

*With Ms. E. Griffey and Ms. R. Neylon*

## What is the CAO?

---

- It's a centralised application system for Irish 3<sup>rd</sup> level Education Institutions (including fee-paying colleges)

How many courses can I put down?



**Apply for up to 20 courses**



**Level 8 list –  
Choose 10**

Honours  
Degrees

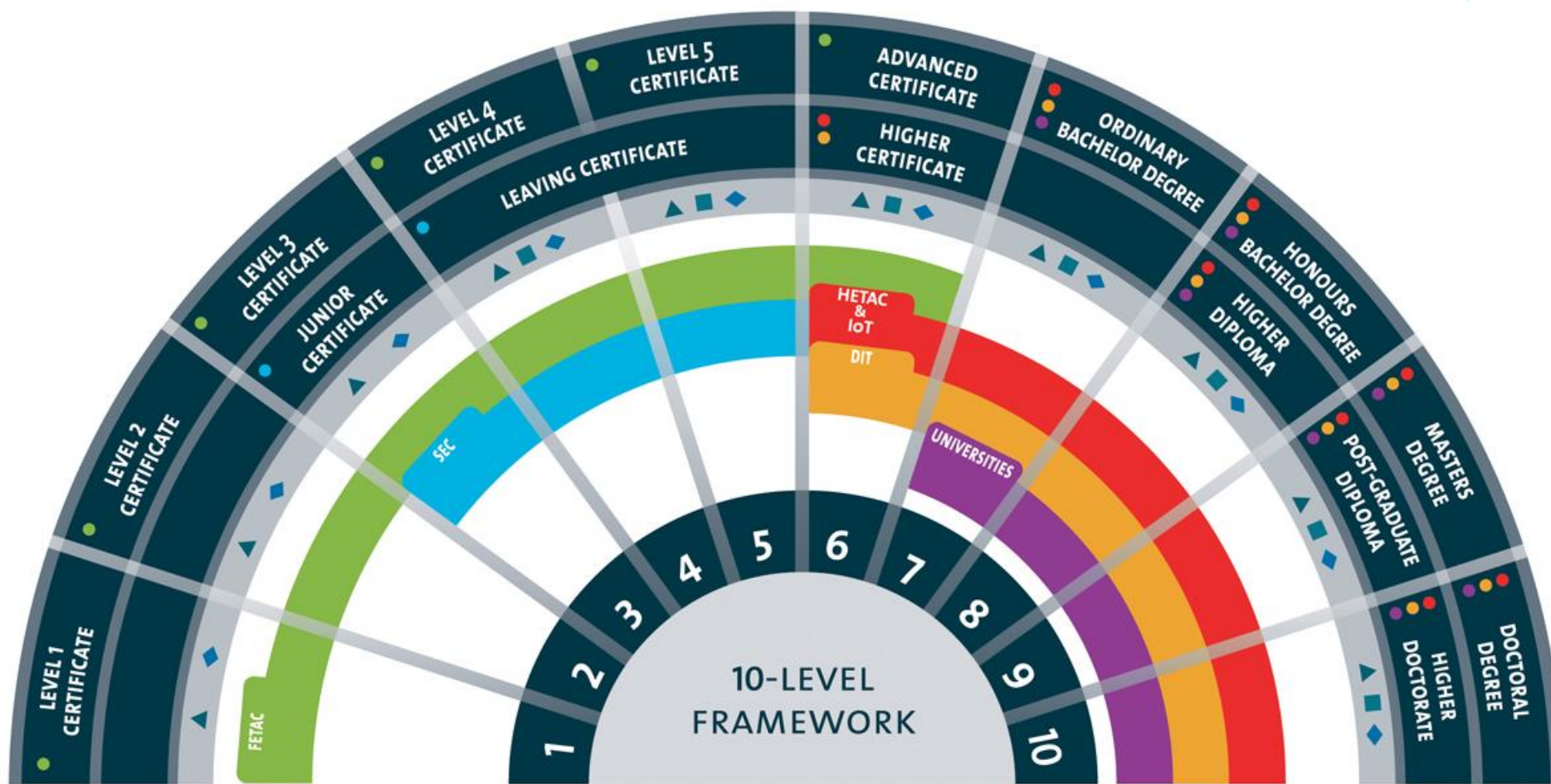


**Level 6/7 list –  
Choose 10**

Higher  
Certificates  
Ordinary  
Degrees

# NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS

Údarás Náisiúnta  
Cáilíochtaí na hÉireann  
National Qualifications  
Authority of Ireland



