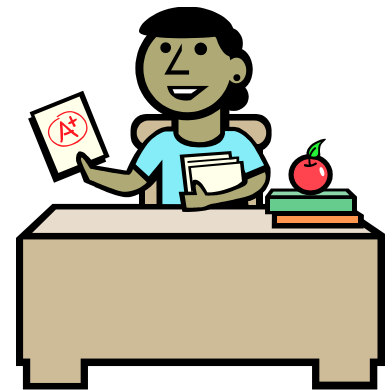


St Columba's College

Careers Information for Leaving Certificate Parents 2023/2024

Ms Eithne Sproule
Ms Catherine McNulty
Guidance Counsellors

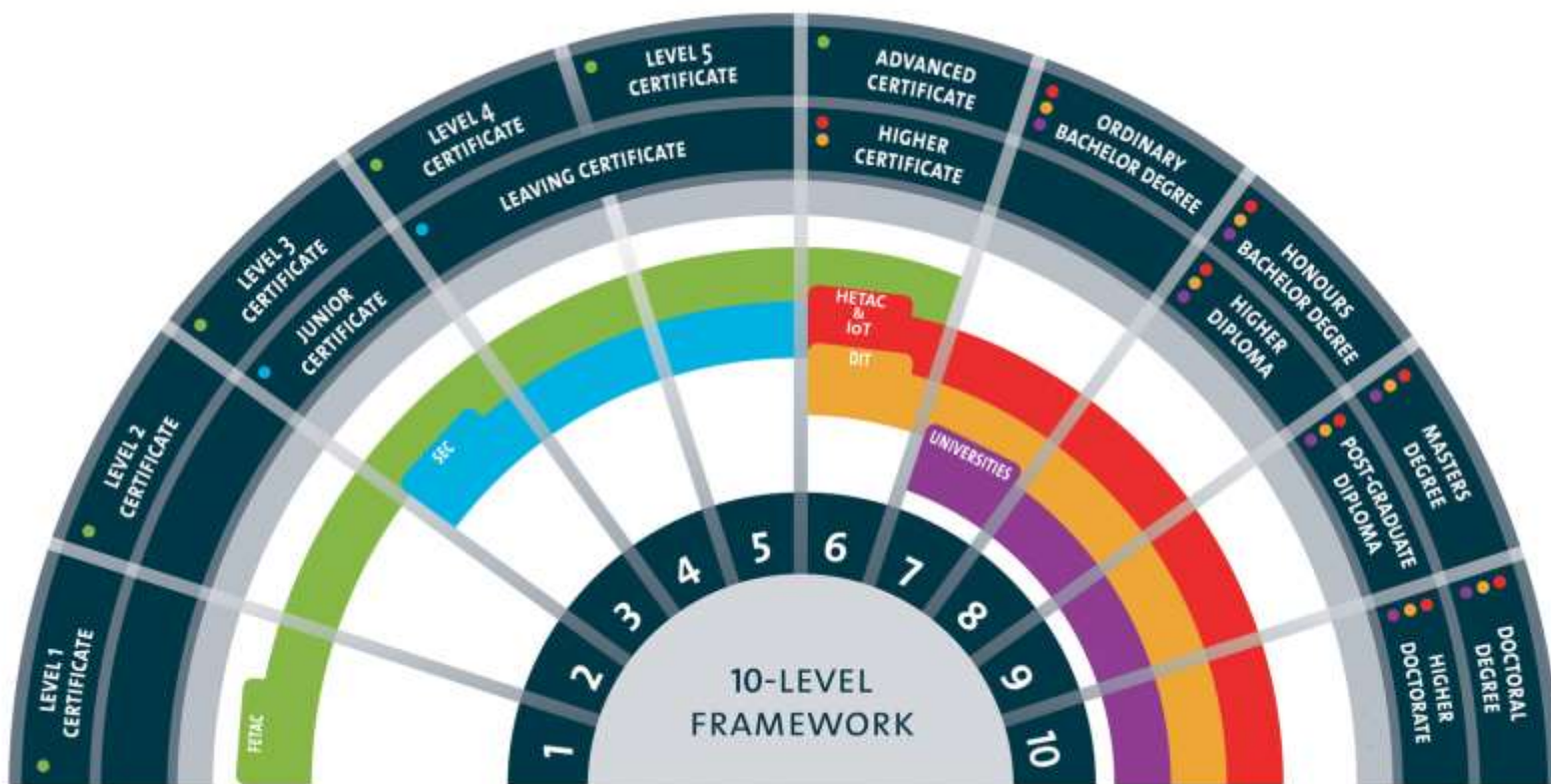




AGENDA

- SUSI Grant Process Kathleen Browne
- Options available after the Leaving Certificate
- The UCAS System
- The CAO system
- HEAR/DARE Access Programmes
- Scholarships
- Accommodation

National Framework of Qualifications





Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) Courses

- Short, practical courses designed to give you skills you'll need in the workplace.
- Also can be used to progress to 3rd Level Colleges
- Work placement included.
- Internationally recognised.
- Usually 1 year fulltime: QQI Level 5
- Second year: QQI Level 6
- A full QQI award is 8 modules and can be potentially worth 380/390 CAO points.
- Grant can be obtained.



Local PLC providers

- Finn Valley College (3)
- Errigal College (6)
- Sligo College of Further Education (33)
- Cavan Institute (80)
- Monaghan Institute (50+)

Reasons for choosing to do a PLC.....some

- Age.....not ready to leave home
- Unsure about future career area
- To improve points total
- To try out a particular subject area before committing to college (financial implications of making wrong choice can be costly)
- To gain access to college
- To gain valuable transferable skills
- To gain employment



Traineeships

- A programme of structured training which combines learning in the workplace and in an education/training setting.
- Up to 2 years in duration.
- Usually free except where participants have to buy their own equipment eg Beauty Therapy
