

St. John Bosco Community College, Kildysart

CAO PRESENTATION
Wednesday October 22nd 2025

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Guidance Counsellor

Initial research to be conducted by 6th years

- Themselves - interests, skills, personality traits, aptitudes, likes, dislikes, motivations
- Their learning style!
- Courses/options - Entry requirements, content & module details, placements, study abroad options, graduates
- Careers - options & alternative routes
- The application processes
- A Plan A, B and C

Options available to students after the Leaving Cert

FURTHER EDUCATION & TRAINING

www.fetchcourses.ie

APPRENTICESHIPS

www.apprenticeship.ie

HIGHER EDUCATION

www.cao.ie

STUDY ABROAD

wwwucas.com

www.eunicas.ie

www.medicalpoland.ie

www.theuniversityguys.com

NATIONAL LEARNING NETWORK

www.rehab.ie

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES

www.teagasc.ie

DIRECT TRAINING

DIRECT TO WORKPLACE

TAKING A YEAR OUT

CAO – Central Applications Office

Definition: Centralised application system for Irish 3rd level institutions, including 7 fee-paying colleges.

This is how students apply to:

- Universities
- Technological Universities
- Some private Colleges

TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITIES

An amalgamation of the Institutes of Technology

TU Dublin = Technological University Dublin

(Amalgamation of Dublin I.T, Blanchardstown I.T. and the I. T in Tallaght)

T.U.S Midlands Midwest= Technological University of the Shannon

(Amalgamation of Athlone I.T + Limerick I.T)

M. T.U. = Munster Technological University

(Amalgamation of I.T. Tralee + Cork I.T.)

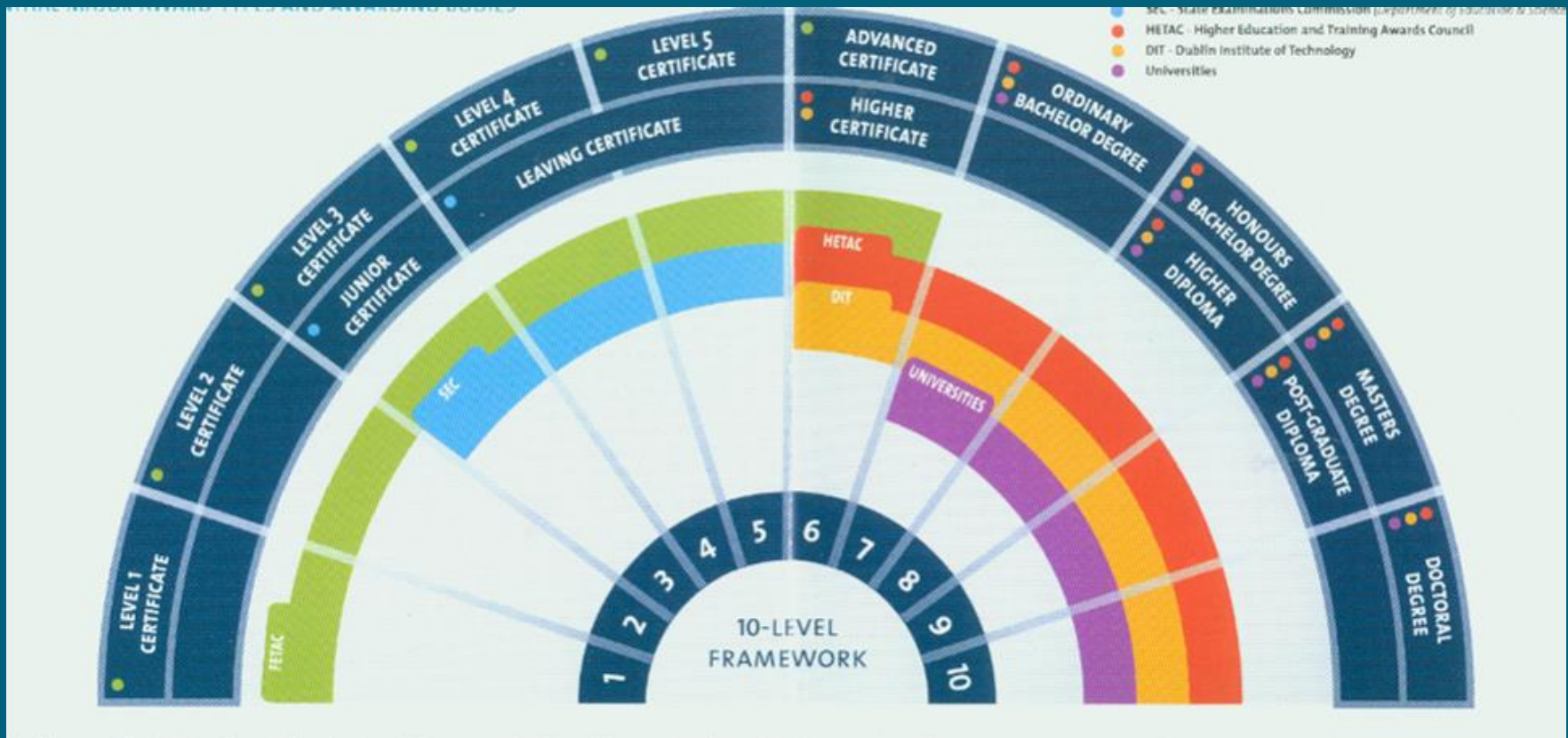
A.T.U.=Atlantic Technological University)

(Amalgamation of Letterkenny I.T + Sligo I.T + Galway/Mayo I.T.)

