



Cashel Community School

*CAO
Information
2020/2021*



Applying to the CAO

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



It is the applicant's responsibility to:

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

Useful Resources

To assist with course research / application



Publications

- College Prospectuses – 2021 Entry
- CAO Handbook 2021

Newspapers

- The Irish Times
 - January Special College Supplement Series of articles –
Brian Mooney
- The Independent
 - Careers Articles –

Internet

- Qualifax – www.qualifax.ie Irish courses database
- CAO – www.cao.ie Contains links to course websites
- Careers Portal – www.careersportal.ie
- College websites (Addresses in CAO Handbook)

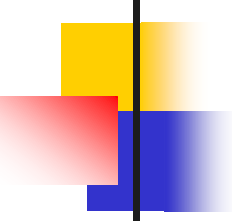
People

- Relatives
- Past pupils
- Admissions/Academic staff of colleges

Guidance Counsellor

- Course Investigation
- Access to sources of information

CAO – General Info.

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- Centralised application system for approx 44 Irish 3rd level institutions, including 6 fee-paying colleges.
 - Every 6th year has been given a 2021 CAO Handbook – application and course information
 - Application Dates and Fees

	Fee	Payment Method
1 st Feb (Paper & On-line)	€40	Credit Card/Debit Card or
Jan 20 th on-line Discount	€30	Bank Giro Form (BGF)
Late on-line applications	€60	
Change of Mind 5 th May-1 st July	No Fee	

CAO – General Info.

There are 3 types of courses students can apply for under the Nat. Qualifications Framework.

- These are applied for on 2 separate lists on a single form:

Level 8 Courses

Honours Degrees (8)
Up to 10 Course Choices

Level 6 & 7 Courses

Ordinary Degrees (7) Higher Certificates (6)
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.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

These must be satisfied before “points” are considered.

Minimum Entry Requirements

E.g. UCD

- Pass 6 subjects
- At least 2 H5
- Pass in: 4 O6/H7
 - ✓ Irish
 - ✓ English
 - ✓ Another Language*
 - ✓ Mathematics*
 - ✓ Science Subject*

Specific Subject Requirements

E.g.

- Engineering(UCC)
 - H4 Maths
- Veterinary Medicine(UCD)
 - H5 Chemistry
- French & Law(UCC)
 - H3 French

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



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- The 3rd language requirement is not required in the areas of Science & Engineering in the Universities:
- UCD, NUIG, NUIM, UCC
- NUIMaynooth - dropped for Business & Finance areas
- Exceptions occur, check each course individually
- HPAT required for medicine. Min. 480 points + HPAT result.



Special Maths Exams

- Students who take Higher Level Maths, may sit a special Maths exam
- Individual Colleges set their own exam for students who feel that they didn't perform as hoped or achieve the specific entry requirement.
- Check individual Colleges and Courses.
- Exam dates vary. (June or August)



HPAT - Medicine

- The system for application for medicine
 - includes an aptitude test HPAT, a min 480 points, usual entry requirements all in one sitting of the Leaving Cert
- Apply by 20th Jan,
Test date last week in February 2021

Supports Available for Students



DARE Disability access to 3rd level

HEAR Support for those where social or economic issues might prevent them going to college



www.accesscollege.ie

HEAR

- The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a third level admissions scheme for school leavers from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.
- HEAR has been established by a number of higher education institutions as clear evidence shows that socio-economic disadvantage has a negative impact on educational attainment at school and on progression to higher education.

Financial Indicators

1. **Income:** The total gross parent(s)/guardian(s) income is within the income thresholds for eligibility for the (Irish) Higher Education Grants Scheme.
2. **Medical Card:** Applicant, parent(s) or Guardian(s) has a Medical Card/GP Visit Card
3. **Social Welfare Payment:** Parent(s)/guardian(s) are in receipt of a means-tested social assistance payment(s) from the Department of Social & Family Affairs for a minimum of 26 continuous weeks

Social and Cultural Indicators

4. **Socio-economic Group:** Applicant comes from a socio-economic group (social class) which is under-represented in higher education (i.e. Non-manual Workers Group; Semi & Unskilled Manual Workers Group; Agricultural Workers).
5. **School:** Applicant has completed 5 years of second level education in a school which is part of the DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) scheme operated by the Department of Education & Science.
6. **Area:** Applicant is living in an urban or rural area of concentrated disadvantage and social exclusion
 - Those combinations are:
 - **INDICATOR 1** plus **2** plus **4** or **5** or **6**
 - **INDICATOR 1** plus **3** plus **4** or **5** or **6**
 - **INDICATOR 1** plus **4** plus **5** or **6**

DARE

- The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) is a supplementary admissions scheme for school leavers with disabilities which operates on a reduced points basis.
- DARE has been established by a number of higher education institutions as clear evidence shows that disability can have a negative impact on educational attainment at school and progression to higher education.