- May receive a training allowance, travel allowance or accommodation allowance
- Start at various times of the year

Benefits:

- Develop cutting edge skills in the workplace
- Improve employability and career options
- May be a chance to try an industry and then continue training/education in that field



Apprenticeships

- A full time training programme combining learning in the workplace and in an education/training facility
- Duration 2-4 years depending on trade/occupation
- Earn while you learn model- 7 phases on/off the job
- Pro-rata fees must be paid if off-the-job training takes place in a Higher Education Institute eg ATU Donegal for Electrical
- Location of the training provider depends on trade/occupation

Benefits

- Gain skills, practical work experience and qualification while earning a wage.
- Valuable industry links/contacts.
- Internationally recognised

TOP TIP

Start looking for an employer now

ETB/SOLAS



■ **Traineeships** (Currently in Donegal ETB)

- **Automated Software Testing**
- **Beauty Therapist**
- **Hairdressing**
- **Cloud Platform and Infrastructure**
- **Construction Groundwork**
- **Digital Sales and Marketing**
- **Engineering Operations**
- **Food and Beverage Service**
- **Healthcare Support**
- **Outdoor Activity Instructor**
- **Special Needs and Intellectual Studies**
- **Telecommunications**

To apply:

- www.fetchcourses.ie

■ **Apprenticeships**

■ **70+ in the following fields:**

- **Construction**
- **Electrical**
- **Engineering**
- **Agriculture & Horticulture**
- **Motor**
- **Finance**
- **Accounting**
- **Hospitality & Food**
- **Healthcare**
- **ICT**
- **Insurance**
- **Logistics**
- **Biopharma**
- **Property Services**
- **Recruitment**
- **Retail**