S.E.T.U.=South East Technological University

(Amalgamation of Carlow I.T. and Waterford I.T.)

National Framework of Qualifications – 10 Levels



National Framework of Qualifications – 10 Levels

What is the NFQ?

This wheel determines the educational level a student possesses.

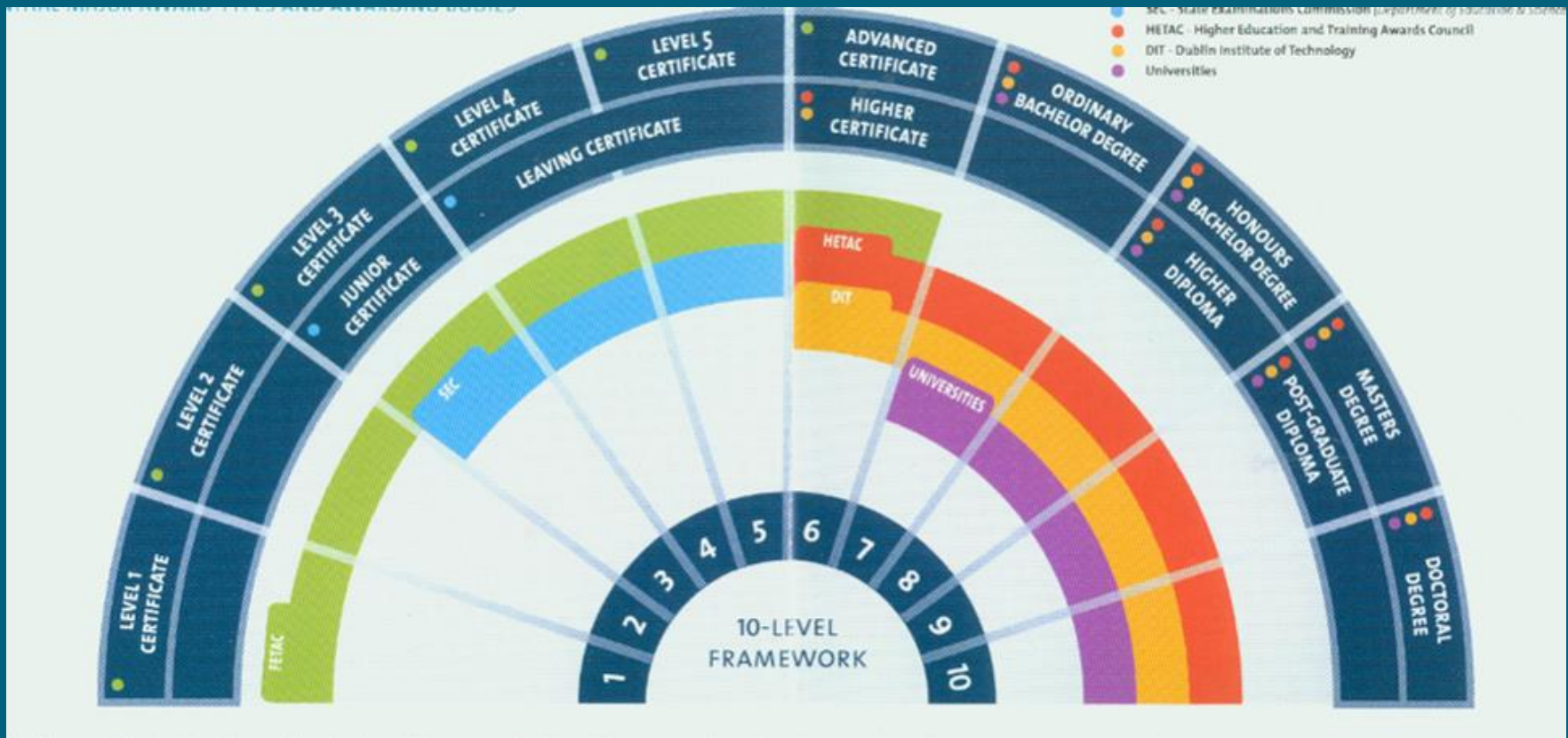
School Levels

- Level 3: Junior Certificate Level
- Level 5: Leaving Certificate Level/ Post Leaving Certificate Level

Third Level

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| ● Level 5: Certificate | (1 year) |
| ● Level 6: Higher Certificate | (2 Years) |
| ● Level 7: Ordinary Level Degree | (3 Years) |
| ● Level 8: Higher Level Degree | (4 Years) |
| ● Level 9: Postgraduate Level | (1-2 Years) |
| ● Level 10: Doctoral Level | (3-4 Years) |

National Framework of Qualifications – 10 Levels



Selection of Courses

On the CAO application form Students can apply for:
up to 20 courses from 2 lists

Level 8 list – 10 Choices

Honours Degrees in Universities

Honours Degrees in Technological Universities

Level 6/7 list – 10 Choices

Technological University courses only.

Higher Certificates are at Level 6

Ordinary Degrees are at Level 7



Be careful re. courses marked '**RESTRICTED COURSES**' (*for these courses you must also complete something additional such as.... either an interview/ aptitude test/ audition or submit a portfolio*)

Important to remember:

Applying for any course through the:

CAO/PLC/UCAS Application forms

Or applying for the DARE/HEAR/SUSI schemes



It is the STUDENT's choice

It is the STUDENT's responsibility

It is the STUDENT's decision

STAGES TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO BEING CONSIDERED FOR A PLACE

THREE STAGES

STAGE 1: meeting the MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

STAGE 2: meeting the FACULTY DEPARTMENT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

STAGE 3: meeting the POINTS REQUIREMENTS

CAO Requirements for Entry

Minimum Entry Requirements

General requirements to get into a particular Higher Education Institution (HEI)

Specific Subject Requirements

Particular subjects/grades required for certain courses

Points

Minimum cut-off points for each course on a given year
CAO Points for 2022 will only be known when Round 1 offers are issued.

