



CAO

and further options

With Ms. E. Griffey



What is the CAO?

It's a centralised application system for Irish 3rd 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

Accessing the CAO Handbook

Download your copy of the

CAO 2022 Handbook

at www.cao.ie/handbook

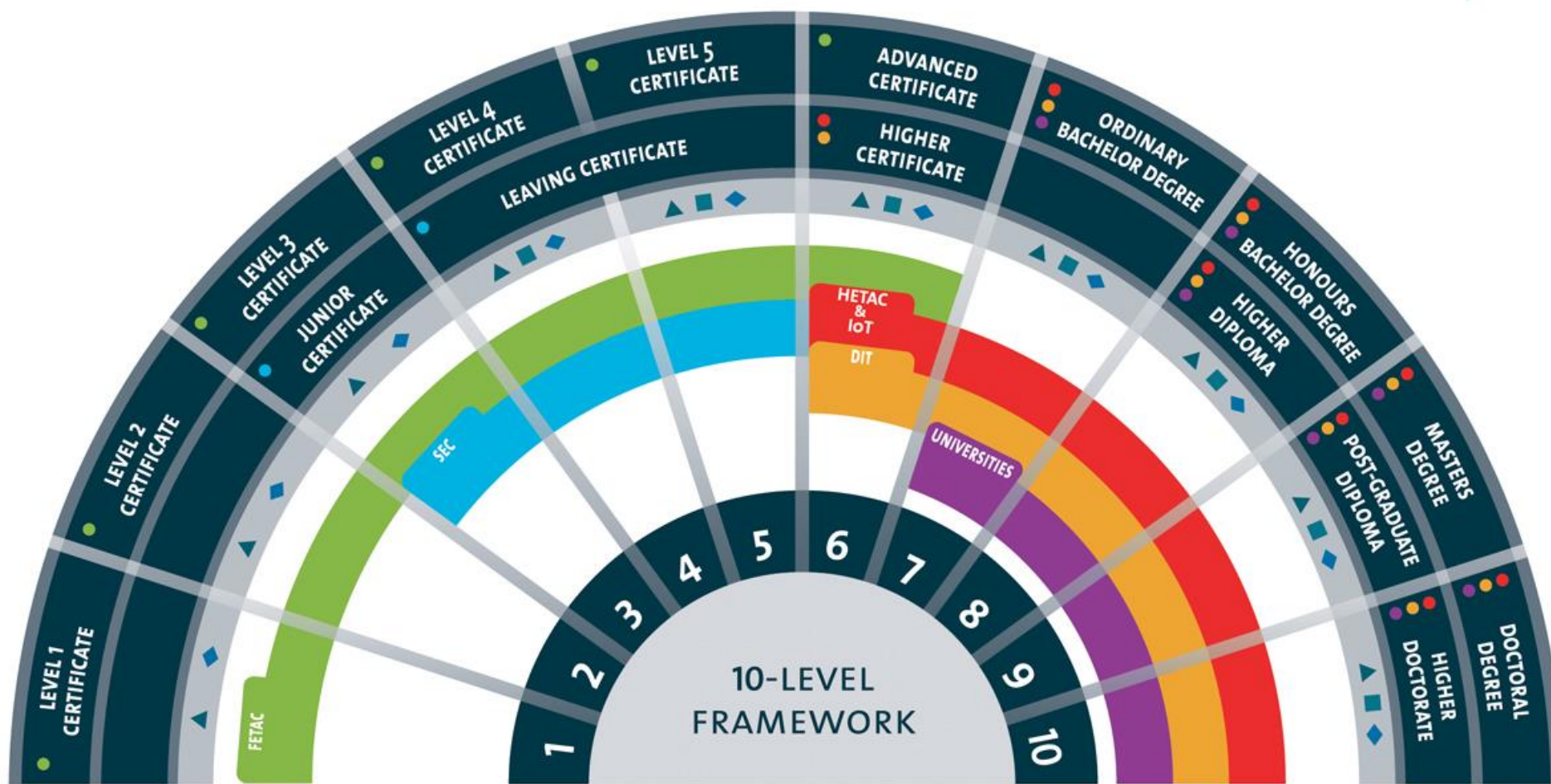
or scan the QR code ►



CAO
www.cao.ie

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**.
- Some courses in NUI colleges e.g. Science and Engineering courses do not have a **third language** requirement (You must pass English & Irish)
- **TCD** requires 3 H5 and 3O6/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 or Qualifax***



STAGE 2: Faculty Requirements

Examples....

