

Méan Scoil na mBráithre



CAO Options Presentation

Roisin Neylon
Guidance Counsellor

CAO – General Info.

**Centralised application
system for Irish 3rd level
Education
Institutions, including 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



Level 8 – Minimum Entry Requirement

- **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

**2. Physiotherapy (UL)-O3/H7 in 1
science subject**

Primary Teaching Gaeilge-Grade H4

Mathematics – O4 or H7

English – O4 or H7

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 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 .
- H Pat results are relevant only for the year applying .

Example of Points Calculation

- Irish H4 66
- English H5 56
- Maths H6 46+25 71

- French H3 77
- Biology H4 66
- History H4 66
- Geography O1 56
- Total 402 points from best 6

RESTRICTED ENTRY COURSES

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

Making an Application

- **Applications are made online**

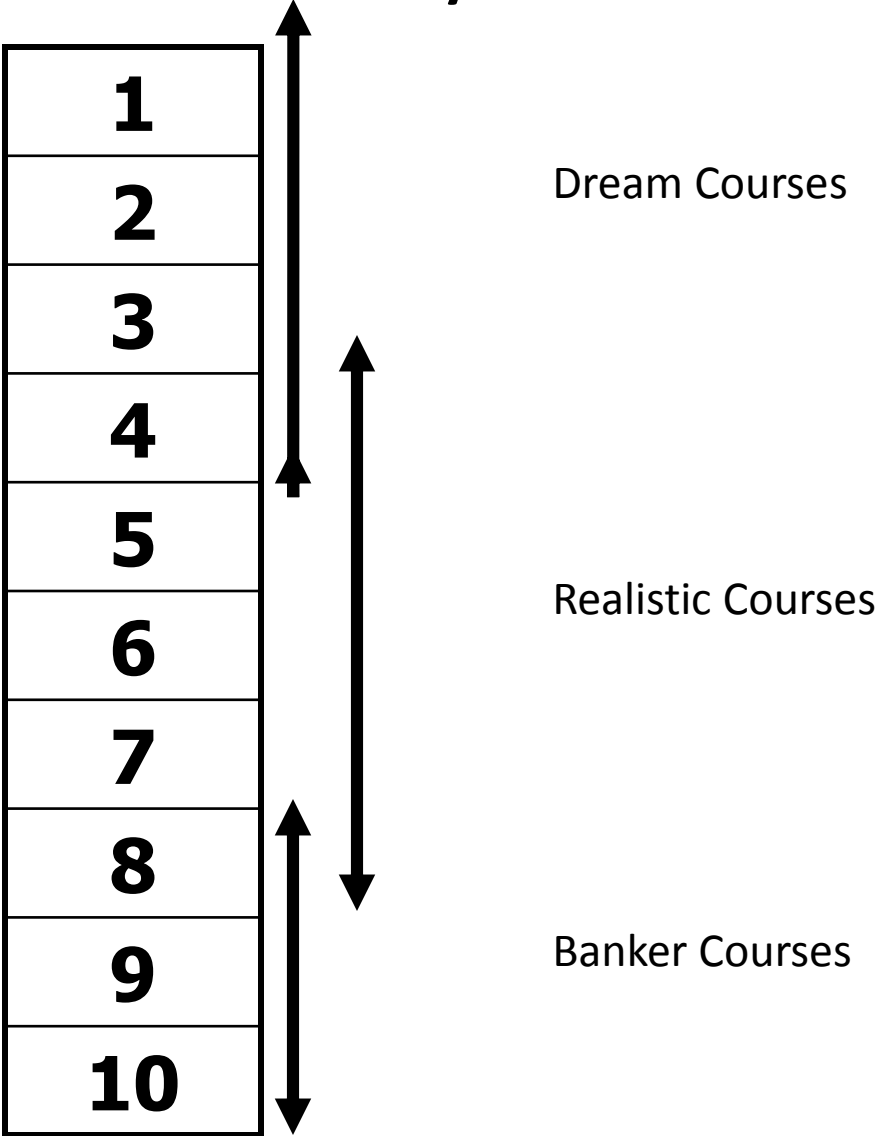
- **Fill out both course lists**

In genuine order of

Preference- **not based on**

Predictions of next years grades.

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



Grants



- Online application for grants 2019-2020
- available at

Susi.ie



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

Application Dates and Fees

Online Application	Fee	Dates
Early Bird	€30	20 th January : 5.15 pm
Normal	€45	1 st February : 5.15pm
Late	€50	1 st May : 5: 15 pm
Change of Mind	No Fee	Opens 5th May : 12.00pm Closes 1ST July : 5.15pm

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 6th - 1st July)
- ◎ Leaving Cert. Results are sent to CAO. (mid August)

Offers Of Places

- Round 1:
- 19th 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 (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 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**

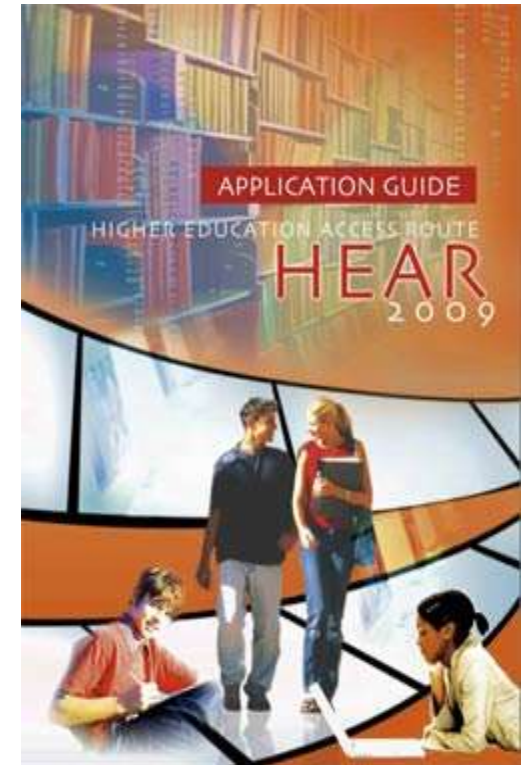
Read the CAO Handbook about this – page 5.

Access Schemes 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

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 for further information



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 **1st April**
- **CHECK CAO BOOKLET PAGE 9 AND 10**

5th. November (12:00)	CAO online application facility opens. CAO Change of Course choices facility opens
20th January (17:15)	Apply online by this date to avail of the discounted application fee of €30.
1st February (17:15)	Normal closing date for applications.
5th February (12:00)	Online facility to amend course choices becomes available (€10 Fee)
23th February	HPAT Test - Undergraduate Entry to Medicine
1st March (17:15)	Closing date for amending course choices Closing date for final completion of online HEAR/DARE forms
5th March (12:00)	Late application facility opens.

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 C3 in Ordinary Level Maths) and preferably Physics.

Apprenticeships

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

More Non CAO Options

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

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 2019 entry requirements.
- Importance of Interview and some **experience** of the career area applying for.

Useful Resources



Internet

- 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- 2019 Entry**
- **CAO Handbook 2019**
- **Newspapers- Irish Times, Independent**



Post Leaving Certificate Courses:

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)

Thank you!