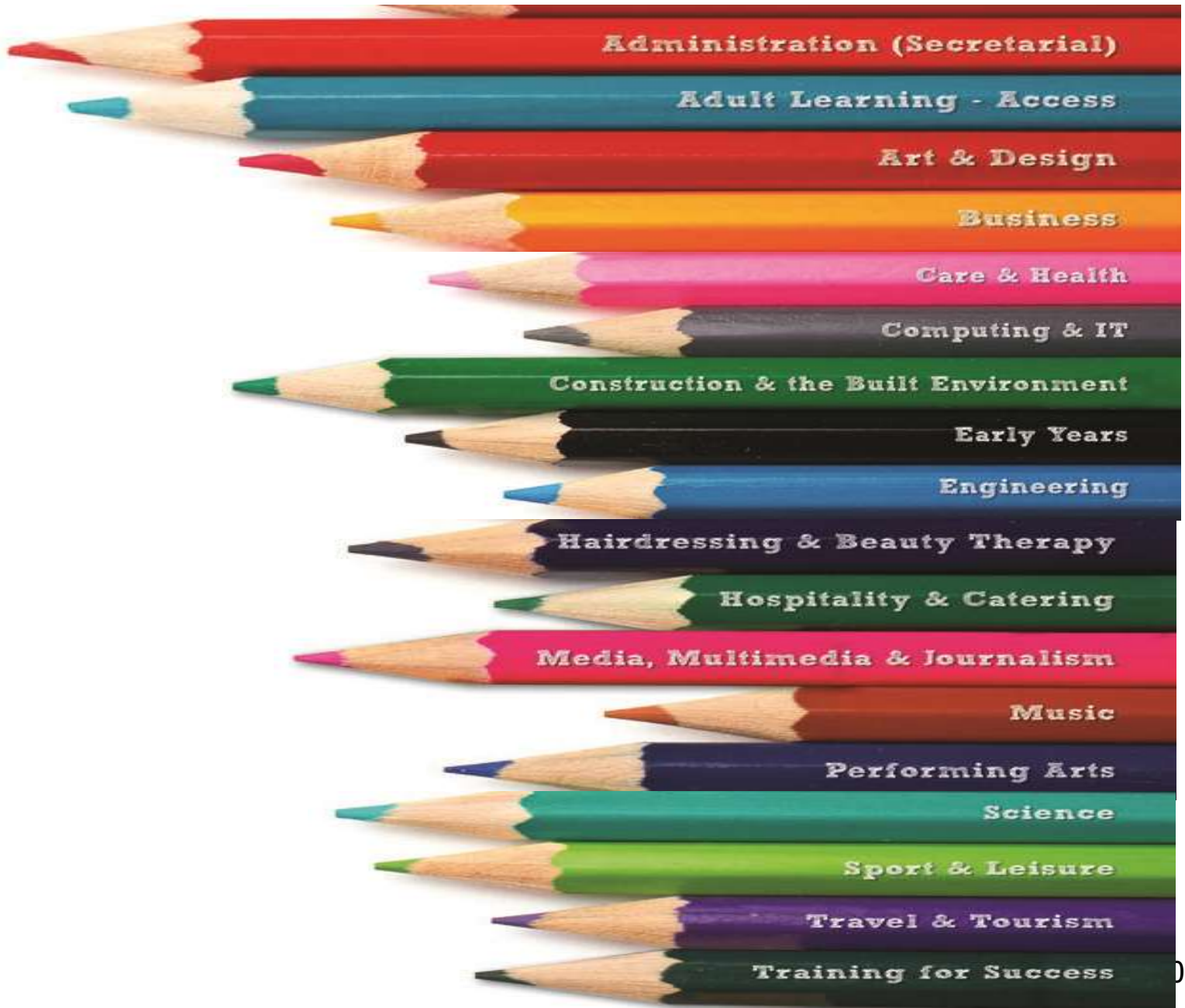
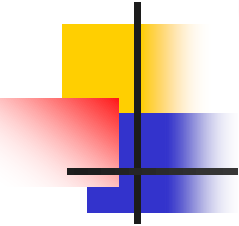
- www.cao.ie (link)

