

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a diverse group of graduates in black gowns and caps. They are all smiling and laughing joyfully, looking towards the center. The background is filled with lush green trees, suggesting an outdoor campus setting. The overall mood is celebratory and optimistic.

WHERE TO NEXT?

January 2025



**WHERE
TO NEXT?**

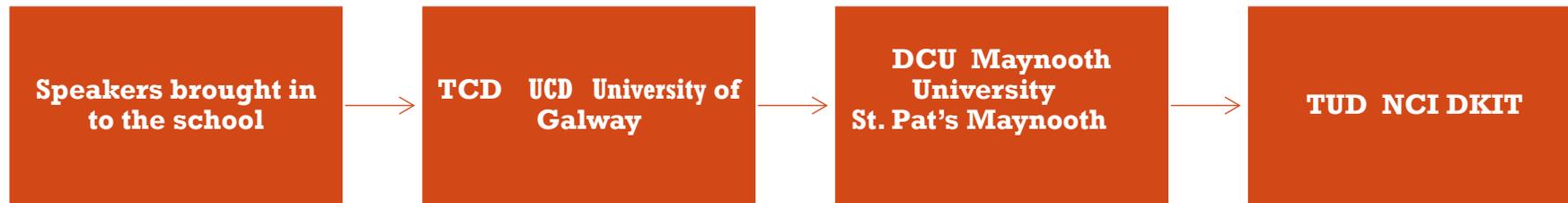
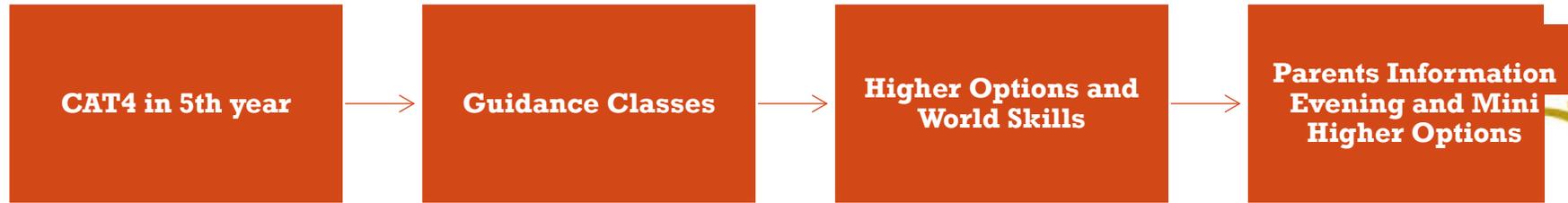


WELCOME

- Welcome
- CAO
- PLC
- Apprenticeships
- Q& A



SO FAR.....



WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW?

THE COMMON
APPLICATION

- **What can our son apply for?**
- **CAO, QQI- Further Education or abroad- UK, Europe, USA...**
- **Apprenticeships**
- **Gardaí/Defence Forces**
- **Civil Service**

