



CAO/PLC Information

Guidance & Counselling Department

10th October 2023

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Agenda

- ▶ Applicant's responsibility
- ▶ National Framework of Qualifications
- ▶ PLC (Post Leaving Cert) courses
- ▶ Apprenticeships
- ▶ Entry requirements and points system
- ▶ HEAR/DARE -Access routes
- ▶ SUSI Grant
- ▶ Study abroad or the UK
- ▶ Making a CAO application
- ▶ Allocation of places
- ▶ Important dates 2023/24
- ▶ Dos and Don'ts of the CAO application

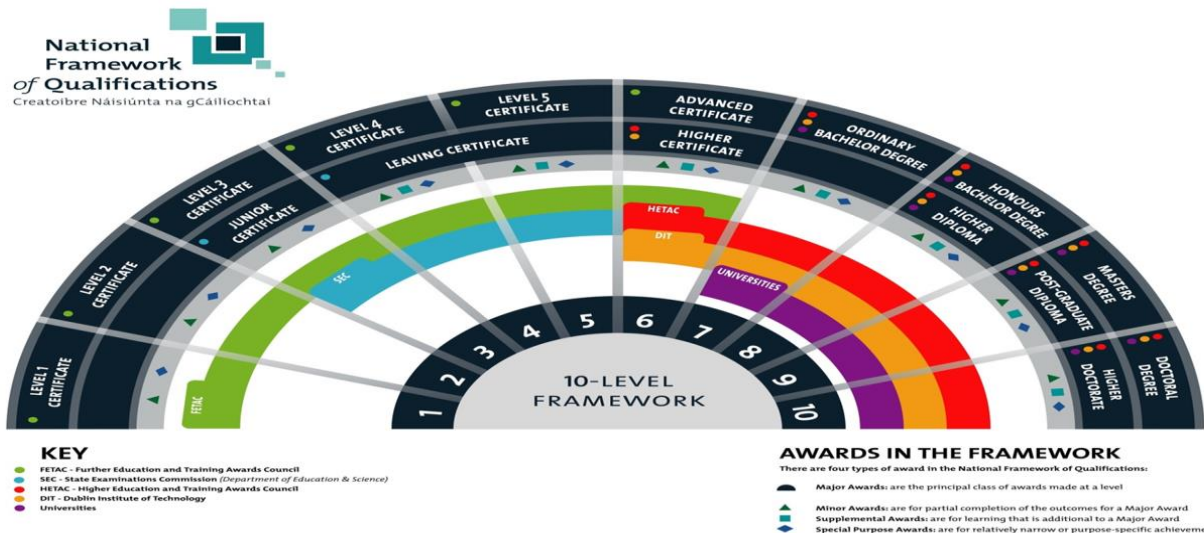


Applicant's Responsibility

- ▶ Research, Research, Research!!!
- ▶ Open Days – attend at weekends
- ▶ Complete Interest Tests/Identify talents and skills
- ▶ Consider subjects you enjoy
- ▶ Guidance Appointments
- ▶ www.careersportal.ie
- ▶ Be familiar with how to make an application
- ▶ PLCs - **Separate application**