Physiotherapy

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

Primary Teaching at Mary I

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

Prospectus should always be consulted

The process



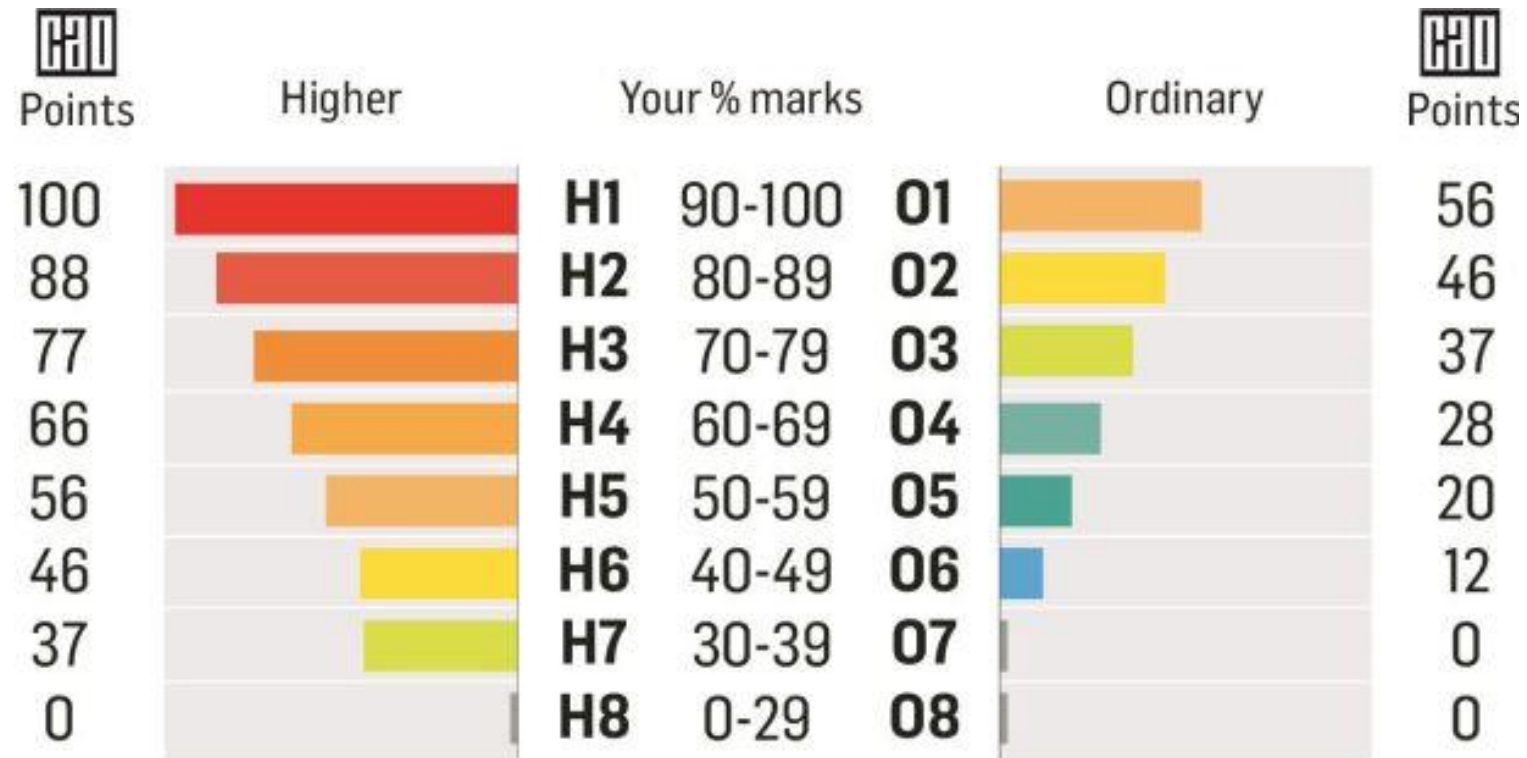
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