# Stage 1: Minimum Entry Requirement (level 8)

- **Different colleges have different entry requirements (Matriculation)**
- Most Level 8 courses require 2 H5 and 4 H7/O6
- NUI colleges (UCD, UCC, UM & NUIG) look for Irish, English, Maths and a **third language** in your six subjects.
- Some courses in NUI colleges e.g. Science and Engineering courses do not have a **third language** requirement
- **TCD** requires 3 H5 and 3 O6/H7 to include English, Maths and another language
- **Institutes of Technology** require 2H5 and 4O6/H7 to include Maths and English **or** Irish
- ***CHECK PROSPECTUS***



# STAGE 2: Faculty Requirements

---

## *Examples....*

### **Physiotherapy**

- (TCD) –H4 in 2 science
- (UL)-O3/H7 in 1 science subject

### **Primary Teaching**

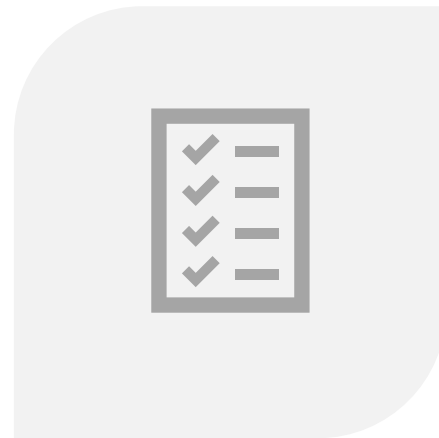
- Gaeilge-Grade H4
- Mathematics – O4 or H7
- English – O4 or H7

Prospectus should always be consulted

# Engineering (Common Entry) UL

<b>CAO points history</b>	476
<b>Minimum grades</b>	Applicants are required to hold at the time of enrolment the established Leaving Certificate (or an approved equivalent) with a minimum of six subjects which must include: Two H5 (Higher Level) grades and Four O6 (Ordinary Level) grades or four H7 (Higher Level) grades. Subjects must include Mathematics, Irish or another language, and English.
<b>Subject requirements</b>	In addition, applicants must hold a minimum grade H4 in Mathematics and grade O6/H7 in one of the following: Physics, Chemistry, Physics with Chemistry, Engineering, Technology, Design & Communication Graphics/Technical Drawing, Computer Science, Biology, Agricultural Science, Applied Maths, Construction Studies.
<b>Additional considerations</b>	<p>A Special Mathematics Examination will be offered at UL following the Leaving Certificate results for those students who did not achieve the Mathematics requirement.</p> <p>We welcome applications from mature students. Mature applicants must apply through the Central Applications Office (CAO) by 1 February.</p> <p>In the event that a programme is over-subscribed, places will be allocated based on UL exam performance.</p>