National Framework of Qualifications

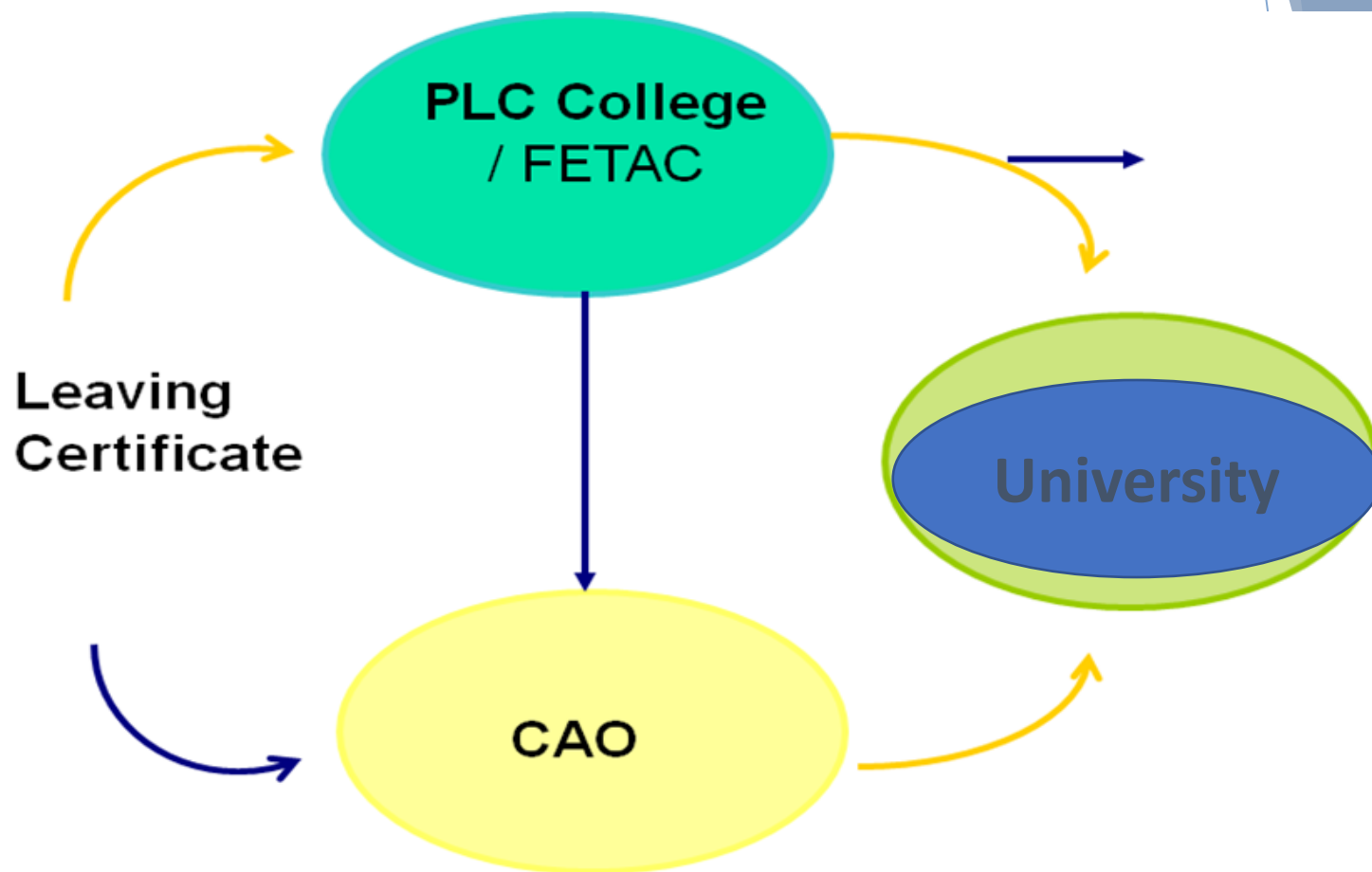
- ▶ Students can apply for 3 levels of award on their CAO application
 - ▶ Level 8 Honours Degree
 - ▶ Level 7 Ordinary Degree
 - ▶ Level 6 Higher Certificate
- ▶ Opportunity to apply for 20 courses
 - ▶ Ten level 8 choices
 - ▶ Ten level 6 & 7 choices
- ❖ PLCs are level 5 – Not on CAO but there is information regarding courses



PLC Courses

- ▶ Small classes and support services
- ▶ Small fee
- ▶ Wide range of courses on offer
- ▶ Only one year long with certification on completion
- ▶ Gain confidence and maturity
- ▶ Graduate with a level 5 (Level 6 for a two-year course)
- ▶ Can progress onto third level (CAO)