UCAS

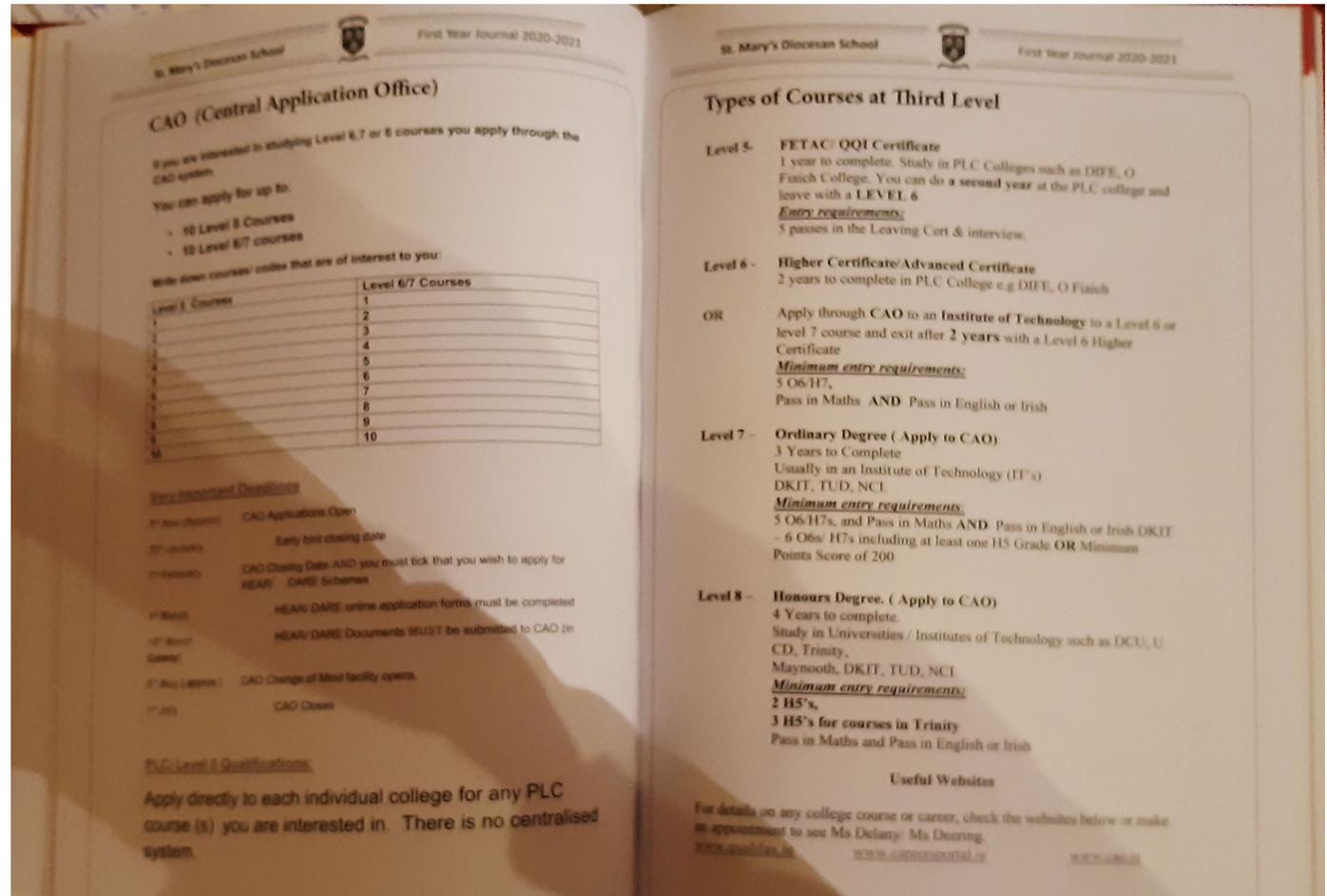
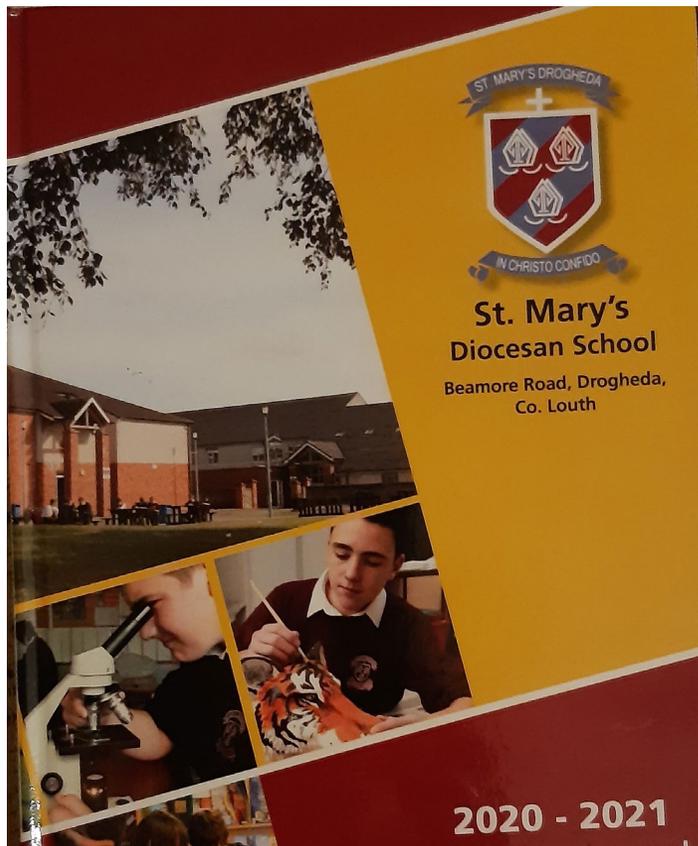


