

# CAO 2020:

## Third Level Applications





# Choosing Courses Research:

- Research each course carefully from prospectus , websites and visiting college etc.
- Consult with Guidance Counsellor
- Discuss with family and friends
- Websites: Qualifax.ie , careersportal.ie, steps.ie, college websites etc.

# Topics will look at tonight:

- The CAO Application
- HEAR and DARE applications
- Apprenticeships
- PLC Applications
- Other alternatives

# What is the CAO?

- CAO stands for Central Application Office
- Never apply directly to college for a course – all done through a central system

# CAO Application:

- 7 Universities
- 14 Institutes of Technology
- Colleges eg. Mary I, Shannon College
- Private Colleges eg. Independent colleges, Griffith Colleges

# How to Apply:

- CAO Applications can be opened online on [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) since Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of November
- The first time student's apply they will receive a **CAO number** which allows them to log in and out of their CAO account and make changes to their CAO as many times as you wish until 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb
- CAO number is different to the **Exam Number** students will receive from the school

# Timetable of CAO Events

## 2019/2020:

November 5th	CAO online Application Facility opens
January 20 <sup>th</sup>	Apply online by this date ,avail of discount price of 30 euro. Free change of mind until Jan 31st
Feb 1	Closing date up until 5.15pm Cost 45 euro <b>NB must have Restricted Courses in Application</b>
Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup>	HPAT 2020
March/April	Tests and auditions for restricted courses



# Continued CAO Dates:

May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Change of Mind facility opens
July 1 <sup>st</sup> 5.15pm	Change of mind online facility closes – <b>students final course choices made by this date.</b>
Mid August	Leaving Cert results are issued –Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> in 2019
TBC	Round 1 offers are issued (2019 it was 2 days after results on 15 <sup>th</sup> of August)
TBC	offers must be accepted (2019 it was 22 <sup>nd</sup> August)
TBC	Round 2 offers <i>[opportunity to view scripts: Early September]</i>

# Continued CAO Dates:

<b>Early September</b>	<b>HEI's registration begins</b>
<b>Early October</b>	<b>Results of LC Appeals released.....</b>
<b>TBC</b>	<b>Offer season ends</b>

# **4 Important things to understand when applying to the CAO:**

**1. Matriculation and course requirements**

**2. Points system**

**3. Levels of Qualifications**

**4. Genuine Order of Preference**

# First thing to understand..

## 1. Matriculation

# Matriculation:

- **To matriculate for a college means to have the basic requirements for entry.**  
**It has nothing to do with points.**
- ❖ **According to the CAO on average over 2,000 students waste course choices as they do not matriculate for courses they applied to.**

# Basic College Matriculation:

2018 Matriculation Requirements:	Pre-2018 Matric Requirements:
Level 8 degrees: 2H5 and 4 O6/H7 grades	2HD1 and 4 OD3
Level 6 and 7: 5 O6/H7 grades	5 OD3

# Matriculation:

- **Maths, English & Irish - most commonly required.**
- **A 3rd Language is required by the NUI colleges except for Science and Engineering courses**
- **Most Business courses state a requirement in Maths - not a Business subject!**
- **A minimum of one science subject is required for paramedical and Scientific courses  
eg. Nursing, Physiotherapy, Health and Performance**

# Some courses have specific subject requirements:

- Some courses require a specific grade in a subject before you are allowed entry to the course – this means even if the student got the required points but not the specific grade they would not be allowed begin the course



# **Some Examples of Course Requirements:**

- **Biological and Chemical Science UL (03/H7 in Maths and a H4 in a lab science)**
- **Business UL (04/H7 in Maths)**
- **Journalism and New Media UL (H4 in English)**
- **Computing Technologies (H6/O2 Maths)**
- **Commerce with French UCC (H3 in French)**
- **Engineering courses in universities –H4 Maths, 06/H7 in 1 science subject (Maths exam available in some colleges if don't matric)**
- **Financial Maths and Economics (NUIG 01/H5 in Maths)**
- **Primary Teaching Mary I (H4 in Maths and 04/H7 in Maths and English)**

# Second thing to understand..

## 2. Points

# The Points System:

**Generally in the CAO system**

**No. of qualified applicants > No. of course places**

**--> selection system is needed.**

**Selection system used in Irish 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Colleges is**

## **POINTS SYSTEM**

- **Points are calculated from ONE sitting of the Leaving Certificate only.**
- **Points total is calculated from SIX best subjects**
- **Entry Requirements can be satisfied over more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate (unless otherwise stated eg. Medicine)**

