St. Anne's Community College

CAO Information
MONDAY 18th January 2021

Presented by :
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Agenda

- Career Planning
- Applicants Responsibilities
- General points regarding the CAO
- What students need to know about each course they are applying for
- Entry Requirements and the Points System
- Making an application.
- How places are allocated by CAO
- After submitting the application
- Hear and Dare schemes
- Common mistakes
- Finance
- Other Options
- Questions

Career Planning points to remember

- Career planning is a life long developmental process.
- Cao choice not a decision for life … it is a starting point.
- Important to get on the right track, not necessary to know exactly what you want to do.
- Important to get as high a qualification as possible.
- Many employers will take students from different disciplines (Science, Business, Psychology, Arts)
- The quality of the qualification, skills, work experience and ability to communicate also important.
- There is probably more than one route to what you want to do.
- Students should do what they want/ what they are good at.
- Change mindset from the notion of a job to developing skills.

Career Planning

- Factors to consider

The Student

. Interests

. Aptitude

. Personality

. Predicted Grades in Leaving Cert

. Leaving Cert subjects

. Opportunities available

. Finance

It is the __applicants__ 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.
- Check the CAO website for updates etc

Course Research

What students need to know about each course they apply for:

- Educational or Vocational
- Subjects studied
- Optional subjects
- Number of hours per week
- Assessment (Exam, Continuous Assessment ,Practical)
- Work experience
- Qualification (Ladder of progression)
- Scholarships
- Post graduate opportunities
- Accommodation
- Graduate employment

Useful Resources
To assist with course research / application

Publications:

- College Prospectuses – 2021 Entry
- CAO Handbook 2021
- Cracking the College Code - Catherine O Connor

Newspapers:

- **The Irish Times**
  - ➢ Tuesdays   Education Section
  - ➢ January   Special College Supplement Series of articles - Brian Mooney
- **The Independent**
  - ➢ Careers Articles - Mary O Donnell

Internet:

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

People:

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

Guidance Counsellor:

- Interest Inventories / Guidance interviews
- Access to sources of information
- Appointments for parents

CAO – General Info.

- Centralised application system for Irish 3rd level institutions, including some **fee-paying** colleges.
- Application Dates and Fees

Paper Application/ online	Fee	Payment Method
Before 20th January	€30	laser/credit card or bank draft
Normal up to 1st Feb	€45	or Credit/Laser Card.
Change of Mind	No Fee	---

CAO – General Info.

- Since 2007 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 6 & 7 Courses		Level 8 Courses
Ordinary Degrees (7) Higher Certificates (6)		Honours Degrees (8)
Up to 10 Course Choices		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 requires a candidate to have the following

- Pass 6 subjects
- At least H5 in two subjects and a minimum of O6 or H7 in four subjects
- Pass in:
  - Irish
  - English
  - Another Language (many courses)
  - Mathematics

- Different Requirements
  - NUI Colleges
  - UL and TCD
  - Institutes of Technology

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
As well as entry requirements, students may also need to meet specific subject requirements

Here are some examples of college courses that require specific subject grades in order to be eligible for that course.

- Engineering (UCD) requires a H4 Maths

- Veterinary (UCD) requires a H5 Chemistry

- Journalism (DCU) requres a H4 English

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

HPAT Test

- All applications for medicine are now considered to be restricted as students must sit the HPAT.

- Must apply for medicine on or before the 1st of February.

- Students apply to cao.ie and then directly to Acer to complete the test.

- The test takes place on the 25th of February in various locations around the country.

- Students must register before the 20th of January 2021 to do the test.

- Places in medicine are allocated on a combination of HPATand LC scores.

- Further information on the HPAT test on www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au

- Sample aptitude tests available online to help preparation.

POINTS SYSTEM

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

- 25 Bonus points are awarded for Higher Level Mathematics. (Students who obtain a H6 or better i.e 40%+)

- Points for foundation level maths will be awarded by certain institutions. Check college websites or prospectuses for details.

- Entry Requirements can (in most cases) be satisfied over more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate.