# The process

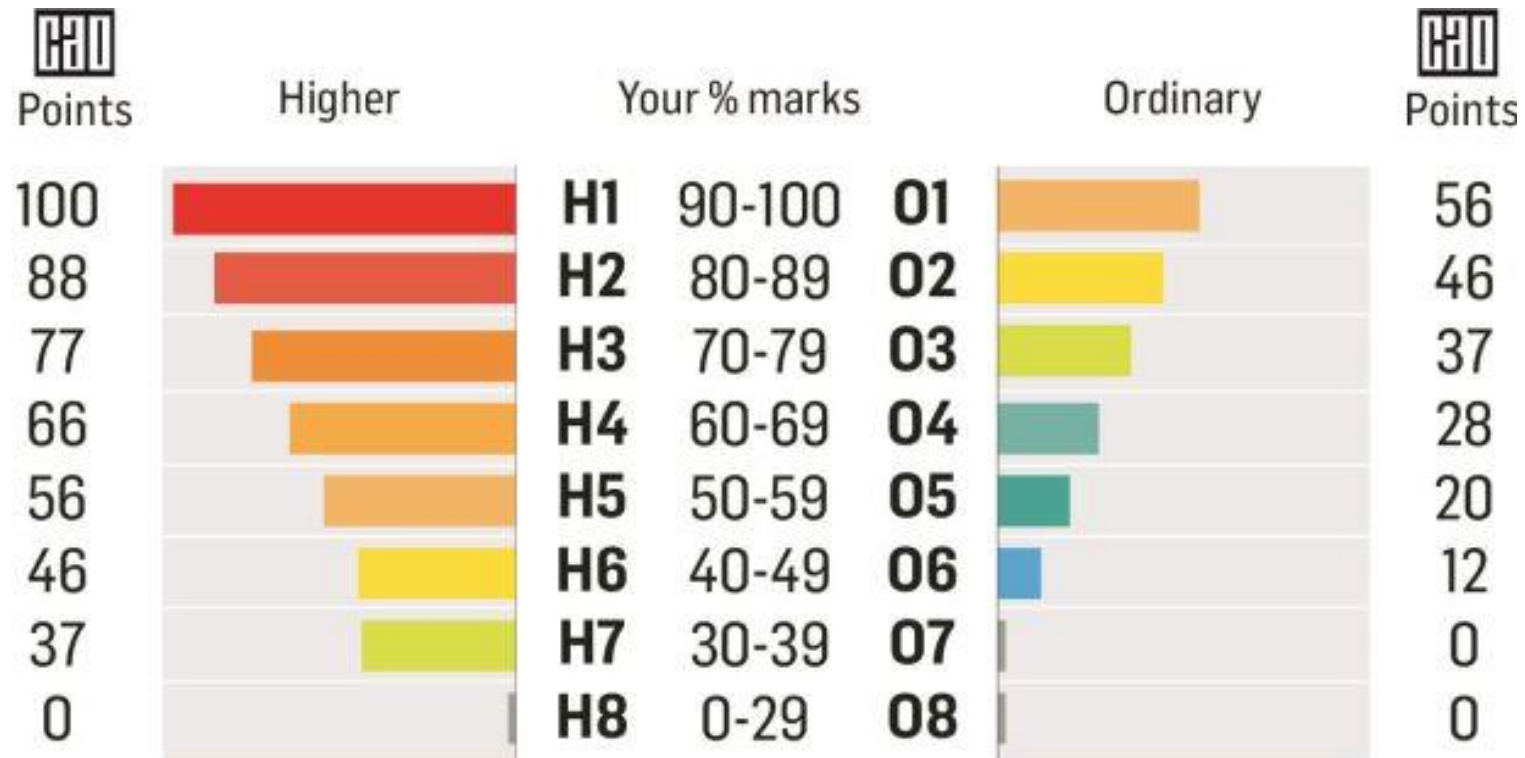


ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

FACULTY REQUIREMENTS

POINTS





**+25** Bonus points for H1-H6 maths

LCVP link modules    Distinction 66    Merit 46    Pass 28

# Points Allocation

# 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 H6 and above in Mathematics (Maximum points now 625)



**Entry/Faculty Requirements** can be satisfied over more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate

# Medicine

---

- **Entry/Faculty Requirements** can be satisfied over more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate **except Medicine.**
- Only one sitting of the Leaving Cert. is considered for Medicine .
- Entry points are HPAT (/300) + LC results
- HPAT results are relevant only for the year applying .
- When applying for medicine, every 5 points above 550 is are counted as 1 point for entry purposes.



## HPAT information and GC Ciara Cam

Leaving Cert Guidance Podcast

0:20

38:2

# Example of Points Calculation

Subject	Grade	Points
Irish	H4	66
English	H5	56
Maths	H6	(46+25) 71
German	H3	77
Biology	H4	66
History	H4	66
<del>Geography</del>	<del>O1</del>	<del>56</del>
Total		402

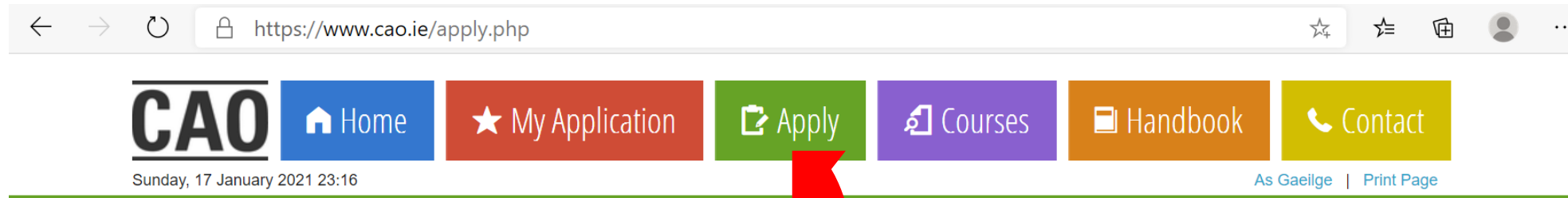


# Restricted Entry

---

- Some courses have Interviews/ Aptitude tests/Portfolio/Auditions
- Must apply to CAO by February 1<sup>st</sup> for these courses
- Medicine – HPAT test late February  
– Apply by January 20<sup>th</sup>
- Check CAO handbook

# Making an application



[HEI contact details](#)

[Student Resources](#)

[Downloads](#)

[Important Dates](#)

[Mature Applicants](#)

[Access Routes](#)

[DARE / HEAR](#)

[QQI FET/FETAC](#)

[Restrictions](#)

[Info for Parents](#)

[Info for Schools](#)

[Media and Statistics](#)

[Data Privacy](#)

[About CAO](#)

[Useful Links](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## 2021 CAO Application (September/October 2021 entry)

### Before Applying:

1. If you previously started your 2021 CAO application and have received a 2021 application number, proceed instead to the ["My Application"](#) facility where you may view/edit your application.
2. Read the [2021 CAO Handbook](#)
3. Read the [Course Changes](#) to view important changes to courses.