# New Points System since 2017:

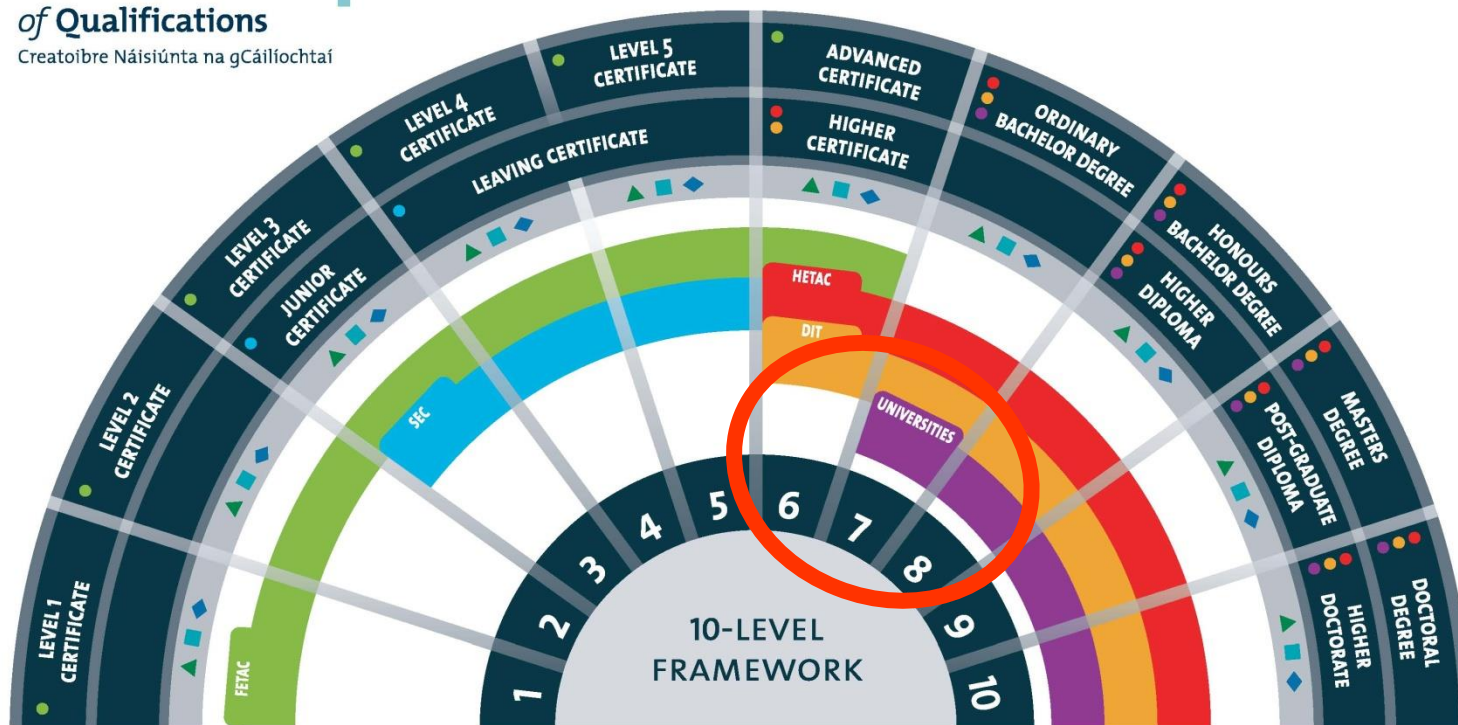
Higher Level Grades	Higher Level Points	% Bands	Ordinary Level Grades	Ordinary Level Points
H1	100	90-100%	O1	56
H2	88	80-89%	O2	46
H3	77	70-79%	O3	37
H4	66	60-69%	O4	28
H5	56	50-59%	O5	20
H6	46	40-49%	O6	12
H7	37	30-39%	O7	0
H8	0	0-29%	O8	0

# The Points System:

- Points change EVERY year – rise and fall depending on **POPULARITY**
- Courses that are popular will generally have **high points**
- Points have no bearing on the **difficulty or the value** of any course.
- **Do not** make choices based on predictions of next year's cut off points or their own point scores
- Put down what you **genuinely want** not what you think you will get.

# Third thing to understand...

## 3. Levels of Qualifications



## KEY

- FETAC - Further Education and Training Awards Council
- SEC - State Examinations Commission (Department of Education & Science)
- HETAC - Higher Education and Training Awards Council
- DIT - Dublin Institute of Technology
- Universities

## AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK

There are four types of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:

- Major Awards: are the principal class of awards made at a level
- ▲ Minor Awards: are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- Supplemental Awards: are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- ◆ Special Purpose Awards: are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement

# Levels 6, 7 and 8:

- Students have 20 choices in CAO
- 10 choices from level 8 courses and 10 from of level 6 and 7 courses
- Each list of 10 choices are treated independently
- In August Students will hopefully get 2 offers
- 1 offer from level 8 choice and 1 offer from level 6 choice
- Choices on one list do not affect the other.
- Treated as two independent separate lists



# The Ladder System:

- This system is mainly used in the IT's
- This is when a student enters a course at a level 6/7 but progresses on to a Level 8
- Many Level 8's in the IT's have an adjoining course in level 6/7 which mean that students can enter the Level 8 once they have their 6/7 qualification

# Fourth thing to understand...

- **4. Genuine Order of Preference**

# ORDER OF PREFERENCE



If you learn nothing else from this presentation let it be this...

**PLACE YOUR COURSE  
CHOICES IN GENUINE  
ORDER OF PREFERENCE!**

To do otherwise is a grave mistake.