POINTS ALLOCATION

LC Points

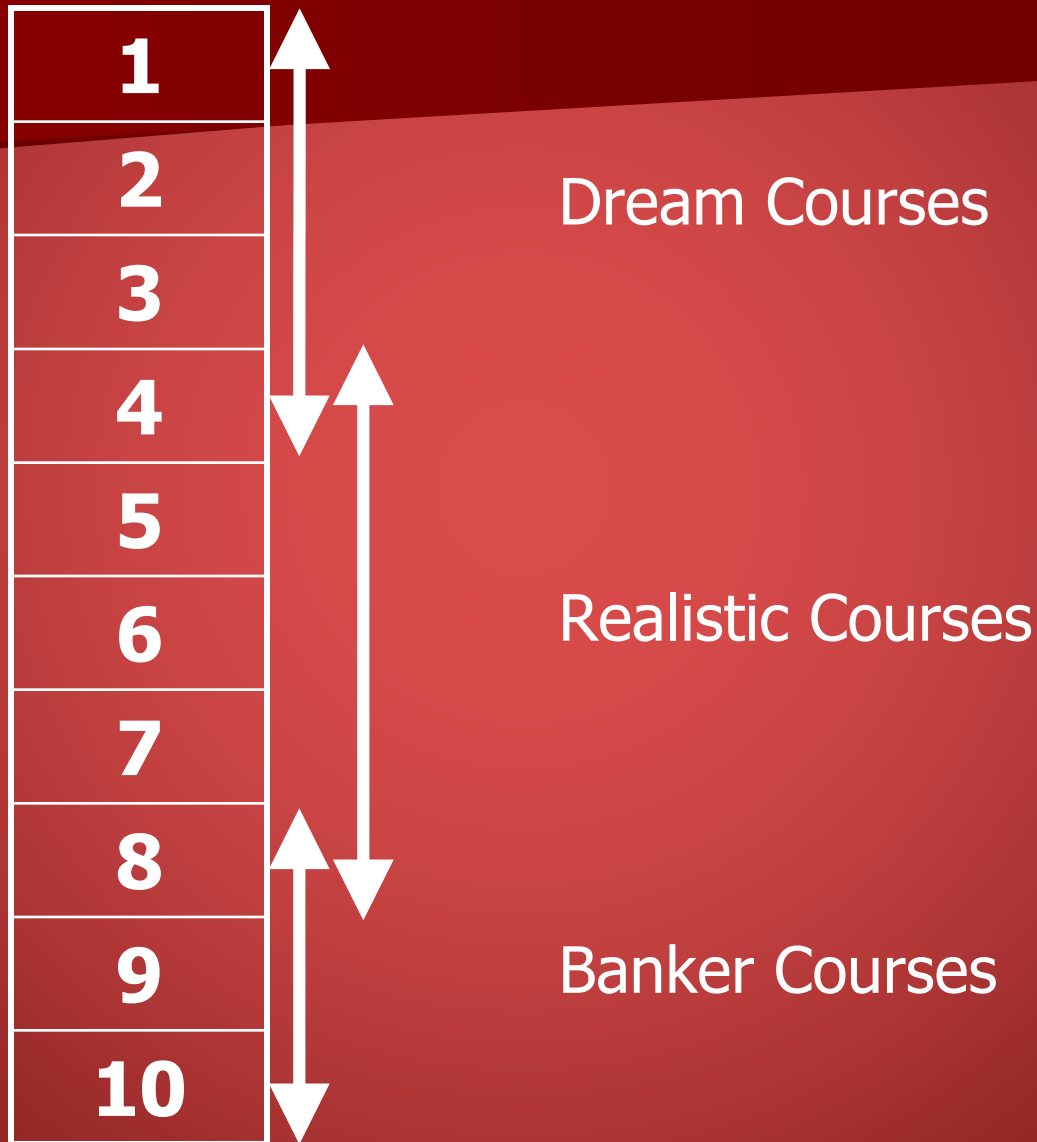| Higher		Ordinary	
Grade	Points	Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0

- LCVP Points
- Distinction 66
- Merit 46
- Pass 28

Making an application

- Applications can be made online or by paper form – use one method only. (€10 charge if 2 applications sent)
- 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****

- Students must fill out both course lists in:
  ## **Genuine Order of Preference**

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

Places Allocation

Note:.

- The exact same procedure takes place for both lists on the form, hence students may get 2 offers in August – one from each list, a student 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 to 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 by post and online.

- Students accept, reject or defer offered places.

- Further rounds of offers are made until all course places are filled.

CAO TIMETABLE 2021 ENTRY

- **6th November 2020** CAO Online facility opens.

- **20th Jan 2021(5.15pm)** Apply by this date to avail of discounted rate of €30.

- **1st February (5.15pm)**
- Closing date for receipt of normal applications €45

- **Before/By 15th February, 2021** Receive Statement of Course Choices contact CAO if you don't receive by this date.

