



# **St. Anne's Community College**

CAO Information  
January 2022

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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.
- Career 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 – 2022 Entry
- CAO Handbook 2022- on CAO website
- Cracking the College Code - Catherine O'Connor

## Newspapers:

- **The Irish Times and Irish Independent weekly supplements**
  - Tuesdays Education Section
  - Special College Supplement  
Series of articles - Brian Mooney



## Internet:

- Qualifax – [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) Irish courses database
- CAO – [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) Contains links to course websites
- Careersportal [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
- [CAO, third-level, full-time & PLC courses in Ireland \(whichcollege.ie\)](http://whichcollege.ie)
- College websites (Addresses in CAO Handbook)

## People:

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

## Guidance Counsellor:

- Interest Inventories / Guidance appointments
- Access to sources of information
- Advice for parents- also available to take calls from parents with queries



# CAO – General Info.

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

<b>Paper Application/ online</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Payment Method</b>
Before 20 <sup>th</sup> January	€30	debit/credit card
Normal up to 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	€45	or Debit/Laser Card.
<b>Change of Mind</b>	<b>No Fee</b>	<b>---</b>

# CAO – General Info.

- Since 2007 there are 3 types of courses students can apply for under the National Framework of Qualifications
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (for many but not all 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) requires 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 1<sup>st</sup> of February.
- Students apply to cao.ie and then directly to Acer to complete the test.
- The test takes place online in February 2022/.
- Students must register before the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 to do the test.
- Places in medicine are allocated on a combination of HPAT and LC scores.
- Further information on the HPAT test on [www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au](http://www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au)
- Sample aptitude tests available online to help preparation.



# POINTS SYSTEM

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
- 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

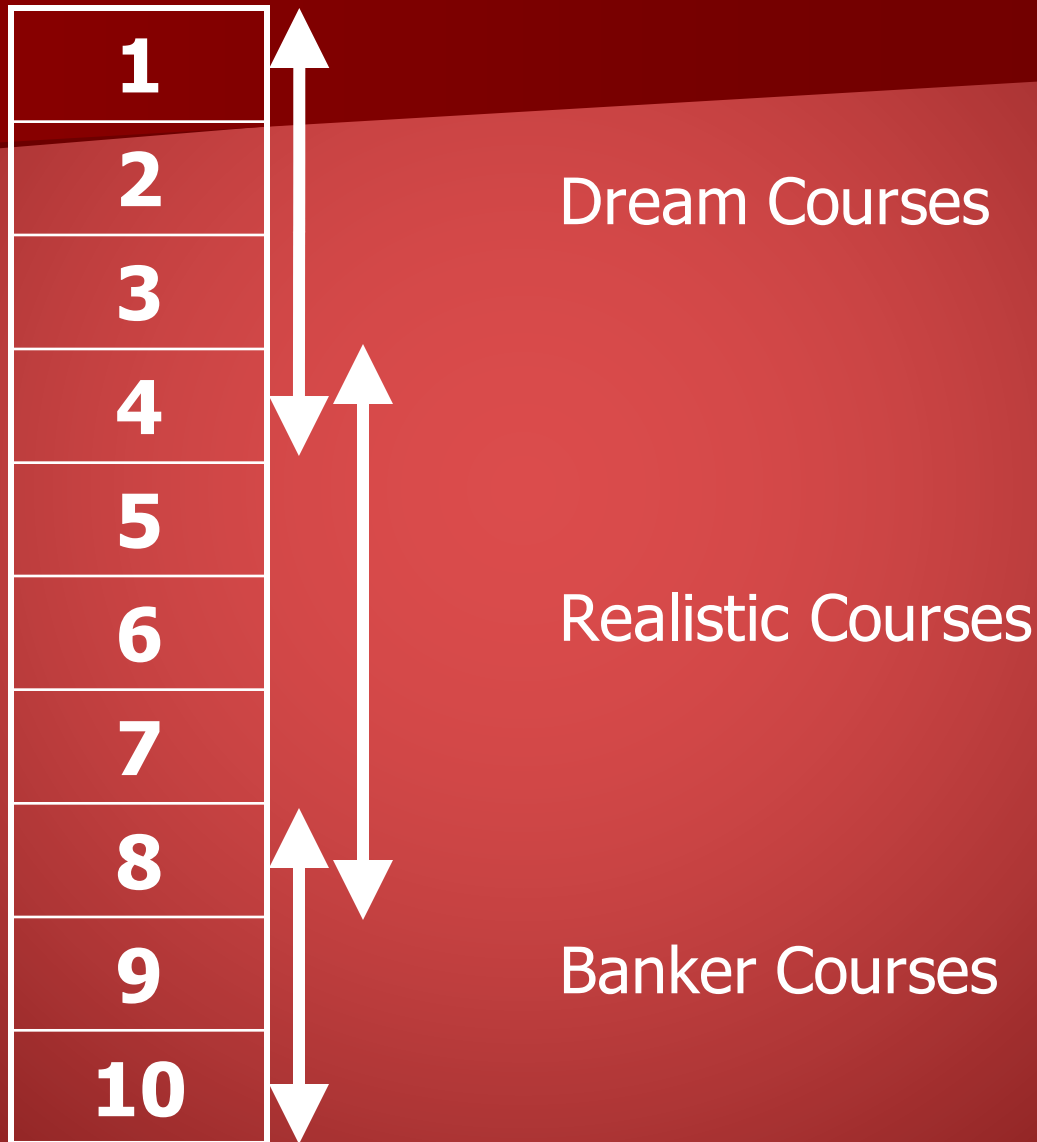
- Applications can be made online
- Form is very straight forward to fill out-[www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)