Who is it for?

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

- There are four separate sections to the Supplementary Information Form which must be completed by the applicant, the applicant's school and the Medical Consultant/Specialist verifying the disability.
- **Section A** – applicants must complete a Personal Statement which outlines, from their perspective, the academic impact of the disability or specific learning difficulty.
- **Section B** – applicants must return a Second Level Academic Reference completed by their school. This form provides background information on the applicant's educational experience and helps to determine appropriate supports at third level.
- **Section C** – applicants must return the Evidence of Disability Form completed by the accepted Medical Consultant/Specialist. This form provides verification of the applicant's disability and helps to determine appropriate supports at third level. All applicants must complete this form with the exception of the following:
 - Applicants who have an existing report completed within the appropriate timeframe by the accepted Medical Consultant/Specialist. The report must contain the same detail as the Evidence of Disability Form.
 - Applicants with specific learning difficulties who must provide a full psycho-educational assessment completed by an appropriately qualified psychologist.
- **Supplementary Admissions Routes** – applicants must indicate their wish to be considered for DARE.

Type of Disability	Accepted Medical Consultant/Specialist	Age of Report
Asperger's Syndrome/Autism	Appropriately qualified psychiatrist/psychologist who is a member of their respective professional or regulatory body	No age limit
Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	Appropriately qualified psychiatrist/psychologist who is a member of their respective professional or regulatory body	No age limit
Blind/Vision Impaired	Ophthalmologist/ Ophthalmic Surgeon	No age limit
Deaf/Hearing Impaired	Professionally qualified Audiologist and/or ENT Consultant.	No age limit
Dyspraxia	Appropriately qualified psychologist and Occupational Therapist/ Physiotherapist who is a member of their respective professional or regulatory body	No age limit
Mental Health Condition	Psychiatrist	Must be less than three years old
Neurological Conditions (incl. Brain Injury, Speech & Language Disabilities)	Neurologist or other relevant Consultant	No age limit
Significant Ongoing Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Epilepsy: Neurologist •Diabetes Type 1: Endocrinologist •Cystic Fibrosis (CF): Consultant respiratory physician or paediatrician •Gastroenterology Conditions: Gastroenterologist •Others: Relevant consultant in area of condition or Consultant Registrar/Registrar 	Must be less than three years old
Physical Disability	Orthopaedic Consultant or other relevant Consultant such a Rheumatologist or Paediatrician	No age limit
Specific Learning Difficulty (incl. Dyslexia)	Enclose a full psycho-educational assessment completed by an appropriately qualified psychologist.	Must be less than three years old
Other Disabilities	Relevant medical consultant/specialist	No age limit

POINTS SYSTEM

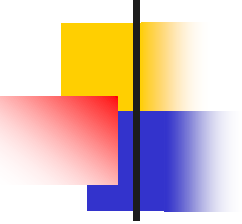
Generally in the CAO system
No. of qualified applicants $>$ No. of course places
--> selection system is needed.

Selection system used in Irish 3rd Level Colleges is

POINTS SYSTEM

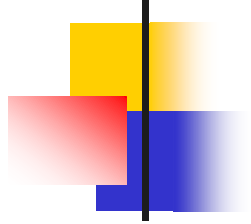
- Points are calculated from **ONE** sitting of the Leaving Certificate only.
- Points total is calculated from **SIX** best subjects
- Bonus points awarded for Honours Mathematics by all colleges since Aug 2012
- Entry Requirements can be satisfied over more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate

POINTS ALLOCATION



<u>Grade</u>	<u>MARKS</u>	<u>Honours</u>	<u>Ordinary</u>
H1/01	90-100	100	56
H2/02	80-90	88	46
H3/03	70-80	77	37
H4/04	60-70	66	28
H5/05	50-60	56	20
H6/06	40-50	46	12
H7/07	30-40	37	0
H8/08	0-30	0	0

POINTS ALLOCATION



LCVP Points

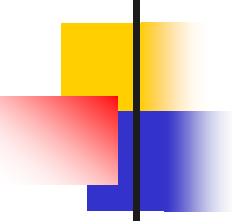
Distinction 66

Merit 45

Pass 27

**Hons Maths –any grade H6 up
+25**

Making an application

- 
- Applications can be made online or by paper form –
 - Always keep proof of sending application: online – print screen receipt, paper – obtain certificate of post.
 - Form is very straight forward to fill out.
 - www.cao.ie

****VERY IMPORTANT****

- Having **RESEARCHED** choices Students must fill out both course lists in:
Genuine Order of Preference
- They should not put down courses on the basis of their predictions of next years cut off points or their own points scores.