- www.apprenticeship.ie



North West Regional College (Derry, Limavady, Strabane)

- Online Direct Application to college itself (Small number of courses apply through UCAS)
- 18 different subject areas
- Level 1, 2, Level 3, Level 4, Level 5 Higher National Diploma/Foundation Degrees (Add 2 for equivalent NFQ level)
- Work placement and continuous assessment
- No fees for Level 2,3.....but therefore **no grant**
- Level 4,5 HND/Foundation Degree £2,500....SUSI Maintenance grant available. Deposit £200.
- Can be a route to Employment / University
- Very useful as an alternative entry route for some high demand/points courses eg Physio, OT, Nursing, PE teaching.....
- Traineeships and Apprenticeships NI (Employer must be in N.I.)
- Entry Requirements for Level 3: **4 Ordinary level 05s or above**
Level 4,5: **UCAS Tariff Points**



Administration (Secretarial)

Adult Learning - Access

Art & Design

Business

Care & Health

Computing & IT

Construction & the Built Environment

Early Years

Engineering

Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy

Hospitality & Catering

Media, Multimedia & Journalism

Music

Performing Arts

Science

Sport & Leisure

Travel & Tourism

Training for Success

Teagasc Courses

- Equine
- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Pig Production
- Poultry Production
- Horticulture
- Food
- Machinery



Courses available from Level 5-Level 8 in partnership with Technological Universities

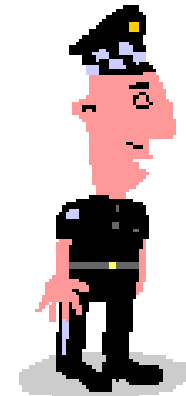
Some courses are offered through CAO and some are applied for direct to the Agricultural College.



GARDA

Entry requirements

- Must be 18-50 years of age
- 5 O6s in Leaving Certificate or a Merit/Distinction in Leaving Certificate Applied
- Hold an NFQ minimum Level 5 qualification
- Be proficient in English *OR* Irish *OR* Both
- www.garda.ie
- www.publicjobs.ie



Defence Forces

Careers in the Defence Forces include-

- Cadetship in: Army, Navy & Air Corps

Min Entry Req: Age 18-26

3 H5s and

3 O6/H6

(incl. Maths, Irish, English, 3rd language)

- Apprenticeships:
 - Aircraft Mechanic
 - Fitter/Armourer
 - Heavy Vehicle Mechanic
- Recruits (age 18-29)





Options after LCA (Leaving Cert Applied)

LCA students are eligible to apply for all of the previously mentioned options:

- PLC courses (Tertiary Degrees)
- Traineeships
- Apprenticeships
- NWRC Level 1,2 and 3 courses
- Garda
- Defence forces (Recruits/Apprenticeships)
- Teagasc L5 courses

In order to progress to a Higher Education Institute, they must first successfully complete a PLC (QQI Level 5) course

ATU Letterkenny also offer an Access Course suitable for LCA students



Tertiary Degrees

- Alternative access to college places
- No points required
- Interview based selection process
- SUSI Grant available
- Start with a PLC course (Free)
- Then progress to a Technological University
- Donegal ETB and ATU offer:
 - BSc Industrial Laboratory Science (L7)
 - Bachelor of Business (L8)
 - BSc (Hons) in Sustainable Engineering Technologies (L8)
 - Level 5 Access Route into BSc General Nursing (Year 1)



UCAS

- Application System for all Universities in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland & Wales
- Queens University Belfast.
- Ulster University (Derry/Londonderry, Coleraine, Belfast)
- DOES NOT INCLUDE
North West Regional College
St. Mary's, Belfast
(Direct Application)



UCAS Application on-line

- Personal details
- Up to 5 choices (in no particular order of preference)
- Employment – paid
- Educational details – J.C. results, L. C. subjects and levels.
- Important to check Entry Requirements (JC and LC)
- Personal statement (Very important)
- Predicted grades from teachers and entered by GC
- Reference done by Guidance Counsellor
- Cost of application £27.50



Important dates for UCAS

- **31st January 2024**- Closing date for UCAS applications. (16th Oct Medicine, Vet, Dentistry, Oxford, Cambridge)
- However we endeavour to have all applications completed by early January and have given students a deadline for their first draft of Personal Statement (Nov 6th)
- After application has been submitted, Universities and Colleges begin sending decisions to applicants.