FACULTY REQUIREMENTS

POINTS

Engineering (Common Entry) UL

CAO points history	498
Minimum grades	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.
Subject requirements	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.
Additional considerations	<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>Application information for mature student applicants (PDF)</p> <p>In the event that a programme is over-subscribed, places will be allocated based on UL exam performance.</p>



+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

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
Geography	O1	56
Total		402

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



Restricted Entry

- Some courses have Interviews/ Aptitude tests/Portfolio/Auditions
- Must apply to CAO by February 1st for these courses
- Medicine – HPAT test February 18th-21st
– Apply by January 20th
- Check CAO handbook

Making an application



Home

★ My Application

Apply

Courses

Handbook

Contact

Saturday, 8 January 2022 18:00

As Gaeilge | [Print Page](#)

[Contact a HEI](#)

[Applicant Resources](#)

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[Important Dates](#)

[Have a Question?](#)

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[Access Routes](#)

[DARE / HEAR](#)

[QQI FET/FETAC](#)

[Entry to Medicine](#)

[Restrictions](#)

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2022 CAO Application (September/October 2022 entry)

Before Applying:

1. If you previously started your 2022 CAO application and have received a 2022 application number, proceed instead to the ["My Application"](#) facility where you may view/edit your application.
2. Read the [2022 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 2022 CAO application number please

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.

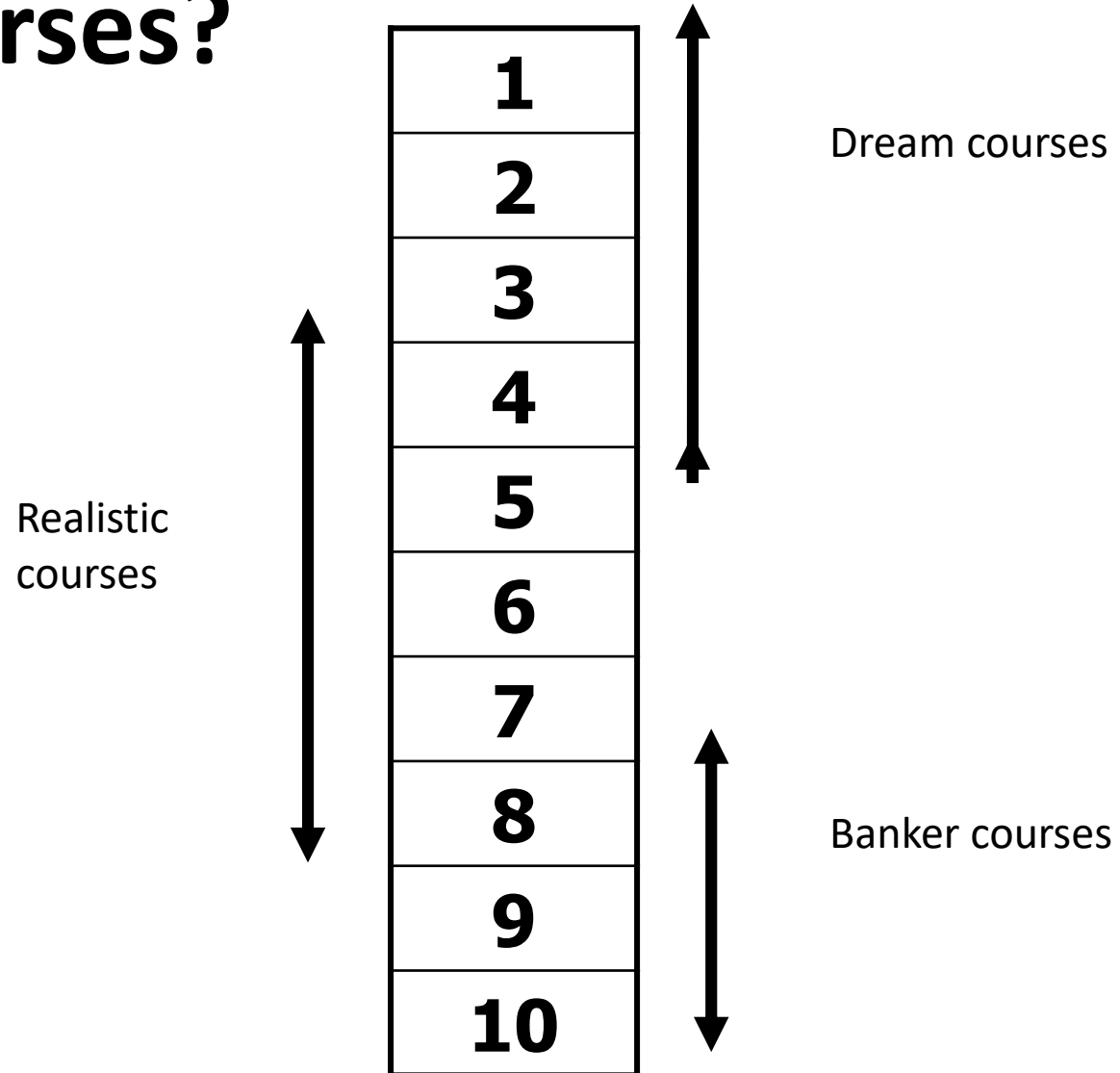
Qualifications & Assessment Summary :