You may wish to use the [interactive demo facility](#).

## Instructions

- In any one year, you may NOT present more than one application. If you think you may have already submitted an online application or you have already received a 2021 CAO application number, please proceed instead to the ["My Application"](#) facility. **There will be no refunds given to applicants who make more than one application.**
- The fee for an online application is currently **€45**.  
**There is an online discounted fee of €30 if you apply before 20th January (17:15).**

For further information on fees and closing dates, please view the [fee table](#)

# Some points to note

As stated in the CAO Handbook, an applicant may only present one application in any one year (either online or paper). If you think you may have already submitted an online application, please check using the "[My Application](#)" facility. There will be no refunds given to applicants who make more than one application.

I have **NOT** already received a 2021 CAO Application Number nor have I applied by post.

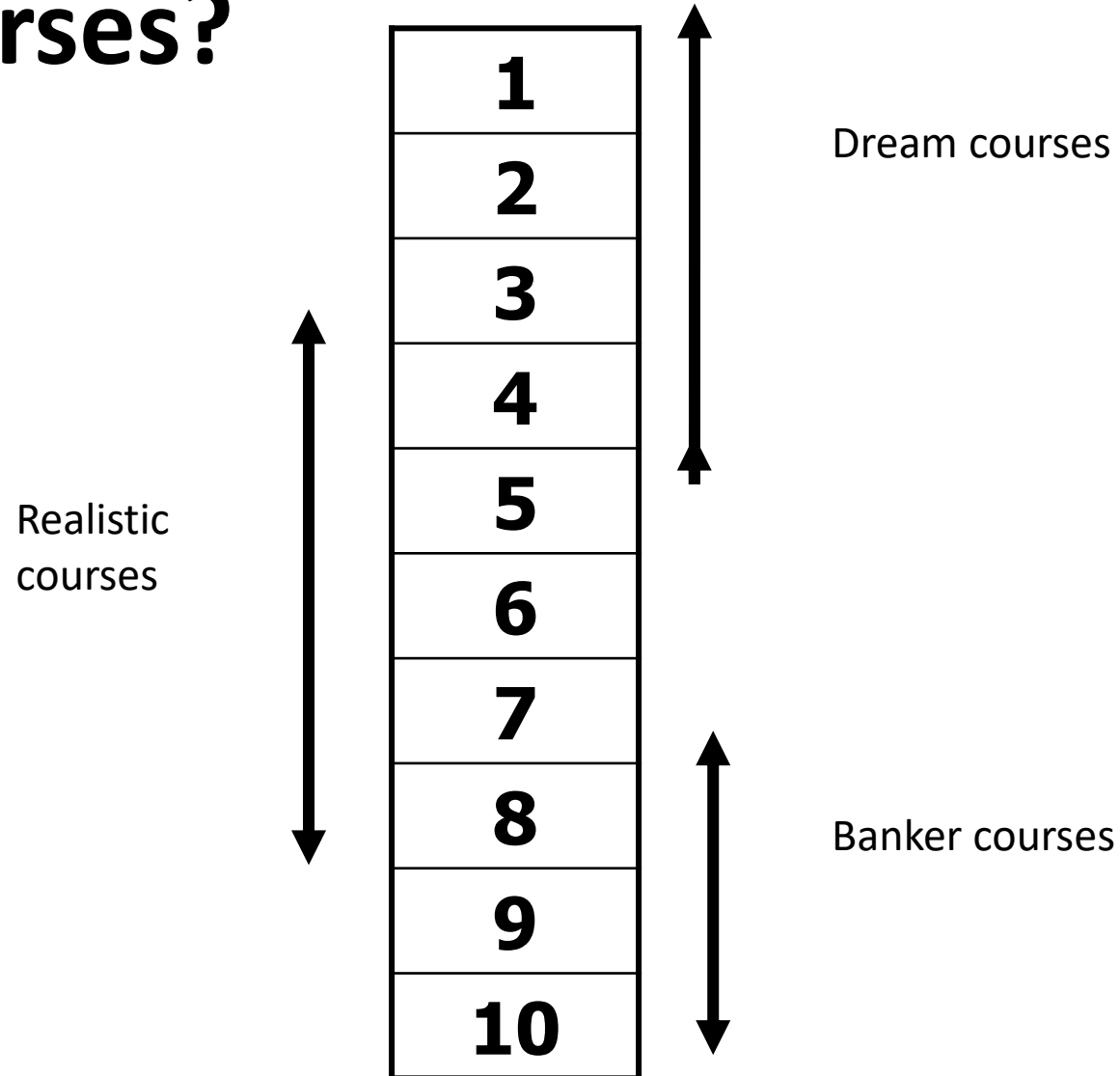
## **Qualifications & Assessment Summary :**

