

**Scoil na mBraithre**

**CAO**

Roisin Neylon

Guidance Counsellor

## CAO – General Info.

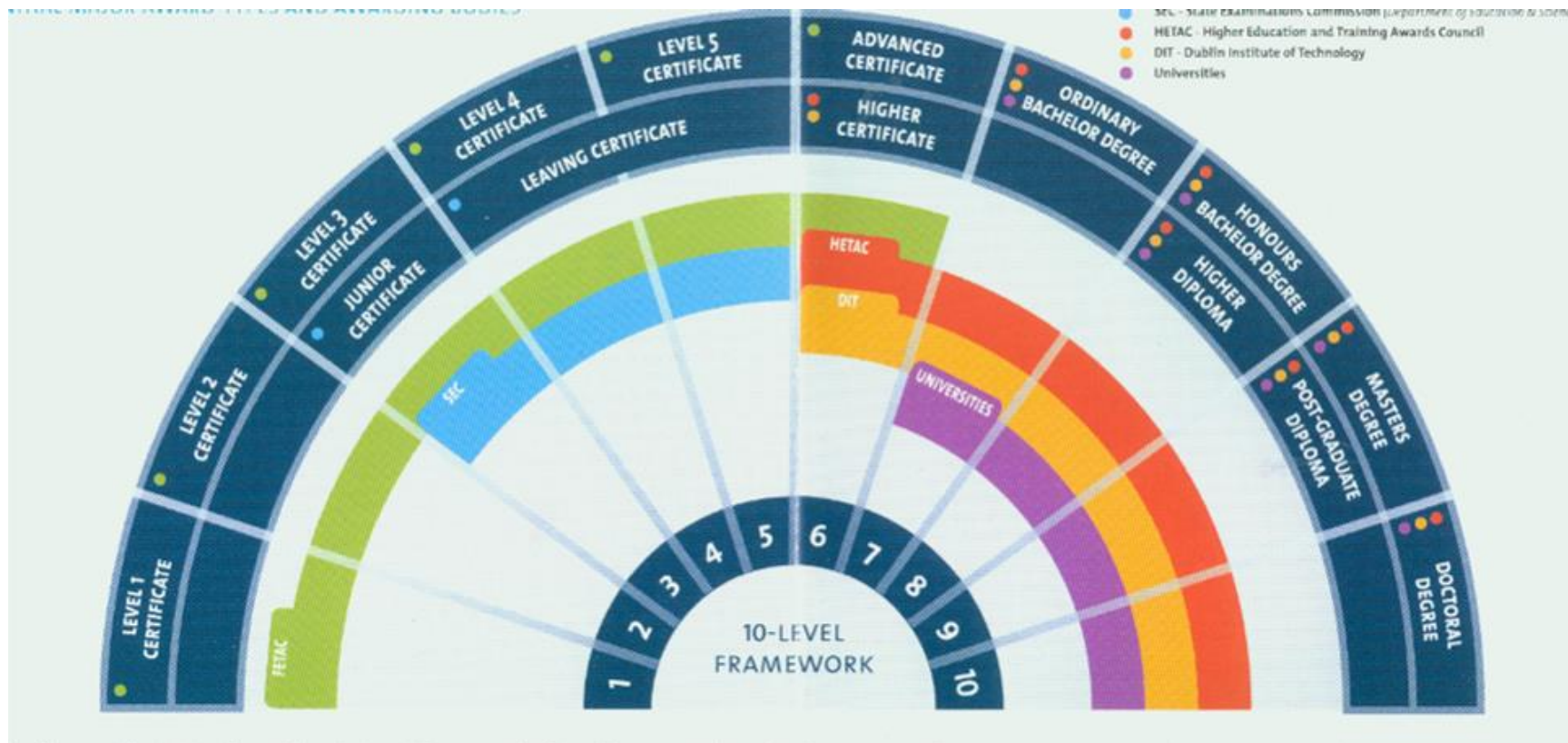
**Centralised application system for 47 Irish 3<sup>rd</sup> level institutions, including 7 fee-paying colleges.**

# Selection of courses

- **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 – 10 Levels



# Matriculation Requirements

- **Different colleges have different entry requirements**
- 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

Level 8 – Minimum Entry Requirements  
continued

- **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***

## **STAGE 2:**

### **Faculty Requirements**

Examples....

- 1. Physiotherapy (TCD) –H4 in 2 science subjects one of which can be Maths**
- 2. Physiotherapy (UL)-O3/H7 in 1 science subject.(not Maths)**
- 3. Primary Teaching – H5 in Irish**

**College Prospectus should always be consulted**

**If all Entry Requirements and Faculty requirements (if needed) are met → applicant is deemed 'Qualified' to apply.**

**THEN  
"Points" are considered.**



# Points Allocation

| 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      |

## POINTS SYSTEM

- **Points** are calculated from **ONE** sitting of the Leaving Certificate only.
- Points total is calculated from **SIX** best subjects
- New system of Bonus points are awarded for H6 in Honours Mathematics (Maximum points now 625)
- **Entry/Faculty Requirements** can be satisfied over more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate

# Bonus Points for Irish

- Students taking subjects through Irish can receive bonus points.
- The points are awarded as a % of the mark received. 10% for some subjects and 5 % for others including Maths if they get under 75%
- If they get above 75% it is on a sliding scale.
- Written components of the subject must be answered wholly in Irish.
- Candidate who answer partly in Irish and partly in English receive no bonus marks.
- Check out State Examinations Commission

# Example of Points Calculation

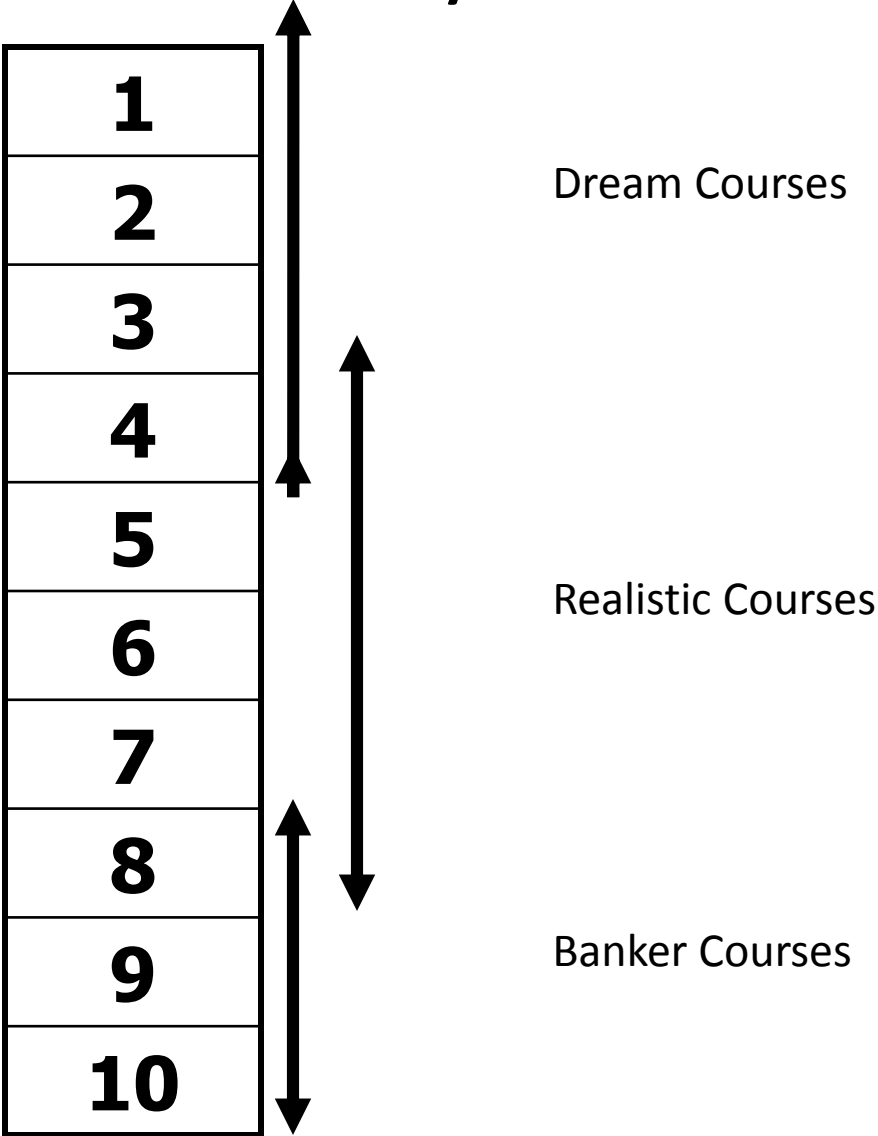
- Irish H4
  - English H5
  - Maths H6
  - French H3
  - Biology H4
  - Geography O1
  - History H4
- 66
  - 56
  - $46+25 = 71$
  - 77
  - 66
  - 56
  - 66

Total = 422 (Best 6, leave out 56 point result)

## RESTRICTED ENTRY COURSES

- Some courses have **Interviews/ Aptitude tests/Portfolio/Auditions**
- **Must apply to CAO by February 1<sup>st</sup> for these courses**
- **Medicine – HPAT test February 24<sup>th</sup>  
– apply by January 20<sup>th</sup>**
- **Check CAO handbook page 3**

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



# Making an Application

- **Applications can be made online.**
- **Online-print screen receipt.**
- **Fill out both course lists**

**In genuine order of**

**Preference- not based on**

**Predictions of next years grades.**

# Application Dates and Fees

| <b>Online Application</b>                      | <b>Fee</b>    | <b>Dates</b>  |
|--|---------------|---|
| Early Bird                                     | €30           | 20 <sup>th</sup> January : 5.15 pm  |
| Normal   | €45           | 1 <sup>st</sup> February : 5.15pm   |
| Late   | €60           | 1 <sup>st</sup> May : 5: 15 pm  |
| <b>Change of Mind<br/>online free facility</b> | <b>No Fee</b> | <b>Opens 1<sup>st</sup> May : 12.00pm<br/>Closes 1<sup>ST</sup> July : 5.15pm</b> |