Language Exemptions - Contact Admissions Offices of UL, Mary I and TCD directly. For NUI Colleges (UCC, UCD, Maynooth University, NUI Galway, RCSI, NCAD and St Angela's College, Sligo) see www.nui.ie

STAGE 1: **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

**These must be satisfied
before “points” are
considered**

Level 6 & 7 Courses

Minimum Entry Requirement

Level 6 courses = five Passes (O6/H7)

Level 7 courses = five Passes (O6/H7)

This means 5 O6/H7 passes or a minimum number of points.

O6= 40-49% in a subject (12 points)

H7= 30-39% in a subject (37 points)

College Prospectuses/ Websites need to be consulted.

Level 8 Courses

Minimum Entry Requirement

Different colleges have different entry requirements

NUI Universities (UCD, UCC, NUIM & University of Galway) require two H5 and four O6/H7 Grades

NUI Universities look for Irish, English, Maths and a **Second language** in your six subjects.

Some courses in NUI Universities e.g. Science and engineering courses do not have a **second language** requirement.

IMPORTANT: Language Exemptions have to be applied for separately for the NUI Universities and for the University of Limerick.

Level 8 Courses

Minimum Entry Requirements

TCD requires three H5 and three O6/H7 to include English, Maths and another language.

Most Level 8 **Technological Universities** require 2 H5 and four O6/H7 to include Maths and English or Irish.

U.L. & D.C.U. requires two H5 and four O6/H7 to include Maths and English or Irish

O6= 40-49% in a subject (12 points)

H5= 50-59% in a subject (56 points)

H7= 30-39% in a subject (37 points)

CHECK WEBSITE/ PROSPECTUS



STAGE 2:

Faculty / Department Requirements

Examples....

- 1. Pharmacy** – TCD and UCC – H5 in Chemistry and a H4 in a 2nd science subject or Geography or Maths
- 2. Physiotherapy (TCD)** – H4 in two science subjects or H4 in one science and higher level maths.
- 3. Primary School Teaching** – H4 in Irish

College website / prospectus should always be consulted

If all Entry Requirements and
Faculty requirements (if needed)
are met ☐ applicant is deemed
'Qualified' to apply.

THEN
“Points” are considered.

POINTS SYSTEM

Generally in the CAO system

No. of qualified applicants > No. of course places

--> 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.
- 25 bonus points awarded for H6(40-49%) or above in Maths(Maximum points now 625) Bonus points are awarded from H6 Grade and above
- Entry Requirements can be satisfied **over more than one** sitting of the Leaving Certificate.
- **H7 is (30-39 %)** it is considered a pass in a subject for the purposes of the CAO e.g. Maths.

Grading Bands 2025/26

Higher Level Grade %

- H1 (90 - 100)
- H2 (80 < 90)
- H3 (70 < 80)
- H4 (60 < 70)
- H5 (50 < 60)
- H6 (40 < 50)
- H7 (30 < 40) **now a pass**
- H8 (0 < 30) fail

Ordinary Level Grade %

- O1 (90-100)
- O2 (80 < 90)
- O3 (70 < 80)
- O4 (60 < 70)
- O5 (50 < 60)
- O6 (40 < 50)
- O7 (30 < 40) fail
- O8 (0 < 30) fail

POINTS ALLOCATION

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Honours</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Ordinary</u>
H1	100	O1	56
H2	88	O2	46
H3	77	O3	37
H4	66	O4	28
H5	56	O5	20
H6	46	O6	12
H7	37	O7	0
H8	0	O8	0

LCVP

Distinction -66

Merit- -46

Pass- -28

Example of Points Calculation

- Irish H₄
- English H₂
- Maths H₆
- French H₃
- Biology H₅
- Geography O₁
- History H₃

- 66
- 88
- $46+25 = 71$
- 77
- 56
- 56
- 77

- Total = 435 (we left out one of the 56 point results as only the best 6 results are calculated)

How the '*points*' requirement for each course works

- ▶ Each college decides on how many places they wish to offer for each course.
- ▶ The number of applications will be determined by the number of applicants each year, i.e. popularity of the course.
- ▶ Places will be offered to applicants in order of merit as determined by their points.
- ▶ The published '*points*' for a course are the points achieved by the last applicant/s offered a place that year in each course.

i.e. everyone offered a place had at least those points
Thus the minimum '*points*' can change from year to year

Example of the Order of Preference

John 2025 Leaving Cert 473 Points



Level 8	
CK202	(553 points)
CK201	(500 points)
LM050	(451 points)
LM056	(555 points)
TL831	(306 points)
TL823	(293 points)
CR150	(350 points)
CR400	(290 points)
CR420	(293 points)
CK101	(300 points)

Level 7/6	
CR021	(253 points)
CR022	(172 points)
TL731	(232 points)
CR041	(212 points)
CR032	(340 points)
WD003	(AQA)



RESTRICTED ENTRY COURSES

Some courses have **Interviews/ Aptitude tests/Portfolio/Auditions.**

- You must apply to CAO by February 1st for these courses.
- You cannot add in these courses at a later date