CAO

- **HEAR & DARE**
- **Deadlines, Dates, and costs**
- **Most important – order of preference, course choices**
- **Common errors**



SCHOOL JOURNAL PG 44 - 52



HOW TO APPLY?

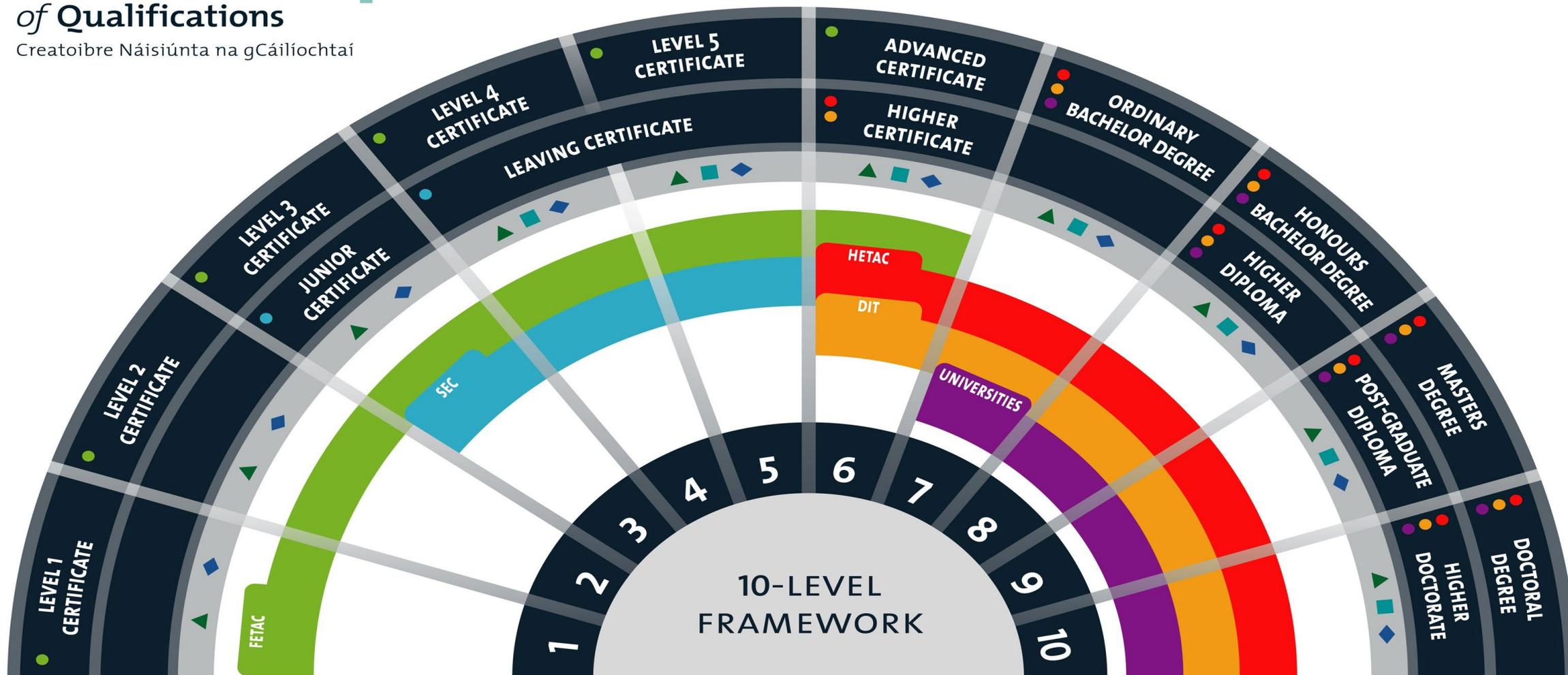
- www.cao.ie

- open Nov 5th

a) 20th January for discounted rate **€30** and for those applying to medicine (HPAT)

b) 1st February last date for normal fee **€45** and for **restricted** entry courses eg Art, Drama, some music courses etc





KEY

- FETAC - Further Education and Training Awards Council
- SEC - State Examinations Commission (Department of Education & Science)
- HETAC - Higher Education and Training Awards Council

AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK

There are four types of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:

Major Awards: are the principal class of awards made at a level

CAO Points Scale

Higher Grade		Points	Ordinary Grade		Points
H1	<i>90-100%</i>	100	O1	<i>90-100%</i>	56
H2	<i>80<90%</i>	88	O2	<i>80<90%</i>	46
H3	<i>70<80%</i>	77	O3	<i>70<80%</i>	37
H4	<i>60<70%</i>	66	O4	<i>60<70%</i>	28
H5	<i>50<60%</i>	56	O5	<i>50<60%</i>	20
H6	<i>40<50%</i>	46	O6	<i>40<50%</i>	12