**\*\*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?



# 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 2022 ENTRY

- **20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022( 5pm)**  
Apply by this date to avail of discounted rate of €30.
- **1<sup>st</sup> February (5pm)**  
Closing date for receipt of normal applications €45
- **4<sup>th</sup> February 12 noon**  
Online Facility to amend course choice becomes available (€10)
- **1<sup>st</sup> March 5pm**  
Closing date for amending course choice and final completion of online Hear/Dare forms
- **4<sup>th</sup> March 12 noon** Late application facility opens
- **15<sup>th</sup> March-** Latest date for supporting documentation to arrive at CAO
- **1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 (5pm)**  
Closing date for receipt of late applications
- **5<sup>th</sup> May 12 noon**  
Free Online Change of Mind facility becomes available
- **Before/By 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022-**Receive Statement of Application Record
- **1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 (5pm)**  
Latest date for receipt of online 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
- \* Please Note Institutes of Technology are being renamed as Technological Universities.



# 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](http://www.accesscollege.ie)

# Common mistakes according to the CAO office!

- Students forgetting to tick box saying they are doing LC in 2022.(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 1<sup>st</sup>.(No late application system)

# Finance

- All new student applications will be made online to SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) through their website [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie)
- [www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie) is another resource that may be helpful
- SUSI will open for new applications in April 2022 and students should apply as early as possible.
- Eligibility depends on family income and number of full time students in family.
- Students should apply if at all possible to SUSI before the 31<sup>st</sup> of August.
- 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 PLC exams= 400 points)
- Further information on [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) or individual college website.
- Apprenticeships: Many new apprenticeships being rolled out. [www.apprenticeship.ie](http://www.apprenticeship.ie)
- ESB, Bus Eireann, eir, Iarnrod Eireann, Bord na Mona, Aerlingus, Liebherr etc
- Gardaí and Army
- Colleges in UK Note deadline is end of January [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- Private fee paying colleges
- [www.picktourism.ie](http://www.picktourism.ie)

# UCAS studying in the UK

- Fees range from £3,000 to £9K per year
- Closing date was 15<sup>th</sup> January now extended until Jan 29<sup>th</sup>
- It is possible to apply in August for vacant places through 'Clearing'
- Further information check out [www.ucas.com](http://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
- Studentfinance.ie
- Accesscollege.ie
- Waterford IT have a useful downloadable advice pack for CAO [www.wit.ie/future\\_students/school\\_leavers/ask-wit-guide-to-cao-choices](http://www.wit.ie/future_students/school_leavers/ask-wit-guide-to-cao-choices)

# Questions?

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