Please tick the qualification/assessment section(s) that are relevant to you.

You may tick more than one box, if necessary.

1.  Irish Leaving Certificate Exams (1985-2021)

# So – what is the best way to fill in the courses?





# Grants

- You may be entitled to student funding based on your household income.
- Check out the Eligibility Reckoner on susi.ie to see if you may be eligible.
- The Application Process usually begins in late April/ May
- Register> Complete Application > Decision will follow
- Applications will be accepted up to 1<sup>st</sup> of August



## Eligibility Reckoner

Use the "Eligibility Reckoner" to give you an indication as to whether you may be eligible for grant funding. Please note the Eligibility Reckoner does not give a guarantee of eligibility. You must still apply for a grant.

# UPCOMING DEADLINES



## CAO 2021

**JAN 20**

Closing date for the CAO early-bird online applications. (€30) .

Closing date for normal applications to the CAO (€45)

**FEB 1**

**MAR 1**

Deadline for applying to restricted courses.  
Last date to submit online HEAR/DARE information

Final date for late CAO applications (€60)

**MAY 1**

**MAY 5**

Change of mind facility opens

Final date for any amendments to course choices and order of preference on all CAO applications

**JULY 1**

STUDENTS CAN CONTACT MS. GRIFFEY FOR

FURTHER INFORMATION



# After Making Application

---

- ◎ Some students may be called for extra assessments.
- ◎ Receive Statement of Application Record (Before the end of May)– **check details carefully.**
- ◎ Change of Mind facility becomes available – use sparingly and carefully. (May 5<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> July)
- ◎ Leaving Cert. Results are sent to CAO. (mid August)



# Offer of places timeline may look like this

---

- Round 1: August from 6am online. Reply by 23<sup>rd</sup>. August at 5.15pm
- Round 2: 28<sup>th</sup>. August from 10am. Reply by 30<sup>th</sup>. August at 5.15pm
- Round 3: 6<sup>th</sup> September from 6am. Reply by 11<sup>th</sup>. September at 5.15pm

# Offer of places

---

- 2 offers may be received: 1 from Level 8 list and 1 from Level 6/7 list.

## **ONLY ONE OFFER MAY BE ACCEPTED**

- When you are offered one of your course preferences on a list, automatically you will be excluded for consideration from all courses below that

## **YOU MAY NOT MOVE DOWN IN YOUR ORDER OF PREFERENCES**

- This is why it is so important to fill in form in your Genuine Order of Preference



# Places Allocation



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.

# Offer of places

Let's say you have 350 points and your course preference on the CAO form is:

1. Physics 2. Business 3. Arts 4. Tourism

Order of Preference	Course	1 <sup>st</sup> Round Offer Points	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round Offer Points	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round Offer Points
1	Physics	360	360	360
2	Business	360	350	
3	Arts	350	345	
4	Tourism	340		

# Example continued

---

- This student received an offer of his 3<sup>rd</sup>. Choice Arts because he had 350 points .
- His 1<sup>st</sup> Preference was Physics, 360 points so he still could get it in the next Round 2.
- His 2<sup>nd</sup>. Choice was Business ,360 points so he still could get that in Round 2.
- In Round 2 Business was 350 points so he was offered that and then if he chose it his other offer of Arts was discounted.
- On the other hand Physics never came down In any round .



# Deferral

Place is held for 1 academic year

You are recommended to check with the college in advance about their deferral conditions and arrangements- some courses where deferral will be difficult or impossible.