H7	<i>30<40%</i>	37	O7	<i>30<40%</i>	0
H8	<i>0<30%</i>	0	O8		0

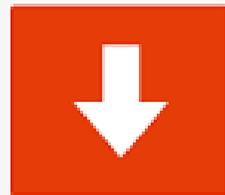


POINTS

- 6 best subjects
- 25 Bonus points for passing Higher Level Maths



UP or DOWN?



CAO REQUIREMENTS

(FOR DEGREES . . .)



- 1. Basic Entry Requirements**
- 2. Course Specific entry requirements**
- 3. Get the required number of points**





YOUR EXAM NUMBER

- If you are sitting the Leaving Certificate this year, and you have indicated this on your application form, CAO will receive your Leaving Certificate examination number directly from the State Examinations Commission. You must verify that this number is correct when prompted to do so via the Statement of Application Record in May.



CAO FORM

Level 8 Courses	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

	Level 6/7 Courses
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	



Restrictions

RESTRICTED COURSES

MATURE APPLICANTS

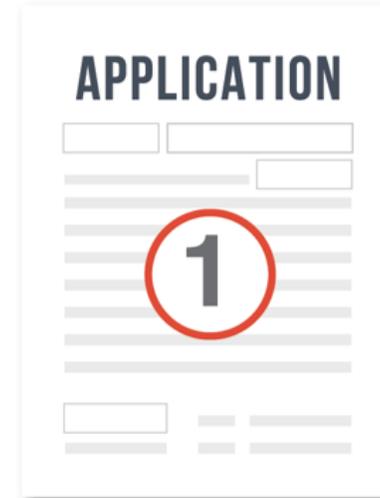
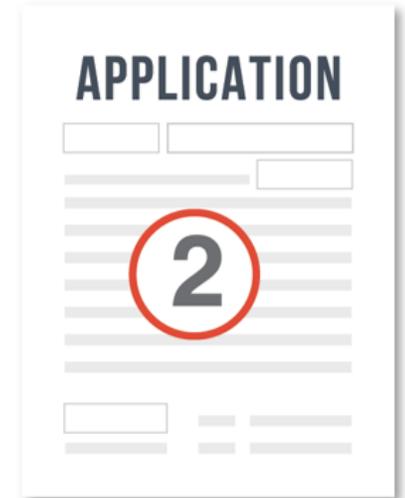
HEAR
**SOCIO-ECONOMIC
DISADVANTAGE**

DARE
DISABILITIES/SLD

Applications must be made by 1 February at 5pm. Consult CAO Handbook for full details.