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 1st 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.



CAO Deadlines 2022

JAN 20

EARLY-BIRD

Apply online at cao.ie by this date to avail of the discounted application fee of €30.

FEB 1

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

Normal closing date for applications.

FEB 15th

STATEMENT SENT

Paper Applicants will be sent a Statement of Course Choices before Feb 15th (Contact CAO if you do not receive it)

MAR 15

HEAR & DARE

Latest date for HEAR/DARE supporting documentation to arrive in CAO (online sections should be completed by March 1st)

MAY 5

CHANGE OF MIND

Online Change of Mind facility becomes available (Free)

JULY 1

CHANGE OF MIND CLOSES

After this date, you cannot change any CAO courses

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
cao.ie or contact Ms. Griffey



After Making Application

- ◎ Some students may be called for extra assessments.
- ◎ Receive Statement of Application Record (Before Feb 15th)– **check details carefully.**
- ◎ Change of Mind facility becomes available – use sparingly and carefully. (May 5th - 1st 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 23rd. August at 5.15pm
- Round 2: 28th. August from 10am. Reply by 30th. August at 5.15pm
- Round 3: 6th September from 6am. Reply by 11th. 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 st Round Offer Points	2 nd Round Offer Points	3 rd Round Offer Points
1	Physics	360	360	360
2	Business	360	350	
3	Arts	350	345	
4	Tourism	340		

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

DARE

DISABILITY
ACCESS
ROUTE TO
EDUCATION

- A quota of places offered to students with disability on reduced points basis.
- Must meet minimum requirements .
- See www.accesscollege.ie for list of disability eligibility
- Supplementary forms available at 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