What happens your application?

- All colleges you have applied to will receive a copy of your application (same personal statement).
- Students are able to check on their application through their Hub on the UCAS website.
- Students may be called for interviews/asked to write essays etc. **(Important to check e-mails regularly)**
- Nursing interviews and Allied Healthcare Interviews for Ulster University and QUB will be **on-line** from Feb
- Paramedics and Dietetics: in person
- Competency based Pharmacy interviews for Ulster and QUB in person



Offers and Acceptances

- A response will be received from each college applied to, saying whether the applicant has been successful or not – the date of replies will vary.
- Offers are **conditional** (there will be certain grades/UCAS tariff points required)
- Only when you have received all replies back, do you have to decide which course you will keep as your Firm choice (no. 1) and which one as your Insurance choice (back-up). Any other offers you are holding must be declined.
- If the applicant obtains the Conditions (required grades/tariff points) in the Leaving Cert, they will be awarded their place



Fees

Northern Ireland: £4,710

England: Up to £9,250

Wales: Up to £9,250 *

Scotland: £9,250

**No fees: Nursing, Paramedic Science & Allied
Healthcare courses in Northern Ireland (NHS
funded)**

******Student Loan option******



CAO Agenda

- General points regarding the CAO.
- Entry Requirements and the Points System.
- Making an application.
- How places are allocated by CAO
- After submitting the application.

CAO – General Info.

- Centralised application system for 43 Irish 3rd level institutions, including some **fee-paying** colleges.
- CAO handbook is online at www.cao.ie
- Every 6th year will be given the opportunity to register in class in November (Choices not essential at this stage)
- **HIGHLY ADVISE THAT THEY TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO AVOID COSTLY MISTAKES**
- **Early discounted price €30 (before JAN 20th)**

Online Application	Fee	Payment Method
Normal (Feb 1 st)	€45	Credit/Laser Card
Late(May 1 st)	€60	Credit/Laser Card
Change of Mind	No Fee	---

CAO – General Info.

- There are now 3 types of courses students can apply for under the National Framework of Qualifications.
- These are applied for on 2 separate lists:

Level 6 & 7 Courses

Ordinary Degrees (7) Higher Certificates (6)
Up to 10 Course Choices

Level 8 Courses

Honours Degrees (8)
Up to 10 Course Choices

- The courses are clearly labelled in the CAO Handbook
- N.B. – Care must be taken with courses marked '*Restricted*'.
- These courses cannot be applied for after February 1st due to extra assessments required eg Portfolio/Audition

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

These must be satisfied before “points” are considered.

Minimum Entry Requirements

E.g. University of Galway
Bachelor of Arts

- Present 6 subjects
- At least 2 H5s and 4 O6/H7
- Pass in:
 - ✓ Irish
 - ✓ English
 - ✓ A third Language
 - ✓ 3 other subjects

Specific Subject Requirements

E.g.s

- Engineering(UCD)
Minimum H4 Maths and H6 in a Lab. Science
- Veterinary Medicine(UCD)
H5 Chemistry
- Health Science with
Physiotherapy Studies
(ATU)H5 Biology

If all Entry Requirements are met → applicant is deemed 'Qualified' to apply.



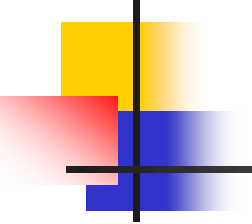
Points System

Generally in the CAO system there are more qualified applicants than there are course places, therefore a selection system is needed.