HPAT

- Medicine – you are required to sit a **HPAT** exam to apply for undergraduate medicine in Ireland.
- You register for the HPAT exam in early November
- It is only valid for one year
- The HPAT test is run by an independent company called ACER
- The HPAT Test occurs online in February 2026 (dates have yet to be announced)
- Duration: 2 ½ hour exam
- Application Deadline to the CAO: must apply before a certain closing date in January(date to be confirmed for 2026)
- Check CAO handbook online

HPAT Additional Information

You will need a HPAT–Ireland score to apply for admission to any of the following courses:

- University of Galway – Undergraduate Medicine
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – Undergraduate Medicine
- Trinity College Dublin – Undergraduate Medicine
- University College Cork – Undergraduate Medicine
- University College Dublin – Undergraduate Medicine
- University of Limerick
 - Undergraduate Medicine
 - MSc Occupational Therapy (Professional Qualification)
 - MSc Speech and Language Therapy (Professional Qualification)

For information about specific courses and admission requirements, please refer to the relevant university websites.

HPAT–Ireland is available to any person who is applying to study a course for which HPAT–Ireland is a prerequisite, and who is able to meet the academic entry requirements set by the universities. Eligible test-takers must either be in their final year of school or have completed their school leaving

IMPORTANT: LANGUAGE EXEMPTION

If you are exempt from Irish and/or another language you must complete an **NUI exemption form** in order to be eligible for a course in UCD, NUI Maynooth, UCC, NUI Galway

You are also required to complete **a separate form for U.L.(University of Limerick)** if you **do not have a second language**. This does not apply if you are studying Irish.

TWO SEPARATE FORMS

[Contact a HEI](#)

[Downloads](#)

[Mature Applicants](#)

[QQI FET Applicants](#)

[Advanced Entry](#)

[Entry to Medicine](#)

[Restrictions](#)

[Media and Statistics](#)

Covid-19 update:

The CAO premises are temporarily closed due to the government measures introduced to control the spread of Covid-19. If you have a question for CAO, please click [here](#). Please note: postal correspondence is being processed as usual.

The Central Applications Office processes applications for undergraduate courses in Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Decisions on admissions to undergraduate courses are made by the HEIs who instruct CAO to make offers to successful candidates.



Supporting Documents

Instructions and answers to FAQs



Applicants

Parents / Guardians

Guidance / Schools

Access Routes
DARE / HEAR

Further Education and
Training
&
Apprenticeship

Open Days

Have a question?

Important Dates

CAO
www.cao.ie

Handbook
2026

The mission of the CAO is to be the leading provider of centralised application processing services for Irish post-secondary education providers. CAO currently operates the centralised application system for Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

If you click on the links below, you can view a host of full-time higher education, further education and training and apprenticeship options available to post-second level applicants.

Higher Education

Levels 6/7 and 8

Honours degrees, ordinary degrees, diplomas and higher certificates

Further Education and Training

Levels 5 and 6

Full-time accredited programmes, including Post Leaving Certificate courses (PLCs), that include a substantial work experience component. Many of which offer an access route to further third-level studies.

Apprenticeships

Levels 5-10

Apprenticeship is an accredited programme of structured education and training which formally combines and alternates learning in the workplace with learning in an education or training centre.

Please note: CAO is not currently accepting applications for further education courses or apprenticeships. For all queries and information about Further Education and Training or Apprenticeship options, click on the tabs above.

You can apply for higher education courses via CAO by clicking on 'Apply' and following the instructions in the CAO Handbook and the CAO application form.

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

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

Dream Courses

Realistic Courses

Banker Courses

Making an Application



- Applications are made **online**.
 - Always take a screenshot of or print the online screen receipt.
 - Any documents that you send by post- get a Certificate of Posting from the Post office.
 - Fill out both course lists
- In genuine order of preference-**
not based on your own predictions of next year's grades.

CAO Application Sections

- Personal details - Pay fee & activate CAO account
- Qualifications & Assessments
- Course choices - Level 8 & Level 7/6
- Correspondence section
- Disability/specific learning difficulty & DARE (Disability Access Route to Education)
- HEAR (Higher Education Access Route)
- Language Exemptions - information
- SUSI Grant Application - permission to share information

Application Dates and Fees

(All info inside front cover of the C.A.O. Booklet)

20th January, 2026 5pm

Closing date for receipt of early online applications cost 35 Euro (discount).
Normal fee is 50 Euro

1st February, 2026 5pm

Closing date for receipt of normal applications

5th February to 1st March 5pm 2026

Courses may be changed online including 'restricted', €10 fee to be paid

1st March 2026 5pm

Closing date for final completion of DARE/HEAR forms

10th March 2026 5pm

Closing date for receipt of supporting documentation for DARE/HEAR candidates

1st May, 2026 5pm

Closing date for receipt of late applications

5th of May 2026 12 noon

Change of mind online applications accepted.

1st July, 2026 5pm

Latest date for receipt of change of mind form in CAO.

17th August (approx.) 2026

First round of offers will commence.

Change of Mind

After 5th May 2026 (12 noon) you can register a change of course choices –online,

Print any changes made

Days of the Week			May 2011			Days of the Week		
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		

This facility closes on 1st of July
2026 at 5pm

After Making Application

- The student receives a CAO number and Statement of Course Choices – **check this carefully.**
- Some students may be called for extra assessments.
- Receive Statement of Application Record (Before the end of May)– check details carefully.
- Change of Mind facility becomes available – use sparingly and carefully. (May 5th - 1st July)
- Leaving Cert. Results are sent to CAO. (mid August)
- Places are allocated and offered by post and online.(Monday after results are issued)
- Students accept, reject or defer offered places.
- Further rounds of offers are made until all course places are filled.