Level 8 and Level 7/6 lists (Course Choices)

- **There are 2 course choice lists (Level 8 and Level 7/6) and applicants may make up to 10 course choices on each list.**
- **Your choices on one list do not in any way affect your choices on the other list. They may be considered two separate applications on one form.**
- **It is possible to receive an offer on both lists. You may then decide to accept either your Level 7/6 or your Level 8 offer.**
- **Alternatively, you might not wish to accept either offer.**

A stylized representation of an application form. At the top, the word "APPLICATION" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the title are several horizontal lines representing text input fields. A large, bold number "1" is centered on the form, enclosed within a red circular outline.A stylized representation of an application form, identical in layout to the first one. It features the word "APPLICATION" at the top, followed by horizontal lines for text entry. A large, bold number "2" is centered on the form, enclosed within a red circular outline.

Put courses down in genuine
order of preference!!!!!!

The course you want the most
no.1

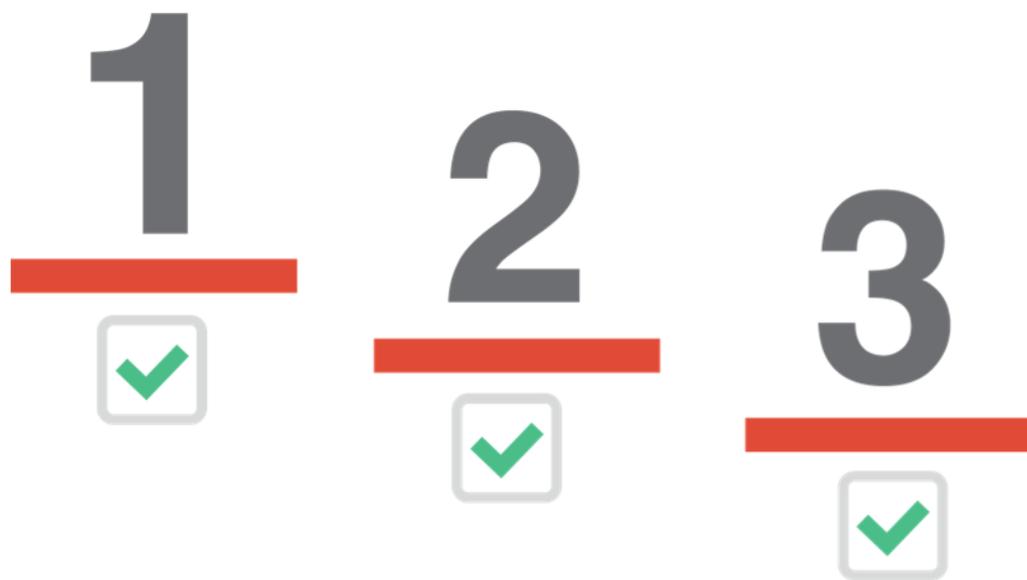
The course you want 2nd most
no.2

The course you want 3rd most
no.3

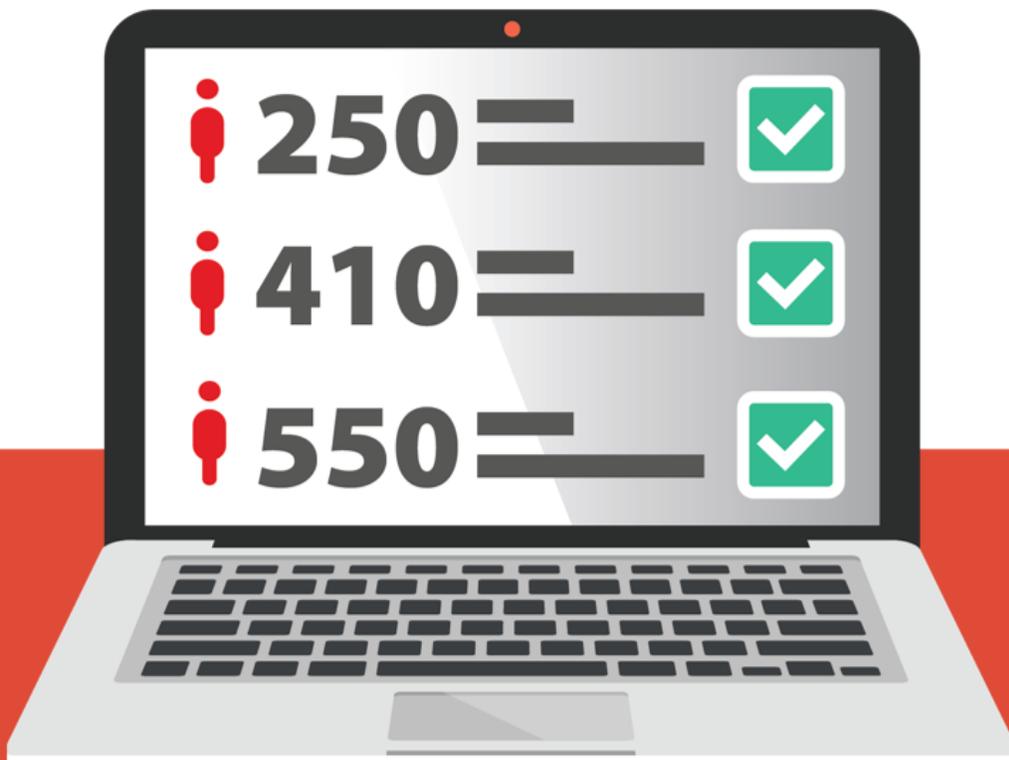
**THE IMPORTANT
THINGS....**



Place Allocation



- We will look just at Level 8 courses, but exactly the same process will take place with Level 7/6 courses, and at the same time.
- The importance of you, the applicant, placing courses in genuine order of preference will become apparent in the following pages.