When offered place, contact admissions office of university IMMEDIATELY – mark deferred entry- must be done at least 2 days before REPLY DATE on offer notice – decision will be made

Read the CAO Handbook about this – page 19



- A quota of places offered to students with disability on reduced points basis.
- Must meet minimum requirements .
- See [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie) for list of disability eligibility
- Supplementary forms available at [cao.ie](http://cao.ie)

Autistic Spectrum Disorder  
(including Asperger's Syndrome)

Attention Deficit Disorder /  
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity  
Disorder

Blind / Vision Impaired

Deaf / Hard of Hearing

DCD - Dyspraxia

Mental Health Condition

Neurological Conditions

Speech & Language  
Communication Disorder

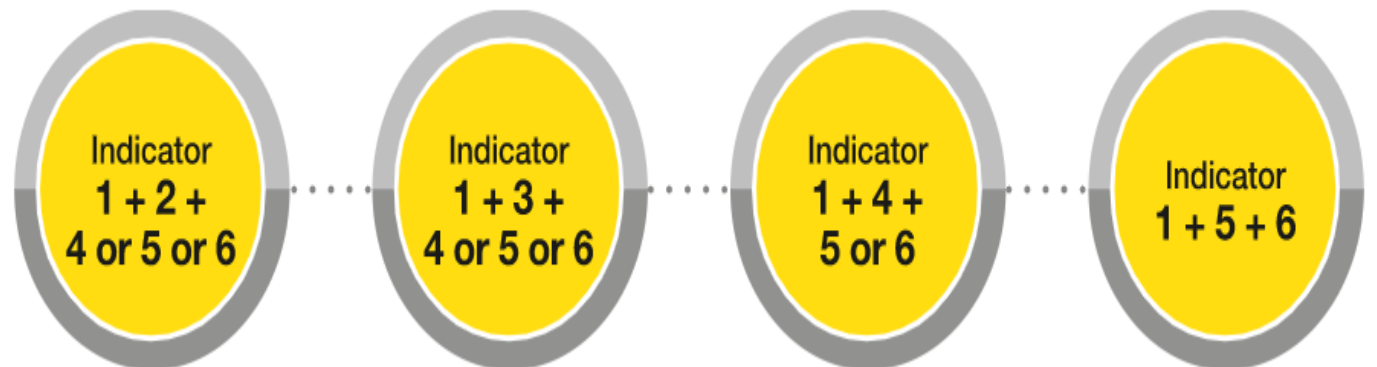
Significant Ongoing Illness

Physical Disability

Specific Learning Difficulty

- For students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Quota of places offered on a reduced points basis.
- Must meet minimum entry requirements
- See [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie) for further information

1. Income (you must meet this indicator)
2. Medical Cards
3. Means-Tested Social Welfare Payment
4. Socio-Economic Group
5. School
6. Area