# Change of Mind

After 4<sup>th</sup> May you can register a change of course choices –online,

Or

Use Change of Mind Form

Print any changes made



A calendar for May 2011. The calendar is a grid with days of the week (Monday to Sunday) as columns and dates (1 to 31) as rows. The header row shows the days of the week. The dates are arranged in a standard calendar format, with the 1st of May on a Friday and the 31st on a Sunday.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
|        | 1       | 2         | 3        | 4      | 5        | 6      |
| 7      | 8       | 9         | 10       | 11     | 12       | 13     |
| 14     | 15      | 16        | 17       | 18     | 19       | 20     |
| 21     | 22      | 23        | 24       | 25     | 26       | 27     |
| 28     | 29      | 30        | 31       |        |          |        |

This facility closes on 1<sup>st</sup> of July at 5.15pm

## 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 (Before the end of May)– **check details carefully.**
- ⦿ Change of Mind facility becomes available – use sparingly and carefully. (May 4<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> July)
- ⦿ Leaving Cert. Results are sent to CAO. (mid August)
- ⦿ Places are allocated and offered by post and online.(Monday after results are issued)
- ⦿ Students accept, reject or defer offered places.
- ⦿ Further rounds of offers are made until all course places are filled.

# 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 (contd.)

By way of example: 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                                |                                    |                                    |

# *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 20.**

# Grants



- Online application for grants 2017-2018 is available at

[Susi.ie](http://Susi.ie)



- **The Application Process usually begins in May**
- **Register > Complete Application > Decision will follow**
- **Applications will be accepted up to 1<sup>st</sup> of August**

# ACCESS SCHEMES: DARE



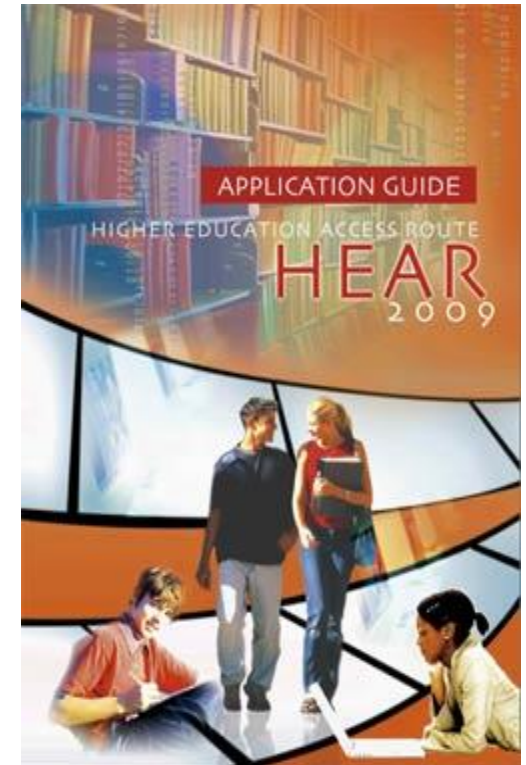
Disability Access Route To Education

- DARE – Disability Access Route to Education
- 19 DARE and 15 HEAR Colleges participating
- A quota of places offered to students with disability on a reduced points basis.
- Must meet minimum entry requirements
- See: [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie) for list of disabilities eligible
- Supplementary forms available at [cao.ie](http://cao.ie)



# ACCESS SCHEMES: HEAR

- 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
- Must satisfy 3 of the 6 indicators
- See [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie) for further information



# 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 **1<sup>st</sup> April**
- **CHECK CAO BOOKLET PAGE 10 AND 11**

# CAO Timetable

- ◎ **5th November, 2017**
  - > CAO Online facility opens at 12.00 noon
- **20th January, 2018**
  - > Early Bird offer ends
- ◎ **1<sup>st</sup> February, 2018**
  - > Closing date for receipt of normal applications
- ◎ **1st May, 2018**
  - > Closing date for receipt of late applications
- ◎ **Before/By 31st May, 2018**
  - > Receive Statement of Application Record
- ◎ **From 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2018**
  - > Change of mind facility opens.
- ◎ **1st July, 2018**
  - > Latest date for receipt of change of mind in CAO.
- ◎ **Late August, 2018 -possibly 20<sup>th</sup> August**
  - > First round of offers will commence.

## **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.

# Non CAO Options

- **Direct into Employment**
- **Gardaí and Defence Forces** – check [www.publicjobs.ie](http://www.publicjobs.ie)
- **Post Leaving Certificate Courses** with Fetaac links schemes
- **UCAS** applications (for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)
- **EUNiCAS**: An independent European University application support service that facilitates UK and Irish students who are looking to study in Europe.

# Post Leaving Certificate Courses: Further Education Training Awards

- 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 your son 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)

# Post Leaving Certificate courses (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 2016 entry requirements.
- Importance of Interview and some **experience** of the career area applying for.

# Useful Resources



## 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
- ◎ Career Directions – [www.careerdirections.ie](http://www.careerdirections.ie)
- ◎ 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- 2017 Entry**
- **CAO Handbook 2017**
- **Newspapers- Irish Times, Independent**
- **Internet**





**Thank you!**