Deferral of a Place

- Place is held for **one academic year**
- The student is recommended to check with the University/college in advance about their deferral conditions and arrangements- There are some courses where deferral will be difficult or impossible.
- When offered a place, contact admissions office of university IMMEDIATELY – mark deferred entry- must be done at least 2 days before REPLY DATE on offer notice – decision will be made

Read the online CAO Handbook for further Information

Offer of Places



The student may receive two offers

- One from Level 8 list
- One from Level 6/7 list.

ONLY ONE OFFER MAY BE ACCEPTED

When you are offered one of your course preferences on a list, automatically you will be excluded for consideration from all courses below that

YOU MAY NOT MOVE DOWN IN YOUR ORDER OF PREFERENCES

This is why it is so important to fill in form in your
Genuine Order of Preference

Offer of places (contd.)

By way of example: Let's say you have 350 points and your course preference on the CAO form is:

1. Physics
2. Business
3. Arts
4. Tourism

Order of Preference	Course	1 st Round Offer Points	2 nd Round Offer Points	3 rd Round Offer Points
1	Physics	360	360	360
2	Business	360	350	
3	Arts	350	345	
4	Tourism	340		

Places Allocation

- ◎ Students should think carefully about not accepting one of these offers, as they may not receive any further offers.
- ◎ Regardless of whether or not they accept a course in Round 1, **they will still be offered a higher preference course in subsequent rounds *if* they become entitled to one.**

Random Entry

Two or more candidates on the same points.

What happens?

- A random number is given to each application
- The student with the highest random number gets the place.
- This is shown by an *
- For example: 370* means not every candidate with 370 points got a place but everyone with 375 would have

In Summary

Research courses thoroughly

Apply by **January 20th** . Cost then is **35 Euro**

Apply **after January 20th** the cost rises to **50 Euro**

Apply online

Pay by debit/credit card.

Put courses in **genuine order of preference**

Obtain / retain proof of application

Be careful with change of mind

Grants



Online application for grants for the academic year 2025-26 is available at

[Susi.ie](https://susi.ie)



The Application Process usually begins in April

Register > Complete Application > Decision will follow.
Finance calculations are based on your income for the previous year (2024-25)

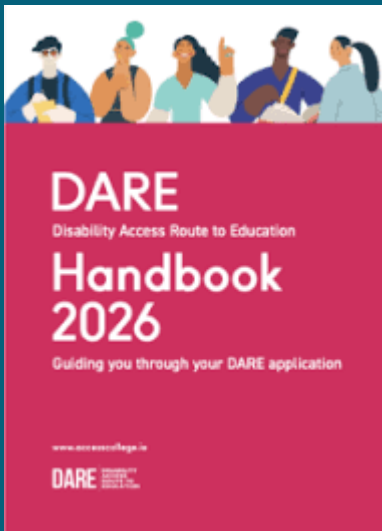
Applications will be accepted up to the 11th of July (Approx Date)

ACCESS SCHEMES: DARE



Disability Access Route To Education

- **DARE** – Disability Access Route to Education
- 21 DARE and 20 HEAR Colleges participating
- A quota of places offered to students with disability on a reduced points basis.
- Must meet minimum entry requirements
- See: www.accesscollege.ie for list of disabilities eligible .
- Supplementary forms available at cao.ie





Dare Eligibility - Meet
Evidence of Disability
criteria & meet
Educational Impact
criteria

Disabilities eligible for consideration under DARE

- Asperger's Syndrome/Autism
- ADD/ADHD
- Blind/Vision Impaired
- Deaf/Hearing Impaired
- Dyspraxia
- Mental Health Condition
- Neurological Conditions (incl. Brain Injury, Speech & Language Disabilities)
- Significant Ongoing Illness
- Physical Disability
- Specific Learning Difficulty (incl. Dyslexia & Dyscalculia)

How do I apply?

- » Review the **DARE Handbook** and the **application timeline** with your parent(s)/guardian(s) and/or your school's Guidance Counsellor.
- » Check criteria that are relevant to **your disability**.
- » By 1 March 2026 complete the online application form through **www.cao.ie**. You can follow the helpful video below to guide you through the process.
- » Gather together your completed **Educational Impact Statement** AND the relevant **Evidence of Disability**.
- » By 10 March 2026: Submit copies of supporting documents to CAO by **post**.

Please note, when completing your DARE application form through **cao.ie**, we recommend doing so by using a desktop or laptop rather than using a smartphone.

ACCESS SCHEMES: HEAR

- **HEAR** – Higher Education Access Route.

For students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Income from the year 2024 is calculated for 2026 entry

- Quota of places offered on a reduced points basis.
- Must meet minimum entry requirements
- Must satisfy 3 of the 6 indicators
- See www.accesscollege.ie for further information



Eligibility Criteria

HEAR applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural criteria to be considered for a reduced points place and extra college support. Here is a list of all the HEAR indicators:

- » **Income:** Your family income falls on or below the HEAR Income Limit for the year 2024.
- » **Medical/GP Visit Card:** Your family has a Medical Card/GP Visit Card that was in date on December 31st 2025.
- » **Means Tested Social Welfare:** Your family received a means-tested payment from the Department of Social Protection for at least 26 weeks in 2024.
- » **DEIS School Attendance:** You completed five years in a second level school that takes part in the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) scheme run by the Department of Education and Youth.
- » **Area Profile:** You live in an area where there is concentrated disadvantage – in other words an area where, for example, there is high unemployment and poverty and where only a small proportion of adults have attained third level education. Applicants who experienced homelessness during their post-primary education and are registered on the Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) will meet the Area Profile criteria.