Selection system used in Irish 3rd Level Colleges is the POINTS SYSTEM

- Points are calculated from **ONE** sitting of the Leaving Certificate only.
- Points total is calculated from **SIX** best subjects (**any six**)
- Entry Requirements can be satisfied over more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate. Eg. Repeat a single subject and combine it with previous years points in order to be eligible to apply
- If applying for Medicine, both points and requirements must be from same year

POINTS ALLOCATION



<u>Marks</u>		<u>H</u>		<u>O</u>
90-100	H1	100	O1	56
80-89	H2	88	O2	46
70-79	H3	77	O3	37
60-69	H4	66	O4	28
50-59	H5	56	O5	20
40-49	H6	46	O6	12
30-39	H7	37	O7	0
0-29	H8	0	O8	0

LCVP Points	
Distinction	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

Science – UCD
100 places to be offered

Applicant Position	Points Score
1	560
2	535
3	525
4	520
5	510
6	510
7	505
8	500
9	490
--	--
--	--
15	455
16	445
17	440
18	435
19	420
20	410
21	405
--	--
--	--
98	340
99	335
100	330
101	325
102	315
103	310
104	305
105	295
--	--
--	--
182	265

← Last place to be filled

Course Cut Off Points = 330

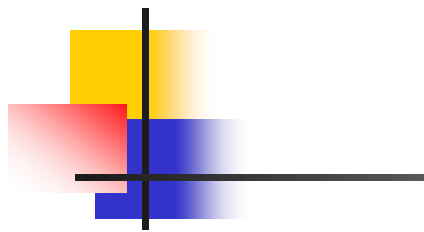
Science – Maynooth
100 places to be offered

Applicant Position	Points Score
1	560
2	535
3	525
4	520
5	510
6	510
7	505
8	500
9	490
--	--
--	--
15	455
16	445
17	440
18	435
19	420
20	410
21	405
--	--
--	--
98	345
99	340
100	335
101	335
102	335
103	315
104	310
105	305
--	--
--	--
182	265

← Random Selection to be used

Course Cut Off Points = 335*

So – what is the best way to fill in the courses?



1 Dream
2
3
4
5 Realistic
6
7
8
9 Bankers
10

Use both Lists (plan A,B,C,D...)

Level 8

Example 1

- LM090: PE teaching
- AU320: Sport & Exercise

Example 2

- DC002: Primary Teaching
- CM001: Primary Teaching
- AU390: Early Childhood

Example 3

- AU380 General Nursing

Level 6/7

Example 1

- AU222: Sport & Exercise

Example 2

- AU190: Early Childhood

Example 3

- AU171 Health Science with OT



After making Application

- Some students may be called for extra assessments eg Portfolio, Assessment Test, Audition, Interview, HPAT etc
- May:Receive Statement of Application Record – check details carefully online...**TICK BOX TO INDICATE YOU HAVE DONE SO**
- Change of Mind facility becomes available(Early May)
- Final closing date for entering choices **JULY 1st**
- Leaving Certificate Results are sent to CAO (August)
- Places are allocated and offered online.
- Students accept, reject or defer offered places.
- Further rounds of offers are made until all course places are filled.



Timeline for August (Approx)

- Mid August: Results issued by SEC
- 3-4 days later: Offers from CAO & UCAS

Between Registration, Accommodation, Induction, Subsequent CAO offers.....this is a very busy time!



Access Routes to Higher Education

- HEAR
- DARE
- DCU Access Programme



HEAR

- Higher Education Access Route
- A 3rd level admissions scheme for students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds who have completed the leaving certificate



What colleges participate?

- DCU
- TU Dublin
- University of Galway
- Maynooth University
- TCD
- UCC
- UCD
- UL
- RCSI
- Marino Institute of Education
- Mary I. College, Limerick
- St. Angela's College Sligo
- ATU (All campuses)
- TUS
- Dundalk I.T.
- MTU
- TUS
- National College of Ireland
- IADT, Dun Laoghaire
- SE Technological University



What are the benefits of applying?