HEAR

HIGHER
EDUCATION
ACCESS
ROUTE

- 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 for further information

1. Income (you must meet this indicator)

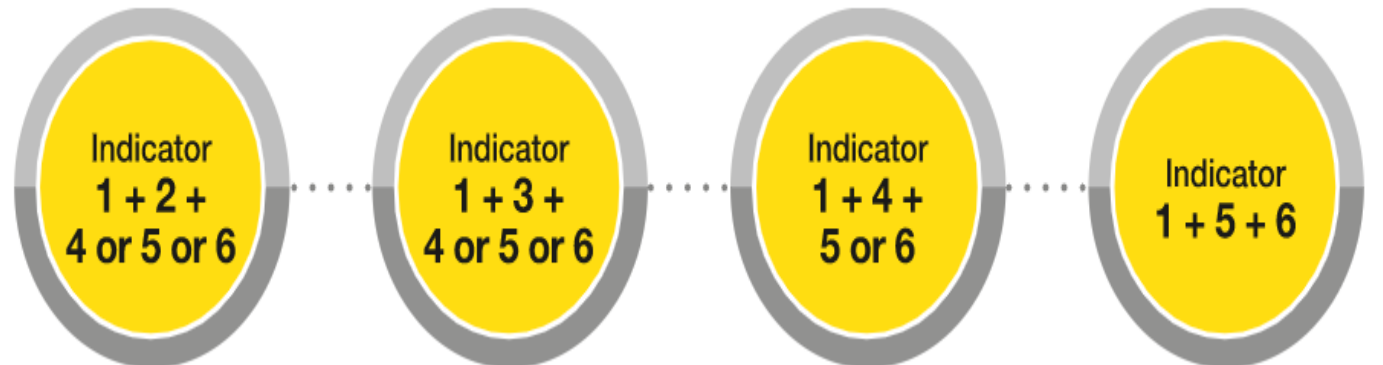
2. Medical Cards

3. Means-Tested Social Welfare Payment

4. Socio-Economic Group

5. School

6. Area

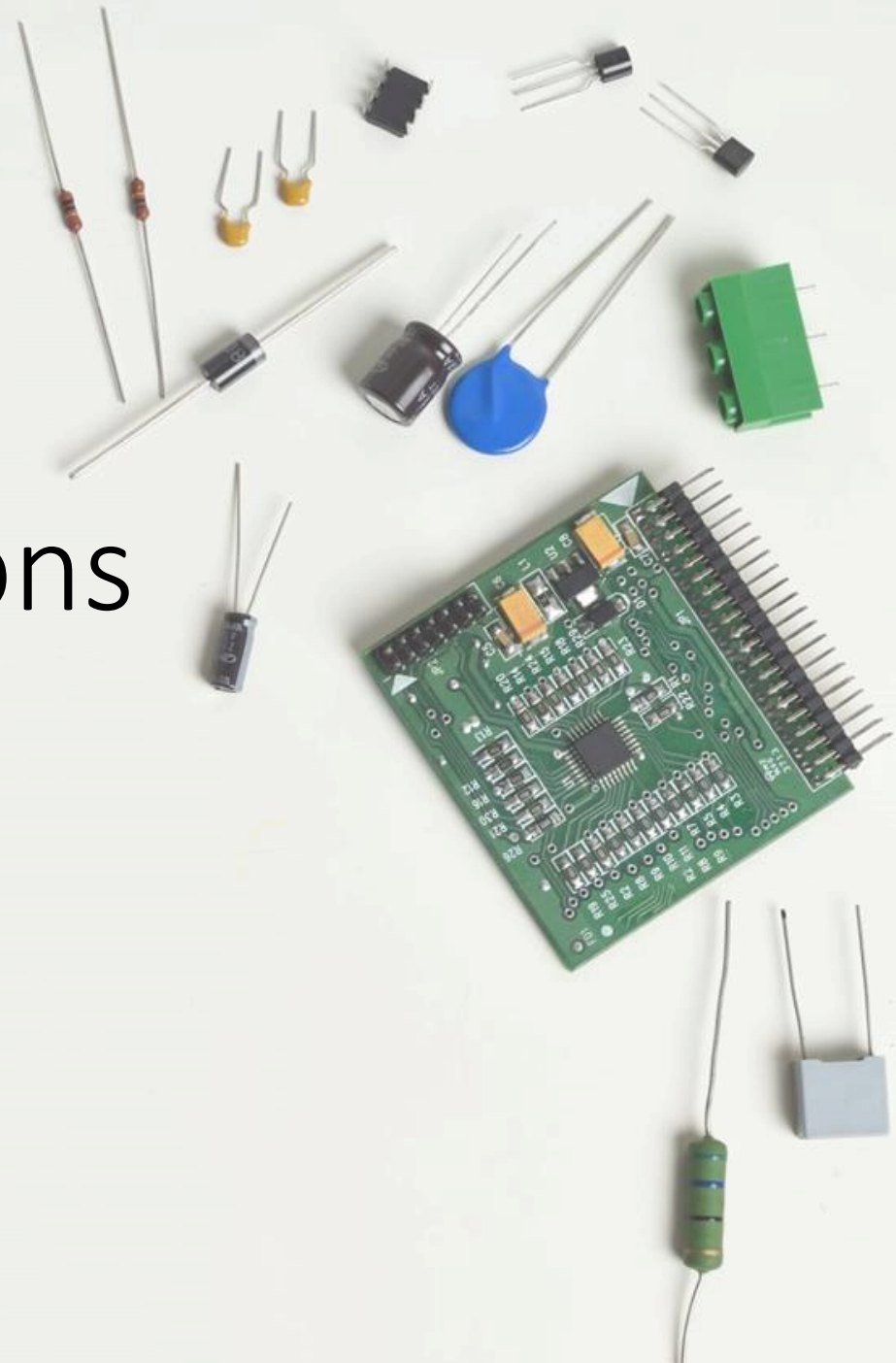


DARE and HEAR Schemes