» **HEAR Priority Groups:** Applicants who wish to be considered under one or more of the following categories:

- *Care-Experienced*
- *Member of the Traveller Community*
- *Member of the Roma Community*
- *Young Parent*
- *HEAR and DARE Eligible Applicant.*



You must meet Indicator 1, the HEAR Income Limit, plus a minimum score of 2.5 to be eligible for HEAR. The criteria scores and eligibility criteria are listed in the next section.

Indicator 1, the HEAR Income Limit, is calculated by:

- How many children there are in your family;
- How many people in your family are in full time education.

DARE and HEAR Schemes

Online Information Session run by accesscollege.ie

Date: January 2026 (exact date to be announced
(10am-2pm)

Recordings and information can be found on the
website www.accesscollege.ie

● CHECK ONLINE CAO BOOKLET

Non- CAO OPTIONS

Tertiary Courses/ Degrees

Apprenticeships

Post Leaving Certificate Courses

Traineeships

Public Jobs

Courses in Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry.

National Learning Network

Study Abroad

Tertiary Courses: 41 courses

A tertiary course is one that begins in an Education and Training Board (ETB) and continues in a Higher Education Institution (HEI), culminating in the award of a degree.

These courses are spread across 11 locations and are in 5 different fields of study including Business, ICT, Arts, Engineering, Manufacturing & Construction and Health & Welfare.

Tertiary Student Fees: **No tuition fee or student contribution fee** will be applied for the **duration of the tuition delivered by the ETB** on the Tertiary Programme.

The Free Fees Initiative and student contribution arrangements will apply to the agreed duration of the tuition delivered by the HEI on the Tertiary Programme.

Tertiary students are eligible to apply for maintenance and fee grants, subject to eligibility criteria.

Field of Study	Provider	Awards (22) and QQI Level	Course Locations
Business	TUS	Bachelor of Business (Hons) – BBS Level 8	Year 1: College of FET, Ennis campus
	Limerick Clare ETB		Years 2-4: TUS, Moylish campus
	South East TU	Bachelor of Business (Hons) Level 8	Years 1-2: Portlaoise Institute
	Laois Offaly ETB	Study streams in Years 3-4: - Business Management - Human Resource Management - International Business - Supply Chain Management - Finance and Accounting	Years 3-4: SETU, Carlow campus
	Atlantic TU	Bachelor of Business (Hons) Level 8	Year 1: Mayo College of FET, Castlebar or FET Centre, Letterkenny or Galway Technical Institute, Galway
	Galway Roscommon ETB	Study Streams in Year 4: - Supply Chain Management - Enterprise and Innovation - Digital Business	Years 2 – 4: ATU, Sligo or ATU Donegal or ATU Galway
	Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETB		
	Donegal ETB		
	Munster TU	Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Business Studies Level 8	Years 1-2: CETB – Douglas Street Campus or KETB - Clash Road Campus
	Cork ETB		
	Kerry ETB		Years 3-4: MTU, Tralee

	Munster TU Cork ETB Kerry ETB	Bachelor of Business Level 7	Years 1-2: Cork College of FET, Morrison Island Years 3-4: MTU, Bishopstown, Cork
ICT	South East TU Laois Offaly ETB	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Software Development Level 8	Years 1-2: Portlaoise Institute Years 3-4: SETU, Carlow
	TUS Limerick Clare ETB	Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Mobile & Web Computing Level 8	Year 1: Limerick and Clare ETB, Mulgrave St Campus Years 2-4: TUS, Moylish campus
	Munster TU Cork ETB	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Software Development Level 8	Years 1 -2: Cork College of FET – Morrison Island Campus Years 3-4: MTU, Cork Bishopstown campus
	Munster TU Cork ETB Kerry ETB	Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Animation, Visual Effects and Motion Design	Years 1-2: Kerry College of FET, Clash Road Campus Years 3-4: MTU, Tralee
Health and Welfare	Atlantic TU Galway Roscommon ETB Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETB Donegal ETB	BSc (Hons) in General Nursing Level 8	Tertiary Education Access route: FET Centre, Letterkenny or Sligo College of Further Education FET Centre, Dunmore, Co Galway Proceed to ATU for 4 Years: ATU Castlebar or ATU St Angela's, Sligo or ATU Donegal

Arts	Institute of Art, Design & Technology Kildare Wicklow ETB City of Dublin ETB	Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Immersive Media Production	Years 1-2: (primarily based in) Ballyfermot College of Further Education and Bray Institute of Further Education (with some modules in IADT) Years 3-4: IADT, Dun Laoghaire
	MTU Cork ETB	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Popular Music Level 8	Years 1-2: Cork College of FET – Tramore Road Campus Years 3-4: MTU, Cork School of Music
Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction	Atlantic TU Galway Roscommon ETB Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETB Donegal ETB	B Eng (Hons) Sustainable Engineering Technologies Level 8 Study streams in Year 2: - Manufacturing Industry - Computing	Years 1-2: Sligo College of Further Education FET Training Centre, Letterkenny Galway Community College, Wellpark Road Years 3-4: ATU Galway or ATU Sligo (Manufacturing) ATU, Donegal (Computing)
	Atlantic TU Galway Roscommon ETB Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETB	Bachelor of Science in Industrial Laboratory Science Level 7 Study streams in Year: - Biopharmaceutical Science - Life Sciences	Year 1: FET Centre, Letterkenny (Port Road) or Galway Community College, Wellpark Road, Galway or Mayo College of FET, Westport campus
	Donegal ETB	- Biochemistry	Years 2-3: ATU Donegal (Biopharmaceutical) ATU Sligo (Life Sciences) ATU Galway (Biochemistry)