# Genuine Order of Preference:

- You do not need to guess what the points are going to be for the courses you are interested in.
- Simply list your courses in genuine order of preference from the highest preference 1, to the lowest preference 10.
- If you are entitled to an offer, you will be offered the highest preference that you are entitled to.



# PLACE ALLOCATION

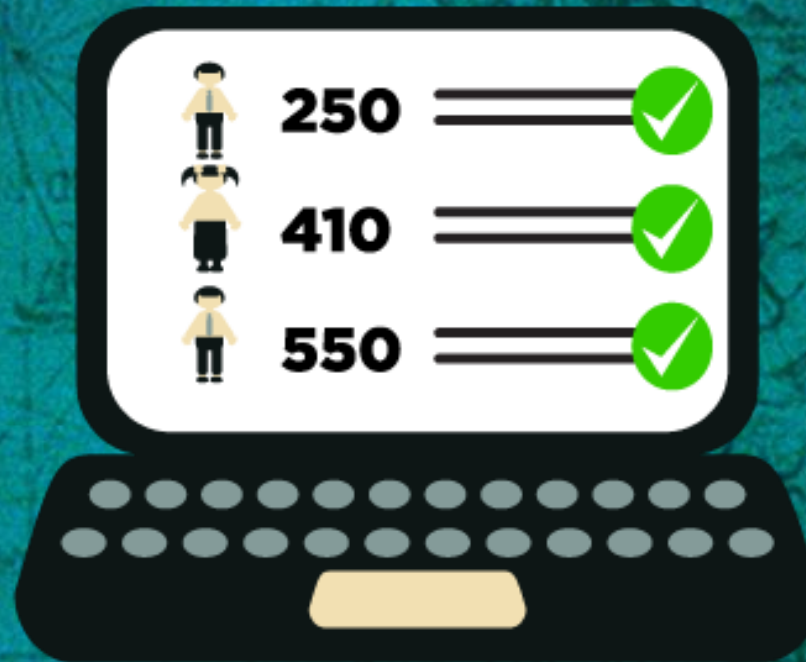


We will look just at Level 8 courses, but exactly the same process will take place with Level 7/6 courses, and at the same time.

The importance of the applicant placing courses in genuine order of preference will become apparent in the following slides.



# PLACE ALLOCATION



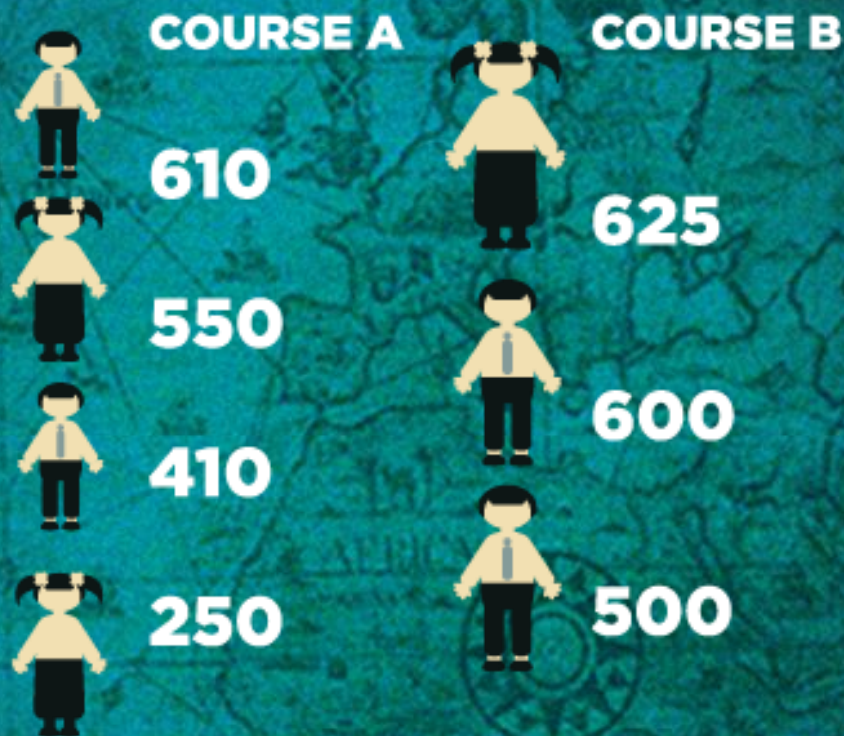
When examination results are released in August they are entered into the CAO computer.

The computer checks each applicant's results.

For each course the applicant has applied for, the computer first determines if the applicant has the minimum entry requirements for the course.



# PLACE ALLOCATION



If the applicant meets the minimum entry requirements for the course, the applicant's points are calculated for this course choice.

All eligible applicants are then placed in a list, in order of academic merit, for each course that they applied for.



# PLACE ALLOCATION



**20 OFFERS**

**178 OFFERS**

**110 OFFERS**

**48 OFFERS**

**60 OFFERS**

**90 OFFERS**

**80 OFFERS**

**240 OFFERS**



The admissions officers of the Higher Education Institutions tell CAO how many places are to be offered on each course.