- Must apply to CAO by February 1st
- By March 1st – 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 15th March
- **CHECK CAO BOOKLET PAGE 10 AND 11**

Non-CAO options



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



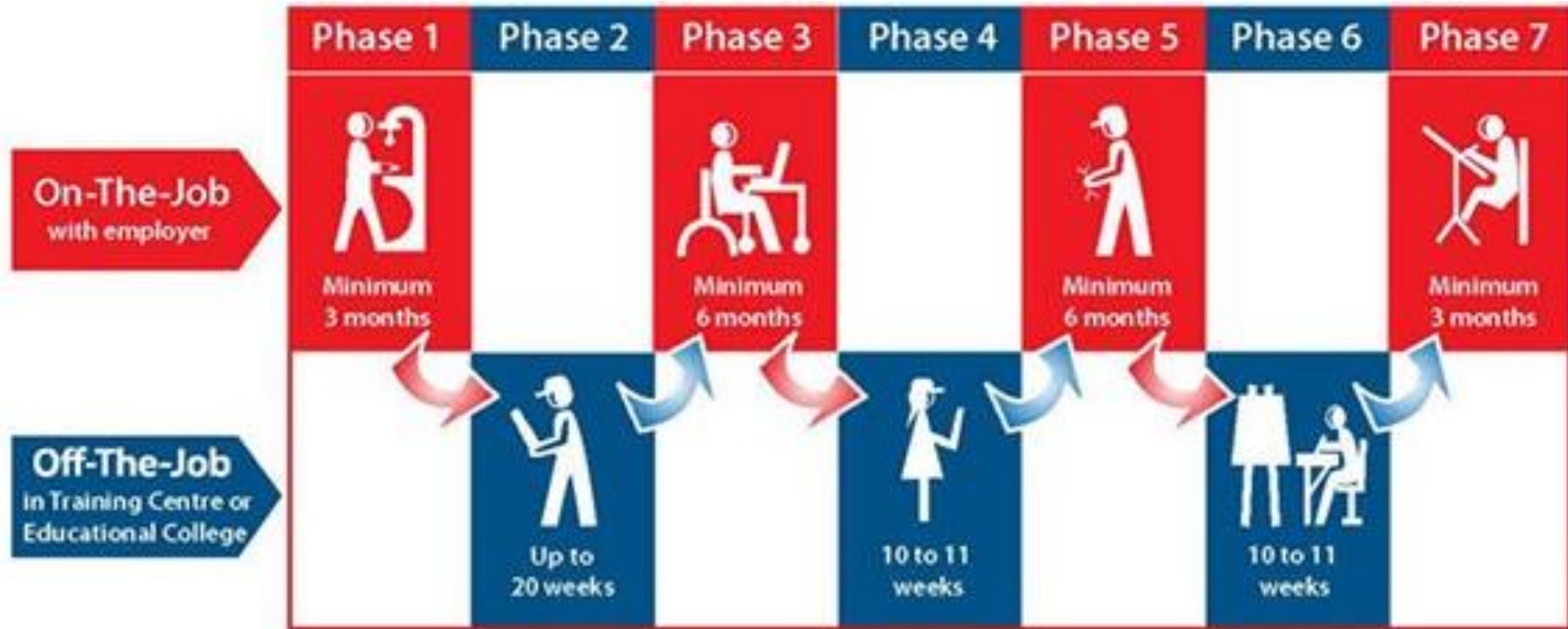
Meet the minimum educational requirements i.e. 5 Passes in Junior Cert- some employers look for more.