Apprenticeships

Step 1

Choose
apprenticeship
programme of
interest

Step 2

Secure employer
to complete
apprenticeship
with

Step 3

Earn & Learn on-the-
job with employer
and off-the-job at
training centre

Non CAO Options: Apprenticeships

Find a suitable employer

Employer registers the apprentice with SOLAS within two weeks of starting

SOLAS are the agency working with the Dept. of Education and Skills on apprenticeships

Meet the minimum educational requirements i.e. 5

Passes in Junior Cert- some employers look for more.

Paid by the employer

Receive a Level 6- QQI Higher Certificate which may be used to link the apprentice to Degree Programmes in Institutes of Technology.

www.apprenticeship.ie



We are Generation Apprenticeship

We are school leavers, older learners, career changers, women and men with diverse backgrounds, talents and abilities – A central route to skills development in Ireland.

Become an Apprentice



Become an Apprentice Employer



Find Apprenticeship Jobs



Apprenticeships

Levels 5 - 10
on the NFQ

More details on
www.apprenticeship.ie

- Arboiculture
- Biopharma
- Construction
- Engineering
- Electrical
- Finance
- Hairdressing
- Healthcare
- Hospitality
- ICT
- Insurance
- Logistics
- Motor
- Property Services
- Recruitment
- Sales

Apprenticeships

Levels 5 - 10
on the NFQ

More details on
www.apprenticeship.ie
Speak to Guidance
Counsellor on
Freephone 1800 794 487
Mon-Fri 12-6pm

- Over 8,000 employers are currently employing 23,000 apprenticeships.
- Plan is to increase this to 45,000
- Apprenticeships are between 2 and 4 years in duration.
- Apprentices must be hired by an employer for the duration of the apprenticeship.
- Apprentices are recruited year round
- Check out www.apprenticeshipjobs.ie for current vacancies.

HOW TO FIND AN EMPLOYER

Click on the Apprenticeship Employers section. (Go to pages 81-88 to find a list)

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Become an Apprentice →

Become an Apprentice Employer →

Find Apprenticeship Jobs →

Find Apprenticeship Employers →

List of Apprenticeship Employers by county/region (October 2025)

Counties/Region

Limerick and Clare

Accounting Technician Level 6

Ballyhoura Development Clg	DNM Consultancy Services Limited T/A Moroney & Co.	Holmes O'Malley Sexton Llp
Dgos Consultancy Services Ltd	Doran & Minehane Ireland Limited	Moore Business Advisors
DM Financial	Gearys Garage Ltd	PCB Accountants Ltd

Advanced Healthcare Assistant Practitioner Level 6

Abbot Close Nursing Home Ltd		
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Advanced Manufacturing Engineering Level 8

Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Ireland	Stryker Howmedica Osteonics	
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Advanced Quantity Surveyor Level 9

Mp Joyce Contracting Ltd		
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Agricultural Mechanics Level 6

Gary Brogan Tractors	Lahinch Golf Club	WW Doherty & Sons Ltd
Gearys Garage Ltd	Nunan Farm Machinery Ltd	
Joe Whelan Ltd	Tizzard Holdings	

Aircraft Mechanics Level 6

Atlantic Aviation Group	Bristow Ireland	Prestwick Aircraft Maintenance Ire Ltd
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Auctioneering and Property Services Level 6

Aviary Estates Ltd	Hanly Donnellan Auctioneers	Patrick Browne & Co T/A Rea Paddy Browne & Co
Fintan Quinn Property Management Co Ltd	Madigan Cunningham Ltd	Ring Property Consultants
Golden Vale Co-Operative Mart Limited	Pat Considine Auctioneers	Rowan Fitzgerald Ltd

Bar Manager Level 7

Averymount Ltd	Fitzgeralds Woodlands House Hotel	Limerick Strand Hotel
Copper Jug	Level Up Barkade Ltd	

Brick and Stonelaying Level 6

Actron Construction	Jan McMahon	Stoneage Masonry Limited
Alan Barrett Construction	Madigan Traditional Masonry	TCM

Public Jobs

- Gardaí and Defence Forces – check www.publicjobs.ie
- National Ambulance Service



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Register



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Info Hub

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Contact Us

Grad Opportunities

Schools

Discover a career
in the Public Service



Further Education & Training

Post-Leaving Cert
Courses (PLCs)

Traineeships

in

Colleges of Further
Education

&

Education and Training
Boards (ETBs)



Apply via www.fetchcourses.ie or through individual Colleges of Further Education

Fetchcourses.ie

Pointing you in the right direction

Welcome to Further Education and Training Course Hub. Please use the search facility below to find the course that's right for you.