CAO then makes offers to the required number of applicants on each course starting with the applicant with the highest points and working down until enough places have been offered.



# PLACE ALLOCATION



Should some applicants decline to accept their offers these places become available in the next round of offers.

They will be offered to the next applicants on the order of merit list. This process continues until all the places on the course are filled or until all the eligible applicants on the order of merit list have been offered places.



# PLACE ALLOCATION:

## EXAMPLE



These are the applicants for CK101 Arts in UCC.

The examination results have not yet been released, so these applicants are in no particular order.

We are going to trace the progress of the applicant marked in red.

# PLACE ALLOCATION



## EXAMPLE



Applicants are placed in a queue for each course they applied for, their position in the queue is determined by their points.

The applicant with the highest points is placed at the top of the queue. The points achieved by the applicant in red determines her position in the queue for each course she applied to.



# PLACE ALLOCATION

## EXAMPLE

1. CK101

2. DN201

3. AL850



10. PD101



The applicants marked in GREEN have enough points to be offered places.

The applicant marked in RED has enough points for her second preference.

# PLACE ALLOCATION



## EXAMPLE

**1. CK101**



**2. DN201**



The applicant in RED is offered her second preference, the highest preference course that she has enough points for, and she will now disappear from the queue in all her lower choices.

Placing DN201 as her second preference meant that she would prefer to receive an offer on DN201 than on any other course except CK101 - which is her first preference.



# PLACE ALLOCATION

## EXAMPLE



**1. CK101**



Having been offered her second preference she must now decide to accept it or to do nothing. If she does not accept the offer the place will be offered to another applicant in the next round of offers.

Regardless of whether she accepts or not she will still be considered for an offer on her first preference if a place becomes available. In the second round, one more offer was made on CK101 and our applicant is now at the top of the queue.

# PLACE ALLOCATION

## EXAMPLE



1. CK101



In the third round of offers two more offers are made on CK101 and our applicant, who was at the top of the queue, now receives an offer.

She may do nothing and remain in DN201 or she may accept the offer and begin in CK101.



# Case Study:

- Next diagram will show a student who really wants to do Physiotherapy
- Sports Science courses are his second preference
- Willing to go anywhere to do course he wants



## Level 8:

<b>Pref:</b>	<b>Course:</b>
1.	Physio (UL) (565*)
2.	Physio (TCD) (533*)
3.	Physio (UCD) (543)
4.	Physio (RCSI) (532*)
5.	Health and Performance UCD (488)
6.	Athletic Therapy and Training DCU (484)
7.	Sport and Exercise Science (UL) (441)
8.	Sports Rehab and Athletic Therapy (Carlow IT) (440 )
9.	Sport Science and Health (DCU) (467)
10.	Science (spec in physiology)(NUIG) (400)

## Levels 6 & 7:

<b>Pref:</b>	<b>Course:</b>
1.	Physiology and Health (Carlow IT) (454)
2.	Strength and Conditioning in Thurles (234)
3.	Health and Leisure ITT(204)
4.	Sport Coaching and Business Management (Carlow IT) (700 – combination of points and portfolio)
5.	Health Science and Physiology (Sligo IT 298)
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

# Case Study:

- In this example the student scored 530 in his Leaving Cert therefore the highest course he was eligible for on his Level 8's was his 5<sup>th</sup> choice which was Health and Performance in UCD.
- He also had enough points for numbers 6-10 but because he had Health and Performance in Dublin higher up than those four they will disappear and he will ONLY be offered Health and Performance in UCD on the level 8 side
- He will also be offered a level 6 in Health and Physiology in Carlow IT and choose between the two.
- Therefore the student will have **two offers** and will then be able to make a decision between the two.

# Case Study:

- Once this student has completed his Level 8 in Sports Science he can apply for Grad entry to Physiotherapy in UCD, RCSI, UL or many colleges in the UK
- Having studied a relevant degree means he can apply for 2 year grad entry to Physiotherapy in Ireland and the UK
- Many postgrad entries to Physiotherapy require students have a degree in Biology, Exercise Science, Physiology etc

# Past Pupil Disaster!!!!

## How her CAO looked in May!!!!

Psychology and Education (Mary I) (552)

Psychology NUIG (507)

Psychology UL (495)

Psychology and Sociology UL (478)

Psychology UCC (509)

Arts NUIG (300)

# Past Pupil Disaster!!!!

## What she changed it to in July!!!!

Arts NUIG (300)

Education and Psychology (Mary I) (552)

Psychology NUIG (507)

Psychology UL (495)

Psychology and Sociology UL (478)

Psychology UCC (509)

# Remember:

- Listing courses in Order of Preference  
–should be done according to **course/area of interest** not just a focus on a college you want to go with

# GENUINE ORDER



You do not need to guess what the points are going to be for the courses you are interested in.

Simply list your courses in genuine order of preference from the highest preference 1, to the lowest preference 10.

If you are entitled to an offer, you will be offered the highest preference that you are entitled to.

# How to Apply to CAO?

- Now you understand how the system works and places are allocated let's look at how you actually apply for the CAO.