A Students Course Preferences

1	2	3
AL020	GY004	CR105
600	560	595
595	535	595
590	525	590
580	520	580
**	**	**
**	**	**
**	**	**
**	**	**
**	**	**
495	485	475
480	480	475
470	475	470
465	465	465
460	460	460
460	455	460
460	445	460
455	440	455
455	435	455
450	420	450
450	410	445
450	405	440
450	405	435
445	405	430
435	400	430
**	**	**
**	**	**
**	**	**
**	**	**
280	325	280
275	315	275
275	310	275
270	305	270

NO

NO

YES

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

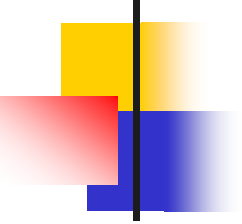
YES

YES

All Lower Preference Courses Disappear From Students Preferences

Students Points Total = 445

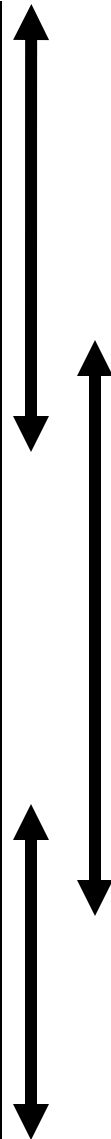
Cut Off Points for Course

- 
- When a course is offered all lower choices disappear regardless of whether the student has enough points for that course which is further down on their list of preferences.
 - You can go up the list if points change in future rounds.

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



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10



What I really
Want Courses

Attainable
Courses

Just in case
/Backup
Courses

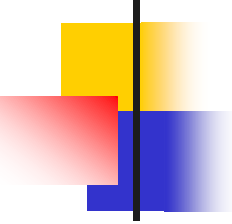
Places Allocation



Note:

- The position of a course in a student's preference order does not in any way affect their chance of getting a place on that course.
- The exact same procedure takes place for both lists on the form, hence students may get 2 offers in August – one from each list, may accept only one.
- 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 one.

After Making Application

- 
- Receive CAO number and Statement of Course Choices – check this carefully.
 - Some students may be called for extra assessments.
 - Receive Statement of Application Record – check details carefully.
 - Change of Mind facility becomes available – use sparingly and carefully.
 - Leaving Cert. Results are sent to CAO.
 - 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.

CAO TIMETABLE 2021 ENTRY

- 
- 5th November
 - Online Application opens
 - 1st February, 2021
 - Closing date for receipt of normal applications
 - 1st May, 2021
 - Closing date for receipt of late applications
 - Before/By 31st May, 2021
 - Receive Statement of Application Record
 - 5th May, 2021
 - On-line change of mind facility.
 - 1st July, 2021
 - Latest date for receipt of change of mind form in CAO.
 - Mid August, 2021 (2days after LC results)
 - First round of offers will commence.



After the LC students are making another Transition

TRANSITION =

Any event that changes
relationships,
routines,
assumptions
roles

From school to college, training, work etc



Importance of being in the right place for you

...regardless of all the help, guidance and assistance if the programme is wrong nothing is going to work for them..

research from UCC



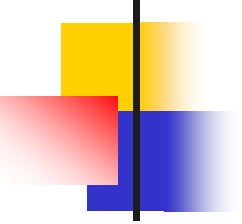
Some of the research..

- 82% of those in the wrong programme made mistakes on the CAO
 - of these 25% had 500+ points
 - 47% had 450 – 495 points



Some Reasons

- “I was so busy studying for LC that I didn’t think too much about the CAO”
- I havent a clue what I want to do...
- My ____ said Id make a great _____
- “ I was told to use my points well “
- “plenty of jobs in that area”
- “ I didn’t research my course properly”
- Found size and newness of place overwhelming

- 
- When on the right degree they thrive, develop, acquire skills, attributes and knowledge (UCC research)

Applies to any course, training, apprenticeship, job...



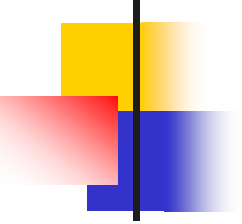
40% of employers want

- Graduates from any discipline,
- look at graduate attributes, skills etc



Employers want...

- Independent thinkers
- Creative thinkers
- Research skills
- Digital fluency
- Socially responsible
- Effective global citizens
- Have Values of Respect, Ambition, Compassion, Resilience, Responsibility

- 
- Importance of engaging with guidance in school
 - Research careers, courses
 - Talk to relevant sources of information



Raise the bar for yourself

Cut off points for a course means the last place to be filled had that result....

Majority on the course will have considerably higher points

330430.....480.....500+