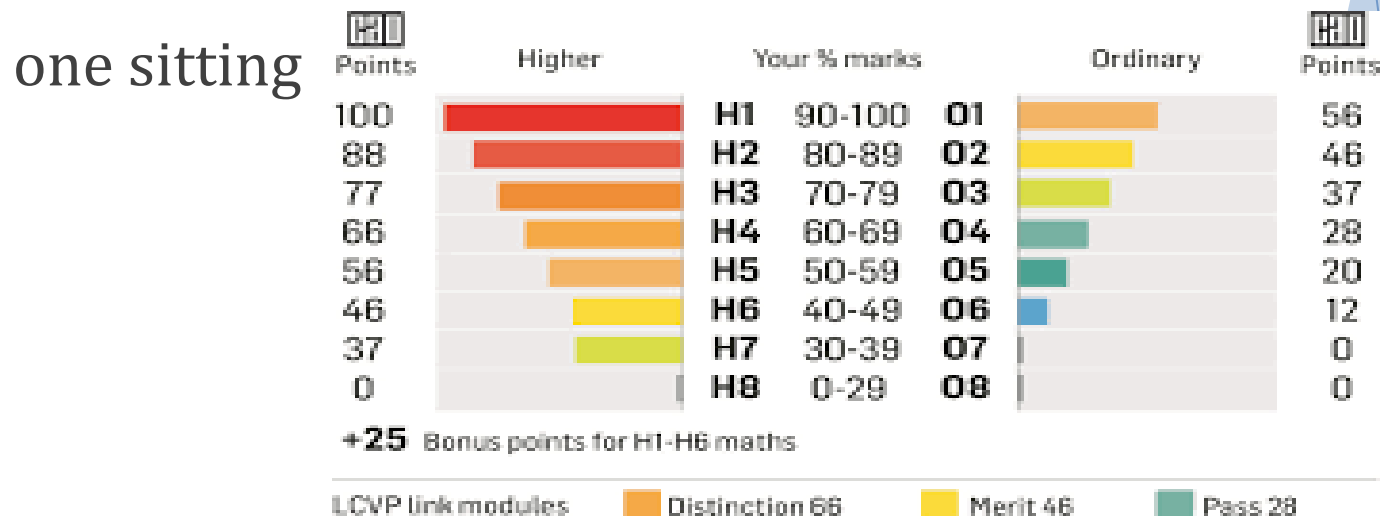
Course Entry Requirements

- ▶ Minimum entry requirements
 - ▶ NUIs (Maynooth, UCD, NUI Galway, UCC)
 - ▶ 2H5 & 4 H7/O6
 - ▶ Pass at HL or OL in English, Irish Maths and a 3rd language
- ▶ Specific Entry Requirements
 - ▶ E.g. H4 Irish - Primary Teaching (English & Maths 04/H7)
 - ▶ Human Nutrition & Dietetics (TUD) H4 Chemistry
 - ▶ Computer Science (TCD) H4 Maths



Points System

- ▶ Points are calculated from ONE sitting of the Leaving Cert
- ▶ Points are awarded for highest 6 subjects
- ▶ 25 bonus points awarded for HL Maths (Being one of your best 6 after you add the bonus points)
- ▶ Entry requirements can be achieved over more than





Disability Access Route To Education

www.accesscollege.ie

The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on a reduced points basis to school leavers with disabilities/learning difficulties/ongoing illness.



The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places at reduced points to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.



Dare

DARE | DISABILITY
ACCESS
ROUTE TO
EDUCATION

- The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) is a third level alternative admissions scheme for school leavers whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education.
- Eligibility (Must have Evidence of Disability), eg Physical, Mental Health, SLD's
- The SLD report or school based testing must also have been completed in the last two years.
- DARE offers reduced course points (Supply & Demand)
- Tick the HEAR box on the CAO application and application to be completed, along with supporting documentation by 15th March
- 3 Sections:
Part A – completed on CAO application by the student and/or parent/guardian
Part B – completed by Guidance counsellor using the EIS form
Part C – evidence e.g. a report OR form to be completed by medical professional
- www.accesscollege.ie

Hear Scheme



Six Indicators

- Income falls below a certain limit
- Medical/GP Visit card
- Means tested Social Welfare
- Socio Economic group under - represented in higher education
- Attend a DEIS School
- Area Profile

This is separate to a SUSI grant



SUSI Grant

- ▶ Student Universal Support Ireland (**SUSI**) is Ireland's national awarding authority for all further and higher education grants.
- ▶ **SUSI** offers funding to eligible students.
- ▶ Online www.susi.ie
- ▶ <https://susi.ie/eligibility-reckoner-app-irish/index.html>
- ▶ Opens in April 2023 based on household income 2022.



Apprenticeships

A craft apprenticeship will generally last for 4 years, during which time you will spend 3 different periods in off-the-job training.

New apprenticeships in ICT, finance and hospitality include software development and accounting technician.

Steps in Securing an Apprenticeship

1. Research- www.apprenticeships.ie
2. Contact local ETB
3. Find an Employer/ Service Provider
4. Make an application (by online application or Cover Letter and Curriculum Vitae)

Study abroad or the UK

Students studying abroad apply directly to the college. Use <https://www.eunicas.ie/> to research courses

Students wishing to study in the UK must apply through the UCAS system <https://www.ucas.com/>

Fees for these institutions and courses abroad/UK vary. You should check out the specific college websites to find out more

Central Applications Office (CAO)

- ▶ Is the organisation responsible for overseeing most undergraduate applications in the Republic of Ireland. The primary mission of the **Central Applications Office** is to centrally process applications in a fair and efficient manner.
- ▶ Apply online – Online facility opened on 6th November 2023
 - ▶ 20th January €30 (5:00pm)
 - ▶ 1st February €45 (5:00pm) *3rd February -1st March amend courses (€10 fee)
 - ▶ 1st May €60 (5:00pm) **Late online application**
 - ▶ Change of mind: 5th May – 1st July (free of charge)
 - ▶ Before end May **Statement of Record** sent to all applicants (Contact CAO if you don't receive it)
 - ▶ Restricted courses to be included by February 1st
Clearly identified in the handbook e.g. Drama, Music, Medicine, Art
 - ▶ **September** - Leaving Cert Results/Round 1 Offers issued and Round 2 Offers issued