# Making an Application:

- Apply online
- Log onto [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)
- Click on Apply and enter the information requested

# Application Form:

- Information which identifies the applicant is of utmost importance
- Carefully enter details such as your name, address, date of birth, schools attended, etc.
- Your examination details must be entered with great care.

# Two Systems in One:

- It is possible to receive an offer on both lists.
- You may then decide to accept either your Level 7/6 or your Level 8 offer.
- Alternatively, you might not wish to accept either offer.

# Change of Mind Facility:

- You may use this facility to change the order of your course choices and/or to introduce new courses, subject to the restrictions detailed in the handbook.
- The Change of Mind opens in **5<sup>th</sup> May** and closes on the **1st of July at 5:15pm.**

# Statement of Application:

- Before the end of May applicants will be sent a Statement of Application Record as a final acknowledgement and to enable you to verify that all information has been recorded completely and correctly.

**Check the following carefully and if there is any error or omission amend the Statement and return it to CAO:**

▪  
▪

- Are all the courses shown and in the correct order?
- Are all the codes correct?
- Are the exam numbers correct?
- Are all exams mentioned?
- Are all **exemptions** listed?

# Common Questions at Offer Time:

- I have received an offer of my 2nd preference course – if I accept this offer does this mean I won't get any further offers?
- I have the points, why didn't I receive an offer?
- I have not received any offers, what are my options?
- I received my 3rd preference course but I would prefer my 4th, what should I do?

# Deadlines to be aware of by 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb:

**RESTRICTED  
COURSES**

**RESTRICTED  
CATEGORIES  
OF APPLICANT**

**HEAR  
SOCIO  
ECONOMIC  
DISADVANTAGE**

**DARE  
DISABILITIES  
/SLD**



# Restricted Courses:

- Care must be taken with courses that are marked *restricted* -these are marked clearly in handbook
- These courses **cannot be applied for after 1<sup>st</sup> of February** because they have extra assessments eg. some art courses, medicine, music and architecture.

# HPAT Test for medicine:

- Medicine is no longer a restricted course
- However, students *cannot apply for medicine unless they have sat the HPAT*
- Register to sit HPAT in early November (once have CAO number) until 20<sup>th</sup> Jan
- Exam is on **22nd of February only** at a number of locations
- Results released late June

# Courses that require portfolios or auditions may not necessarily say restricted but...

- **UL Architecture:** Submissions are accepted between **Tuesday 14th April 2020 and Friday 17th April 2020** during normal office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am–1pm and 2pm–4.00pm).
- **Product Design UL - Portfolio submission** deadline **17TH April 2020**
- **Performing Arts UL – audition in March**
- **LIT Art and Design – Portfolio assessments begins in March**

# Applications for HEAR and DARE:

- Applications for both HEAR (students from Socio-economically deprived groups) and DARE (students with specific learning difficulties must be made by the 1<sup>st</sup> February

# What is DARE?

- **DARE is Disability Access Route to Education**
- **Some HEI's take account of the impact of a disability and/or specific learning difficulty on a student's educational performance.**
- **May receive a reduction in points for entry to courses but must still meet minimum entry requirements**

# Students eligible for DARE:

- Autism
- ADD/ADHD
- Blind/Vision impaired
- Deaf/hard of hearing
- Dyspraxia (Please note that a stand-alone diagnosis of “dysgraphia” is no longer accepted for DARE. It will be considered if it is presenting as part of/ as a result of DCD or Specific Learning Difficulty (SLD; including dyslexia and dyscalculia).
- Mental Health Conditions
- Neurological conditions eg. Epilepsy
- Significant ongoing illness eg. Diabetes
- Physical Disability
- Speech and Language Communication Disorder
- Specific Learning Difficulty eg. Dyslexia



# Colleges that take part in DARE:

- AIT
- CIT
- DCU
- DIT
- IADT
- IT Carlow
- IT Sligo
- LIT
- UL
- Marino
- Mary I
- Maynooth
- NUIG
- RCSI
- TCD
- UCD
- UCC
- St Angela's Sligo

# DARE:

- Not all students who apply for DARE get accepted, it depends on:
  - overall number of places
  - number of places reserved for DARE
  - number of eligible DARE applicants that apply

# Additional Info:

- Prioritisation of students with physical and sensory disabilities as they are particularly under- represented in Third Level
- Prioritisation of applicants eligible for both HEAR and DARE
- For students presenting with Dyslexia, Dyspraxia or Dysgraphia a psychological report of any age will be accepted

# Please note:

- You don't have to be eligible for DARE to get support in college.
- All students with a verified disability regardless of whether got into college through DARE can avail of academic, personal and social supports in college

# DARE Dates of Importance:

- Apply to CAO by **Feb 1<sup>st</sup>**
- By **1<sup>st</sup> of March** tick the box on CAO to say 'YES' to the question 'Do You wish to be considered for DARE and student must have filled in **Section A** of the Supplementary Information Form in their DARE Form