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: Please select | Apprenticeship: Please select | Keyword: 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
- Defence Forces
- Directly into employment
- UCAS applications (for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)
- Post Leaving Certificate Courses with Fetac links schemes
- Traineeships
- Teagasc
- Private colleges
- BIM
- Short courses (mixology/barista/barber)



An Garda Siochána

Budget 2022 announced that funding will be made available to the Dept. of Justice for the recruitment of a further 800 new Gardaí in 2022.

Go onto publicjobs.ie and set up an alert for when the spots are advertised.



Óglaigh
na hÉireann
IRISH DEFENCE FORCES

APPLY
NOW

Defence Forces

- Currently advertising for general services in the army and navy
- Must be over 18 to apply
- No formal education required
- Cadetship will be advertised in March/April
- Stay up to date on the Irish Defence Forces Recruitment FB page

Teagasc

- A number of level 5/6 courses
- From herd management to horticulture to forestry
- Applications are made directly to Teagasc via the website.
- Teagasc provide maintenance grants (e.g. SUSI) to eligible candidates



BIM



BIM Ireland's
Seafood
Development
Agency

- Offering courses in fisheries, aquaculture, seafood processing
- 16, 430 people working in the seafood industry
- Colleges in Donegal, Cork and two mobile colleges

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 entry requirements.

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

Traineeships

[Traineeship | Learning and Skills](#)

Key features of Traineeships

Traineeships have the following key features:

Market responsive

They respond to an identified industry skills need



Qualification gaining

They lead to an award at National Framework Qualifications (NFQ) Levels 4 to 6, or equivalent



Short duration

Are between **6 to 20** months in duration



Practical learning

Have at least 30% of learning on-the-job



Combine skills

Combining core skills and technical skills development



Flexible learning

Are designed for flexible delivery; online, face-to-face, blended learning



Pathway to employer

Provide open access to prospective trainees, unemployed people may be eligible for income support



Examples of Traineeships available

Healthcare Support

HGV Professional Driver

Machine Tool Operations

Nails and Beauty Treatments

Office Admin Business Support*

Pathway to Aviation

Patisserie and Confectionary

Robotic Welding

Senior Trades Hairdressing

Supervisory Management for Hospitality

Web Development*

Aircraft Maintenance Technician

Aircraft Spray Painting

Aircraft Structures Technician

Beauty Therapist

Bicycle Engineering

Cabin Interiors Workshop Technician

Coded Pipe Welding

Computer-Aided Engineering (CNC)

Equestrian International Instructor (BHSAI)

Food and Beverage

Hairdressing

Private Colleges

Some courses are not advertised on the CAO

There will be fees, but they made not be hugely dissimilar to public colleges.

You can get up to 20% tax relief on tuition fees each years.

Short courses

There are lots of courses that last days/weeks/months that are less of a commitment than college but may help someone become more employable. For example:

Mixology in CIT is 12 weeks and costs €450

A 4-day Barista course with Dublin Barista School for €499

A 10-week course in barbering for €2500 (in Limerick)

A myriad of online and in-person PT/S&C courses (e.g. Setanta, Ori Gym)

+

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○

Useful resources

Qualifax – www.qualifax.ie Irish courses database

CAO – www.cao.ie Contains links to course websites

Careers Portal – www.careersportal.ie

Grants – www.susi.ie

College websites (Addresses in CAO Handbook)

College Prospectuses

CAO Handbook

ExitEntry app

Instagram and Podcasts- Leaving Cert Guidance, studyclix

Traineeships- [Traineeship | Learning and Skills](#)



Thank you for listening!

Any questions?