- Students who apply for the HEAR programme compete for a number of **reduced-point places** in each of the participating colleges.

Other benefits include Post-Entry support such as:

- Personal support: Student advisor, mentoring, social gatherings
- Academic support: Extra tuition, study skills, exams preparation
- Orientation Programme to introduce you to the college
- Financial: Bursary when available, advice regarding grants/scholarships



N.B.

You must still meet the minimum course entry requirements to be considered for one of the reduced point places



HEAR indicators: Should I apply?

1. Income (€46,790 €51,325 €55,630) (2022)
2. Medical Card/ G.P. Visit Card (Valid to Dec 2023)
3. Means Tested Social Welfare Payment (2022)

4. Socio-economic Group (Employment Status, Type, Job Title)
5. DEIS school (Not Applicable to St. Columba's)
6. Area profile-concentrated disadvantage

Applicants must meet No.1 and two others with at least one being from No. 4/6.



HEAR Timeline

- FEB 1st 2024: Apply to CAO
- MAR 1st 2024: Complete HEAR application
- March 15th 2024: Submission of additional documents eg. Social Welfare document/P21
- **STRICT DEADLINES**



DARE

- Disability Access Route to Education
- DARE is a supplementary admissions scheme which offers college places on reduced points to school leavers with disabilities



What colleges participate?

- ATU (All campuses)
- TUS
- MTU
- SE Technological University
- TU Dublin
- University of Galway
- Maynooth University
- Pontifical University,
Maynooth
- Marino Institute of Ed.
- DCU
- Nat. College of Ireland
- R.C.S.I.
- TCD
- UCC
- UCD
- UL and Mary Imm.
- Dundalk I.T.
- I.A.D.T.



Who should apply?

- School leavers who have the ability to benefit from and succeed in higher education but who may not be able to get the points for their preferred course due to the impact of a disability/illness/challenge.



What disabilities are eligible?

- Asperger's/ASD
- ADD/ADHD*
- Blind/Vision impaired
- Deaf/Hearing impaired
- Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD)-Dyspraxia
- Significant Ongoing Illness*
- Mental Health Conditions*
- Neurological Conditions(incl. Epilepsy & brain injury)
- Speech & Language Communication Disorder
- Physical Disability
- Significant Literacy Difficulties/Dyslexia

*Reports must be less than 3 years old: dated after Feb 1st 2021)



How to apply?

Feb 1st: Apply for CAO

Mar 1st: Complete online Supplementary Information Form. Indicate that you wish to be considered for DARE.

March 15th: Return completed Educational Impact Statement and completed Evidence of Disability Form



CAO Timetable 2024 Entry

- **1st February, 2024**
 - Closing date for receipt of normal applications
- **1st May, 2024**
 - Closing date for receipt of late applications
- **Before/By 31st May, 2024**
 - Receive Statement of Application Record **CHECK**
- **5th May, 2024**
 - Online change of mind facility becomes available.
- **1st July, 2024**
 - Latest date for receipt of change of mind form in CAO.
- **Mid August, 2024**
 - Expected date of first round offers.



Scholarships

- Huge range of scholarships available eg. Sport, Performing Arts, Socio-Economic Background, Academic (usually not applied for)
- Important to check individual colleges
- Effort required from students
- Some to note locally:
 - REACH
 - Optum
 - 1916 Bursary
 - SVP Education & Training Bursary Fund
- <https://careersportal.ie/scholarships>



Accommodation

- Students' own responsibility
- Check websites regularly
- Register and pay deposit
- Join waiting lists
- Explore multiple options available eg college owned, privately owned, digs



William Glasser

- Educationalist
- Psychologist

**“Education
begins at birth
and continues
all our lives”**