Making an Application

- ▶ www.cao.ie Click apply (PDF of CAO Booklet online)
- ▶ Personal Information, pay and create an account/password.
 - ▶ CAO number/password – log in
 - ▶ Course Choices
 - ▶ Qualifications and Assessment – LC 2023
 - ▶ HEAR/DARE – Tick a box if you wish to be considered for either

List your courses in genuine order of preference

- ▶ **2 course** lists allowing 10 choices in each
 - ▶ Level 8
 - ▶ Level 6/7

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

Dream Courses

Realistic Courses

Safety Net Courses



After Making an Application

- ▶ Receive confirmation of your application
- ▶ Some students may be called for extra assessments/Interview
- ▶ Change of Mind facility becomes available May 2023 – use sparingly and carefully, this closes on July 1st 2023
- ▶ **Statement of Application Record emailed before end of May-Inform CAO if you don't get this**
- ▶ Leaving Certificate results are sent to CAO
- ▶ Places are allocated and offered by post and online
- ▶ Students accept, reject or defer offered places (You can only move up on the list)
- ▶ You may be offered 2 places, one from level 8 and 1 from level 6/7
- ▶ Further rounds of offers are made until all course places are filled



Allocation of Places

Order	Course	Course Points	Student's Points	Eligible
1	UCD Commerce	502	466	NO
2	DCU Business	468	466	NO
3	TCD BESS	505	466	NO
4	Maynooth Business	423	466	YES
5	TU Business & Law	470	466	No
6	NCI Business	290	466	YES
7	DCU Global Business	470	466	NO
8	NCI Marketing	200	466	YES
9	TU Business	250	466	YES
10	Dundalk IT Business	300	466	YES



**All courses below offered
course are removed.**

Order	Course	Course Points	Student's Points	Eligible
1	UCD Commerce	502	466	NO
2	DCU Business	468	466	NO
3	TCD BESS	505	466	NO
4	Maynooth Business	405	466	YES

Round 2 – points drop on some courses

Order	Course	Course Points Round 1	Course Points Round 2	Student's Points	Eligible
1	UCD Commerce	502	490	466	NO
2	DCU Business	468	465	466	YES
3	TCD BESS	505	510	466	NO
4	Maynooth Business	405	395	466	YES



Important Dates 2022/23

- ▶ **20th January** Apply by this date to avail of the discounted fee of €30
- ▶ **1st February** Normal closing date for applications (€45)
Change of Mind - 5th February (12:00 noon) to 1st March (17:15) €10 Fee
- ▶ **1st March** Deadline for online application HEAR/DARE (On CAO application)
- ▶ **15th March** Deadline for submission of documentation to arrive in CAO
- ▶ **5th May** Change of Mind facility opens (Free of charge)
- ▶ **Before End May** Statement of Record sent to all applicants (**Contact CAO if you don't receive it**)
- ▶ **1st July** Change of Mind facility closes
- ▶ **September** Leaving Cert Results
- ▶ Round 1 Offers issued and Round 2 Offers issued



Dos and Don'ts



DOs



DON'Ts

- ▶ Do list your choices in order of **preference** and not points.
- ▶ Don't guess what the points are going to be for a course.
- ▶ Don't overestimate/underestimate your Leaving Cert results.
- ▶ Do attend college/university Open Days.
- ▶ Do consider level 6/7 & PLCs – remember the Framework of Qualifications.
- ▶ Do continue meetings with Guidance Counsellor.
- ▶ Don't base your choice on one college, it may not have the exact course you are looking for. Think of all options!
- ▶ Don't forget to research the course details/entry requirements.
- ▶ Don't panic!! The change of mind facility is available!



Current provisions and resources

- Weekly **Guidance** Class with Guidance Counsellor
- All 6th Students will receive **1-1 Career Apt** by Mid-term
 - Ms. Brooks(Gilmartin, Tracey, McCullough, Monerawela)
 - Ms. Cauty (Leonard, Lyttle, Canny)
- All students have received their interview profile booklet
- Individual College Prospectus on college websites or in the Guidance library
- Higher Options- Thursday 22nd September RDS
- Careers Fair -25th Nov
- UCAS meetings & applications- every Wednesday lunch-time
- DARE & HEAR will be done with students before deadline
- Students will always be updated in their class team/guidance & Tutorial class.

**Please do not hesitate
to reach out if you have
any questions**