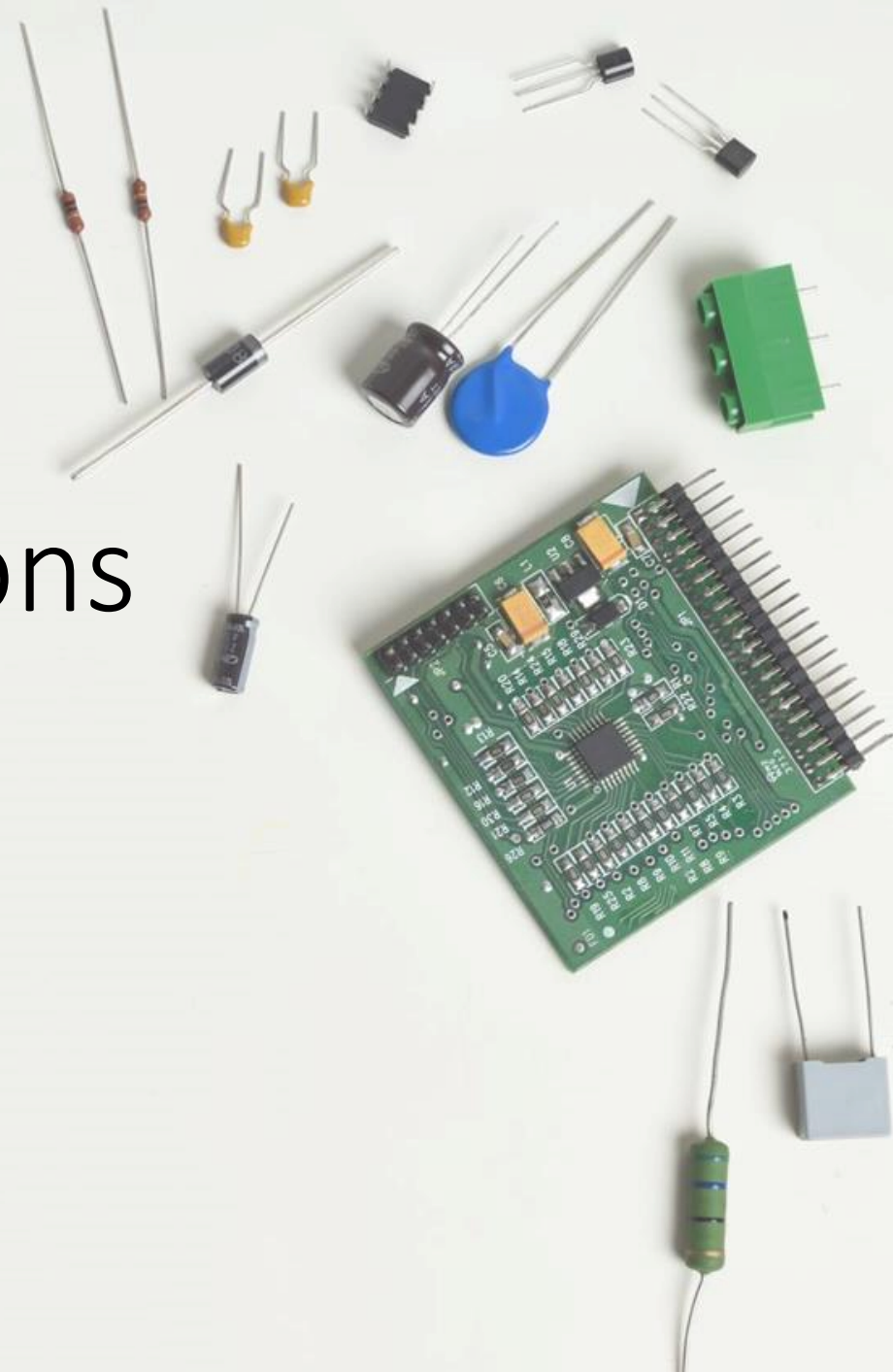
# DARE and HEAR Schemes



- Must apply to CAO by February 1<sup>st</sup>
- By March 1<sup>st</sup> – disclose your disability and complete all elements of the online form (SIF- Supplementary Information Form)
- Final date for submission of supporting documentation to arrive in CAO by 15<sup>th</sup> March
- **CHECK CAO BOOKLET PAGE 10 AND 11**

# Non-CAO options

Apprenticeships, PLC



# Apprenticeships



Find a suitable employer



Employer registers the apprentice with SOLAS within two weeks of starting



SOLAS are the agency working with the Dept. of Education and Skills on apprenticeships



Meet the minimum educational requirements i.e. 5 Passes in Junior Cert- some employers look for more.