# DARE Dates of Importance:

- **Section B** is to be filled in by Guidance Counsellor
- **Section C** must be completed by the appropriate medical professional – applicants with a specific learning difficulty send in a psychological report instead of Section C
- Section B and C must be received by the CAO by the **15<sup>th</sup> of March – Applicant's responsibility to REGISTER POST b and C together**

# HEAR:

- HEAR is a college and university scheme which offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds
- HEAR applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural indicators to be considered for a reduced points place



# To be eligible:

- You must meet **indicator 1 plus** a correct combination of 2 other indicators to be eligible for HEAR

# Should I apply for HEAR:

- 1. Income –family income falls on or below the HEAR Income limit (Calculated by how many children in the family and how many people in the family in full-time education
- 2. Medical Card – your family has a medical card
- 3. Means Tested Social Welfare- your family received a means tested payment from the Department of Social Protection

# Should I apply for HEAR:

- 4. Socio-economic group- You belong to a group that is under-represented in higher education eg. Non-manual Workers Group and Semi and Unskilled Manual Workers, Agricultural workers, FAS scheme workers, those who have never been in formal employment, those who are permanently unfit for work due to illness and applicants in the Care of the State
- 5. DEIS school attendance –you have completed 5 years in a DEIS secondary school

# HEAR Indicators:

- 6. Area profile – you live in an area where there is high unemployment and poverty and only a small number of adults in the area have. Applicants can get an indication of the classification of their address by using the Area Deprivation User Guide available on [www.pobal.ie](http://www.pobal.ie)

# HEAR Indicator 1:

Number of dependent children	HEAR Income Limit
Fewer than 4	€45,790
4-7	€50,325
8 or more	€54,630

**Add €4,670 to the total family/household income for every sibling/parent enrolled in a full time college, university or post leaving certificate course.**

# HEAR Key Dates:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Feb:** Apply to CAO
- **1<sup>st</sup> March:** Final date for completing online HEAR Application Form
- **15<sup>th</sup> March:** Send all supporting documentation to CAO

# HEAR/DARE Booklets:

- If require more information regarding either HEAR/DARE applications information booklets are available
- Also [accesscollege.ie](http://accesscollege.ie) contains all the relevant information
- Information Clinic on HEAR and DARE on 11th of Jan in UL 10am-2pm



# HEAR is not to be confused with grant system SUSI:

- Third Level grants available through SUSI
- [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie) is the website with all relevant information on student grants etc
- Applications for 2020 not open yet but last year opened in May and the closing date was the 1<sup>st</sup> of August
- Can use the Eligibility Reckoner to see if eligible for a Grant at any stage

# SUSI:

- Two types of Third Level grants available through SUSI:
- **1. Maintenance grants:**
- A maintenance grant is a contribution towards the living costs of the students and is paid directly into the student's bank account in nine monthly instalments.

Maintenance grants are paid at an adjacent and non-adjacent rate. Students must ordinarily reside over 45km from where they intend to study to be eligible for the non-adjacent rate.

- **2. Fee grants:**
- A fee grant is made up of three elements (tuition fee element, student contribution element and a field trip element).

*Your household income and the approved course you are attending will determine what elements of this grant you may receive.*

# SUSI:

- You can tick a box on CAO application to say you wish to be considered for Maintenance Grant
- Ticking this section of the CAO DOES NOT mean that you have applied for SUSI it is just allowing information to be shared to SUSI

# Alternative Pathways to reach Careers:

- **1.** UCAS/Eunicas applications
- **2.** Graduate entry eg. Physiotherapy, Medicine, OT, Pharmacy
- **3.** Professional exams eg. Stockbroking, Actuarial Studies, Accounting
- **4.** Consider all colleges – there can be a huge difference in points
- **5.** The Ladder System eg. Levels 6 and 7
- **6.** PLC Entry
-

# Deadline for Applying to the UK:

- Deadline for Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry and applications to Oxford and Cambridge have past (15<sup>th</sup> of October)
- However, deadline for all applications to other courses such as Physio, Psychology etc. is not until **15<sup>th</sup> of Jan**
- Please note there have been major changes to NHS funding for courses such as nursing, physio, OT etc
- Free fees for Irish students in Scotland



# Studying in Europe:

- Thousands of Irish students decide to study abroad every year
- Particularly popular for high demand programmes like Medicine and Veterinary
- 43 of 81 First Years in Vet Medicine in Warsaw are Irish!
- Need to research thoroughly –can apply with Eunicas.ie and they will assist you with the application

# Studying in Europe:

- Deadlines for European colleges vary
  - [www.eunicas.ie](http://www.eunicas.ie) is the website should consult if considering attending college in Europe

# ❖ Graduate Entry:

- Graduate Entry to a course means you can apply for a course if you already have a level 8 and want to continue study in another area
- Once you complete a Level 8 you are a GRADUATE
- Can then apply for courses on the POSTGRAD system

## 2 Types of Postgrads:


- Some Postgraduate and Masters courses allow you to specialise further  
Eg. Sports Physiotherapy (after complete Physio degree)

Eg. Clinical Psychology (after complete a Psychology degree)

Eg. Masters in Digital Marketing after degree in Business



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Type of Postgrad:

- Other Masters allow you to **convert your first degree** into something completely different or something different but related in some way
  - These can usually be done as accelerated degrees meaning they are quicker – 2 yrs
  - Can also be known as ‘Conversion Courses’
- 



# Examples of Graduate Entry:

- Can qualify as **Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Physio** in 2yrs in UL. Results from HPAT for OT and S&L and the GAMSAT for Physio are the only determining factor for entry.
- **Graduate entry to Medicine:** 4 yrs: Open to students of all disciplines – must do GAMSAT

# Examples of Graduate Entry:

- 2 year grad entry qualification in **Dietetics** also available in UL: Open to graduate with degrees in areas such as Food Science, Nutrition, Biochemistry etc
- 2 year grad entry qualification to **Radiography in UCD and UCC**: Open to graduates of degrees in health sciences and science

# Examples of Grad Entry:

- **The 2 year Grad Dip in Primary Teaching is available for graduates of all disciplines but students must still have their H4 in Irish. This is also available in the UK.**
- **The 2 year PME is available in Second Level Teaching for those who have a relevant degree in a teaching subject**

# Professional Training:

- Many graduates starting work will have the opportunity to train for professional qualifications.
- The area of business and finance is particularly noted for new graduates following specific professional exams, for example in accountancy, taxation, stockbroking, insurance, banking, marketing or human resources.
- Law also requires further study following an undergrad
- Some degrees can offer exemptions from professional exams eg. Accounting, Actuary,

# Professional Qualification:

- Other more technical careers such as engineering or surveying also give the chance to study for a professional qualification.
- Professional qualifications allow access to relevant professional body and the range of resources and contacts they offer for further career development.

# Postgrad Routes:

- Some graduates from certain areas use the competencies they developed to go in a completely different career direction
- Eg. Engineers can use numerical skills in areas like actuary, computing, accounting etc.



# Other Alternatives:

- Apprenticeships and trade
- The Guards and other public sectors recruit at different times of the year and if interested in these areas keep an eye on [Publicjobs.ie](https://publicjobs.ie) for advice on interviews and recruitment
- [military.ie](https://military.ie): All competitions for the army will be advertised on this website (follow on Facebook and will be informed)
- All recruitment campaigns are announced on [Careersportal.ie](https://careersportal.ie)

# Apprenticeships:

- Apprenticeships in Ireland are experiencing an overhaul and there is a growing interest in this area
- Students had the opportunity to come to went to Midwest Apprenticeship and Traineeship Careers Showcase in Limerick in early October
- Will also have an opportunity to visit the Shannon Training Centre in the new year

# Apprenticeships:

- In response to our high drop out rates in Third Level (1 in 6 drop out) there is a growing demand for apprenticeships and a growing awareness that college and formal third level education is NOT for everybody –how could it be???
- 2 Types of Apprenticeships: Traditional and New

# Traditional Apprenticeships:

- Examples include plasterer, electrician, mechanic, toolmaking and ag mechanic
- Takes 4 years in total – 7 phases (4 with employer and 3 in college)
- Level 6 qualification
- Paid while doing the apprenticeship – amount depends on area of training

# How to organise an Apprenticeship?

- Need to find a qualified person in area of interest to take you on so you can train in this area
- Can be very competitive esp. ESB and Aircraft Maintenance eg. Atlantic Aviation 1800 applicants for 12 places last Summer
- Selection for Atlantic Aviation includes aptitude results, aptitude tests, hand skills assessment and interview

# Changes...

- Since 2016 many **new occupational apprenticeships** are in the process of being developed and introduced in the Computer & ICT, MedTech, Insurance, Finance, Accountancy, Logistics and Hospitality sectors.
- Some have been launched recently

# Examples of New Apprenticeships:

- **Engineering:** Manufacturing Technology, Manufacturing Engineering (eg. Johnson and Johnson, Takumi Precision Engineering )
- **Finance:** Accounting Technician, Insurance Practice, International Financial Services Associate (Grant Thornton, Limerick)
- *Qualifications in levels 6,7 and 8*



# Example of New Type of Apprenticeship:

- The Insurance Practitioner Apprenticeship is an 'earn and learn' degree programme that combines on-the-job training with academic study.
- Developed by The Insurance Institute and representatives from across the industry, this three-year programme leads to a BA (Hons) in Insurance Practice from IT Sligo – a qualification future employers will crave.
- Will learn the skills, knowledge and behaviours necessary for a successful career in insurance and beyond, as well as also earning a salary as you study.
- It involves four days per week on-the-job training, and one day per week off-the-job and online.
- Register interest online

# Examples of New Apprenticeships...

- The Apprenticeship in Industrial Electrical Engineering has been specifically designed as a progression programme for qualified electricians who wish to upskill and to acquire advanced knowledge to move into engineering roles in Industry.
- The apprenticeship is a 2 year programme, with an approved employer.
- 70% of the time is spent on the job and the remaining 30% of the time is spent in Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT).