SCROLL
▼



Find a Course

Enter Keyword:

Location:

Sub Location:

Post Leaving Cert Courses - Courses for Progression

Levels 5 & 6
on the NFQ

Apply via
www.fetchcourses.ie
or through individual
Colleges of Further
Education

- Apply from Nov up to Aug/Sept 2022 (earlier is best to secure place).
- Wide variety of courses across lots of different subject & career areas.
- Entry is not based on points - Leaving Cert or equivalent - Check college websites.
- Great way to try out a area of study (1 or 2 years) before committing to longer course.
- Great back up plan - Progression Routes QQI FET/FETAC links onto Universities, Technological Universities and Institutes of Technology for many courses.
- Ideal for students who are very young
- Located closer to home
- Small class sizes
- Work Experience

Traineeships

Levels 4 - 6 on the NFQ

Apply via
www.fetchcourses.ie or
through individual
Colleges of Further
Education or Education &
Training Boards. More
information on
www.solas.ie

- Developed and delivered by the ETBs working in partnership with industry representatives and employers.
- Respond to an identified industry skills need - Employability.
- Great variety of training opportunities across lots of career sectors.
- Are between 6-20 months in duration.
- Include at least 30% of learning on-the-job.
- Combine transversal and technical skills development.
- SUSI Grants for some.

Courses in Agriculture, Horticulture & Forestry (Non-CAO)

Levels 5 & 6
on the NFQ

Apply via
www.teagasc.ie or
through individual
Agricultural

- Practical & skills based
- Suitable for future farmers and for people seeking employment on farms
- Progression Routes available onto diplomas and via QQI FET/FETAC links onto Universities, Technological Universities and Institutes of Technology
- Work Experience
- Apply online
- Teagasc Grant Scheme (Means Tested)
- Generally applicants must be 17 years old or over on 1 January following entry to the course.
- Suitable for anyone who has completed the senior cycle at second level (Leaving Certificate or equivalent).

National Learning Network

Levels 3 - 6
on the NFQ

More details on
www.rehab.ie/national-learning-network

- National Learning Network (NLN) provides a range of flexible & individual training courses for people who have experienced a setback, have had an accident, a mental health issue, an illness, injury or have a disability and extra support needs.
- Choice of 70 different programmes
- Individual training plans
- No CAO points needed
- Extra support provided to continue with further training or into employment

Study Abroad Options

More information on

www.ucas.com (UK)

www.eunicas.ie (Europe)

www.medicalpoland.ie

(Poland)

www.theuniversityguys.com

(UK, USA, Canada, Europe,
Worldwide)

- A popular option with Irish Students
- In some cases lower entry requirements than Ireland
- In some cases fees are lower than Ireland (many European countries) and in others they are higher (UK, USA).
- Consider practicalities of travel (flights).
- A big move
- Lots of courses offered through English
- Always check that courses are accredited & recognised in Ireland on return.
- Maintenance part of SUSI Grant may still apply.

UCAS

UCAS

Applying to colleges in UK and Northern Ireland

Closing Date **29th January** except for Medicine, Dentistry, Vet, Oxford & Cambridge closing date 15th October

Some require aptitude tests.

Fees are applicable.

Must apply online using **UCAS Apply**

Personal statement is very important

All 6th Year students who are interested in applying need to make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

Common
mistakes made
by students

CAO

- Not listing courses in ORDER OF PREFERENCE
- Not reading content & module detail of courses - The devil is in the detail!
- Not filling up options on both lists on CAO
- Not adhering to deadlines - HEAR/DARE & July 1st!
- Not checking their emails!
- Not checking that their information on CAO is correct - STATEMENT OF APPLICATION RECORD in May
- Forgetting to process the language exemption
- Not researching thoroughly the options outside of CAO.

How Parents & Guardians can help

- Inform yourself & help them with the research.
- Encourage them to start their research and applications early.
- Chat to them about your own career journey.
- Ask questions about the detail of courses/careers they are interested in.
- Be patient with the process!
- Attend virtual or on-campus Open Days
- Keep an open mind & encourage them to look at a broad range of options.
- Watch out for important deadlines & make sure they accept offers on time.
- Encourage and reassure them.
- Remind them to keep some perspective - they are planning for the next step, not the rest of their lives.
- Look into finance (grants, scholarships) & accommodation early.

DATES OF INTEREST

- November Assessments
- January 20th - CAO online 'Early Bird' – €30
- January 29th- UCAS deadline
- February 1st - CAO Deadline
- February Mock Exams
- June – Leaving Cert. begins
- August 12th approx - Results
- August 17th approx - First Round offers

Useful Resources

Podcasts

@leavingcertguidance

Webinars

@synergycareers

Websites

- www.careersportal.ie
- www.classroomguidance.ie
- www.qualifax.ie
- www.susi.ie
- www.studentfinance.ie
- www.accesscollege.ie
- www.fetchcourses.ie
- www.cao.ie
- www.apprenticeship.ie
- www.ucas.com
- www.eunicas.ie
- www.medicalpoland.ie

Who to talk to?

- ◎ Parents/ Guardians
- ◎ Relatives
- ◎ Past pupils
- ◎ Admissions/Academic staff of colleges
- ◎ Guidance Counsellor and Guidance interviews
- ◎ Online Interest Tests

Reminders

It is the applicant's responsibility to.....

- Research thoroughly all the courses for which he/she is making an application.
- Be au fait with all aspects of the application system used (CAO) for these courses i.e. procedures, dates, fees, rules etc

The World is your Oyster

Aim high



Match the goal with the
necessary work

Never too late. There are
career pathways for all.

LIFELONG LEARNING

The journey is only beginning.....



Thank You for listening.