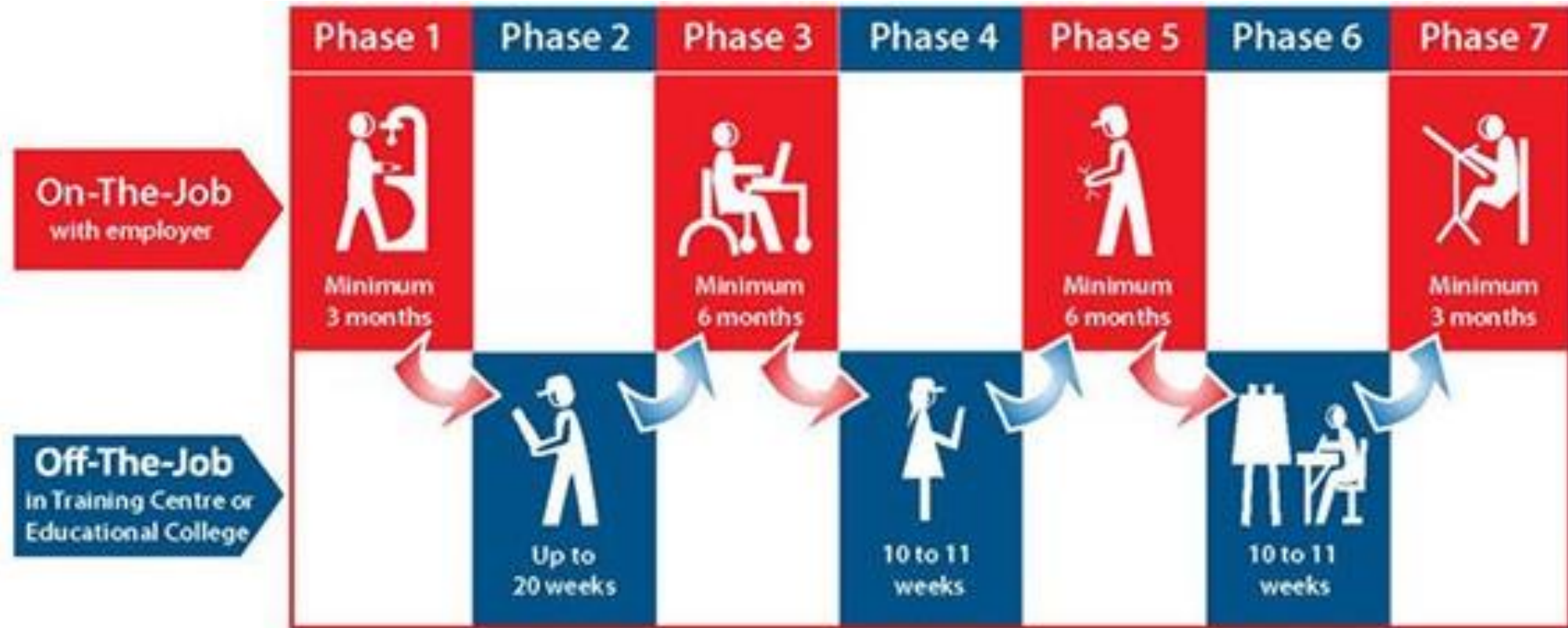


Paid by the employer



Receive a level 6- FETAC Higher Certificate which may be used to link the apprentice to Degree Programmes in Institutes of Technology.

# Apprenticeships



- Experience has shown that higher grades of entry than those suggested by SOLAS are preferred for certain apprenticeships, (e.g. electrician) due to the technical nature of the trade. Employers typically seek applicants who have completed Leaving Cert including Maths (with at least a grade O4 in Maths) and preferably Physics.



## We are Generation Apprenticeship

We are school leavers, older learners, career changers, women and men with diverse backgrounds, talents and abilities – A central route to skills development in Ireland.



Become an Apprentice →

Become an Apprentice Employer →

### New Apprenticeships

- New Apprenticeships coming on stream such as with the Insurance Federation of Ireland .
- Students register interest on Apprenticeship.ie



location Apprenticeship Keyword  
Please select Please select Search by keyword SEARCH

Show 10 entries

REFERENCE NUMBER	EMPLOYER	LOCATION	APPRENTICESHIP	STATUS	CLOSING DATE
1408	Sfdc Ireland Ltd	Dublin 18	Sales	Open for Application	27 Jan 2021
1317	G E A Farm Technologies Ireland Ltd	Ballincollig	M.A.M.F.	Open for Application	30 Jan 2021
1362	All Pipe Systems Limited	Multiple locations	Plumbing	Open for Application	01 Feb 2021
1414	Brennan'S	Nenagh Town	Electronic Security Systems	Open for Application	01 Feb 2021
1415	Egt Leisure Ltd	Multiple locations	Sales	Open for Application	08 Feb 2021
1411	Ger Hennessy Hair Studio	Kilworth	Hairdressing	Open for Application	12 Feb 2021
1418	Clooney Woodcraft Ltd	Clane	Wood Manufacturing and Finishing	Open for Application	28 Feb 2021

Take a look through what jobs are available

# More non- CAO options

- Gardaí and Defence Forces – check [www.publicjobs.ie](http://www.publicjobs.ie)
- Direct into employment
- UCAS applications (for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)
- Post Leaving Certificate Courses with Fetaac links schemes

# Post- Leaving Cert Courses (PLCs)

FETAC Links Scheme run by PLC Colleges and some Higher Education Institutes- these provide a possible pathway to higher education

**Please note** – it's a **possible** pathway, **not an automatic link**- you must excel in your course

Especially Important for Students who may not make the CAO Points

Check course code in PLC and see if it is listed under relevant qualifications for any degree course you may wish to apply for- check modules required

Can begin with a PLC and end up with a Doctorate

Mature Entry to College (age 23 or over)

# PLCs

Courses in very high demand

Last one to two years.

Apply early to be called for interview in March

**Contact each college/check college websites** to see when they will start accepting your application.

Most PLC courses expect to fill all places in March interviews

Requirements – usually 5 passes in your Leaving Certificate. Please consult prospectus for 2019 entry requirements.

Importance of interview and some experience of the career area applying for.

+

•

○

# Useful resources

**Qualifax** – [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) Irish courses database

**CAO** – [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) Contains links to course websites

**Careers Portal** – [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)

Grants – [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie)

College websites (Addresses in CAO Handbook)

College Prospectuses

CAO Handbook

Newspapers- Irish Times, Independent

**Instagram** and Podcasts- Leaving Cert Guidance, studyclix



Thank you for listening!

---

Any questions?