# More information:

- [www.apprenticeship.ie](http://www.apprenticeship.ie)
- Download App: Midwest Apprenticeship App (google and then download)

# ❖ PLC Entry:

- PLC courses are one year courses that many students use to gain entry to third level
- This qualification is a level 5 – the same as the Leaving Certificate
- If students remain on for a second year they will gain a Level 6

# Reasons students do a PLC?

1. To gain a qualification in a specific area  
eg. Beauty Therapy, Dental Secretary,  
Pharmacist Assistant
2. To use the PLC as a stepping stone to  
gain entry to a college course the  
following year
3. To explore an area of interest and see if  
suits before going into Third Level system

# Two systems of entry with PLCs:

- 1. Quota System
- 2. Points System

# 1. Quota System:

- 1. Some *universities and popular courses such as nursing* reserve small quotas of places on some programmes for FETAC applicants, who are presenting with FETAC Level 5 awards in courses with modules **RELATING** in content to the course they are applying to.



# Quota System:

- When quotas apply, FETAC applicants compete with other FETAC applicants for the places in question.
- Students must get certain grades in PLC eg. Distinctions in certain modules
- This entry is can be very competitive and students are not guaranteed entry

## 2. Points Scheme:

- In this system PLC graduates compete for college places with Leaving Certificate students based on points.
- PLC students (level 5) students can achieve a maximum of 400 points.
- This system is used by the ITs NOT the universities
- Application for these programmes is through the CAO system

# NOTE:

- Not all courses in the universities accept a FETAC qualification as an entry requirement eg. No FETAC entry for Medicine
- It is listed clearly in websites such as Careersportal or the prospectuses whether a FETAC entry route is available or not.

# Examples of popular PLC colleges:

- ❖ Limerick College of Further Education
  - ❖ Central College Limerick
  - ❖ Galway Technical Institute
  - ❖ St Patrick's Comp Shannon
- *Students apply directly to the COLLEGES for these places not the CAO – applications open on college websites around Jan/Feb*

# Please Note:

- Students can apply for the CAO and a PLC/Apprenticeship/UK/Europe and then decide which they want in August when CAO offers are released
- Students can apply for a **deferral** and spend a year doing a PLC to see if they are certain about their area of interest

# Other things to bear in mind..

- An initiative is being launched to combat the alarming drop-out rates of across Ireland's third-level institutions
- According to data from the HEA, a total of 6,414 (1 of 6 of all first years students) quit their college courses in 2017.
- Bulk of abandoned courses are in sectors like Science, Technology, Construction and Business.

# Drop-Out Rates:

- In general, university courses have the lowest drop-out rates (between 10 and 12 per cent), while they are about twice that in Institutes of Technology.
- The highest rates of non-progression are concentrated among higher certificate (level six) and ordinary degree (level seven) courses at institutes of technology, which typically require relatively low points in the Leaving Cert



# Why are so many dropping out of college?

- Higher education institutions say moves towards broader entry – preventing students from having to decide, at an early stage, what specialism might suit them later in life – will help to ease pressure on students and reduce the drop-out rate.

# What is the cost of college in Ireland?

- 3,000 registration fee per year of college
- The Government pay a balance of approx. 4,500

# Something to note...

- If your son/daughter is very unhappy in their course they should drop out by the 30<sup>th</sup> of Oct to protect free fees for the next year
- The next deadline should drop out by is 30<sup>th</sup> Jan as will lose half fees
- If drop out after the 30<sup>th</sup> of Feb will have to pay full fees if change a course the next year

# Best Careers List in Ireland

- Finance and Accounting
- Mathematical/ Quantitative areas
- Science - Pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device
- Engineering
- Technology and Computers

# Shift in the Job Market..

- Demand for students with transferable skills such as an ability to critically and logically think, to work in a multicultural environment, adaptability, communication etc

# Campus Accommodation

- Keep an eye on college websites to register for campus accommodation
- Dublin universities, UCC and NUIG particularly difficult to get accommodation so keep an eye on websites from Jan onwards

# The CAO Book:

- The CAO book has all relevant information about the Application process and has a list of all courses that are available.
- Careersportal.ie has a list of all courses that are available and also their points from last year



# Remember!

It is important that the student is around for the time immediately after the Leaving Certificate results in order to take care of the following:

- accepting their offer
- Viewing of scripts if necessary
- Deciding on getting paper rechecked

# What help do students get?

- **Specific classes throughout the year – on during Religion**
- **Scheduled individual appointment with Ms.Fitzpatrick**
- **Can attend different talks – students sign up for any Talks of interest eg Hotel Management, Arts, Primary Teaching, GMIT and Science in UL next wewekeetc**
- **Familiar with websites such as Careersportal etc. (Careers module in LC1 for 8 weeks)**
- **Parents are welcome to make an appointment if need to discuss something in detail**

# Useful websites:

- [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)
- [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- [www.eunicas.com](http://www.eunicas.com)
- [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
- [www.gradireland.ie](http://www.gradireland.ie)
- [www.apprenticeship.ie](http://www.apprenticeship.ie)

# Thank You for listening!

If still feeling confused powerpoint will be available to look over on the Guidance section on the St.Caimin's website!