- **1st May 2021 (5.15pm)** Closing date for receipt of late applications

- **Before/By 31st May 2021-** Receive Statement of Application Record

- **From 5th May 2021 (12 noon) noon)** Change of mind forms may be sent.

- **1st July 2021 (5.15pm)** Latest date for receipt of change of mind form in CAO.

Access schemes
There are 2 schemes:
Hear and Dare

- The HEAR scheme is an admissions scheme for school leavers from socio economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

- Applicants eligible for the scheme may gain entry to college on less than the full CAO points. All applicants must however meet college and course entry requirements.

- You have a higher chance if you are eligible for both HEAR and DARE

- If applying for HEAR or DARE complete forms on CAO now to allow time to gather supporting documentation

The HEAR SCHEME

- DCU, DIT,NUIG, IADT, IT Sligo, NUIM,TCD,UCD,UCC,UL,NCI,Colaiste Mhuire Marino,Church of Ireland college of Education, Mary Immaculate, Mater Dei,St Angela's Sligo, St Pat's Drumcondra.

- Each applicant is assessed in relation to

  six indicators. Each applicant must meet three of the indicators in order to be eligible.

The Hear scheme the six indicators

- Receipt of Social welfare
- Deis school (we are not!)
- Medical card
- Geographical Area
- Low income
- Socio economic grouping (Employment and occupation status)

The DARE scheme

- The Disability Access route to education is a supplementary admissions route for school leavers with disabilities which operates on a reduced points scheme.

- Colleges in the scheme, Athlone IT, Cork IT,DCU,DIT, IADT,IT Carlow, IT Sligo,LIT,Marino,Mary I, NUIM, NCI,NUIG, RCSI,Mater Dei,TCD, UCD, UCC and UL

Dare scheme: What disabilities are eligible?

- Aspergers syndrome

- ADD

- Blind/Vision impaired

- Deaf/Hearing impaired

- Neurological conditions

- Physical illness/ disability

- Specific learning disability(Dyslexia)

- Long term illness

- Other illness

- Further information on both schemes at www.accesscollege.ie

Common mistakes according to the CAO office!

- Students forgetting to tick box saying they are doing LC in 2021.(CAO will not offer place without LC results)
- Students who don't satisfy college entry requirements.
- Statement of course choice not checked and mistakes not noticed until it is too late.(August)

- Too few CAO choices.
- Not understanding what order of preference actually means.
- Not applying to the Hear/Dare schemes by February 1st.(No late application system)

Finance

- All new student applications will be made online to SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) through their website www.studentfinance.ie

- Eligibility depends on family income and number of full time students in family.

- Students should apply to before the 31st of August.

Further information at www.studentfinance.ie

- Scholarships both academic and sporting available from most colleges check out individual college websites or prospectuses.

- The student Registration charge is €3000 subject to change over time. Students who are eligible for a Grant do not pay the above charge.

Other Options

- PLC courses in colleges of Further Education e.g LCFE, CCL
- A separate application form for each college.
- Prospective students are interviewed.
- Students can transfer from PLC courses in to certain level 6,7 and 8 courses in ITs and Universities.(Many courses require 5 distinctions in Fetac exams= 400 points)
- Further information on www.cao.ie or individual college website.

- Apprenticeships: Many new apprenticeships being rolled out. www.apprentices.ie
- ESB, Bus Eireann, eir, Iarnrod Eireann, Bord na Mona, Aerlingus, Liebherr etc
- Gardaí and Army
- Colleges in UK www.ucas.com
- Private fee paying colleges
- www.picktourism.ie

UCAS studying in the UK

- Fees range from £3,000 to £9K per year
- No Fees in Scotland entry requirements usually higher than elsewhere in UK. Brexit?
- Closing date was 15th January now extended until Jan 29th
- It is possible to apply in August for vacant places through 'Clearing'
- Further information check out www.ucas.com

Final Word what can we do to help?

- Allow/ Encourage the dream
- Facilitate Research
- Inform yourself
- Support and Encourage
- Praise
- Encourage short study breaks to improve concentration
- Leaving Cert is similar to a marathon very important that the student is at their peak in June.
- Ultimately decisions are student's own allow them to take responsibility.

Useful websites

- Cao.ie
- Careersportal.ie
- Qualifax.ie
- Unibrowse.ie
- Studentfinance.ie
- Accesscollege.ie
- Waterford IT have a useful downloadable advice pack for CAO applications:

Research college choices and CAO options with this free download - Waterford Institute of Technology

Questions??

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