- When examination results are released they are entered into the CAO computer.
- The computer checks each applicant's results.

For each course the applicant has applied for, the computer first determines if the applicant has the minimum entry requirements for the course.



Place Allocation

If the applicant meets the minimum entry requirements for the course, the applicant's points are calculated for this course choice.

All eligible applicants are then placed on a list, in order of academic merit, for each course that they applied for.

Minimum Entry Requirements + Points Score = **Position on Order of Merit List**



Place Allocation



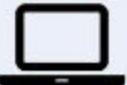
- The admissions officers of the Higher Education Institutions tell CAO how many places are to be offered on each course.
- CAO then makes offers to the required number of applicants on each course, starting with the applicant with the highest points and working down until enough places have been offered.

CAO Computer	Course	College Requirements	Faculty Requirements	Points Requirements	Criteria Met	Offers
	Course 1	C				
	Course 2	C	F			
	Course 3	C	F			
	Course 4	C	F			
	Course 5	C	F	P	★	OFFER 1
	Course 6	C	F	P	★	
	Course 7	C	F			
	Course 8	C	F			
	Course 9	C	F			
	Course 10	C	F			

Courses Below Offer Are Deleted From CAO Computer



ROUND ONE

CAO Computer	Course	College Requirements	Faculty Requirements	Points Requirements	Criteria Met	Offers
	Course 1	C				
	Course 2	C	F	P	★	OFFER 2
	Course 3	C	F			
	Course 4	C	F			
	Course 5	C	F	P	★	OFFER 1
	Course 6	C	F	P	★	
	Course 7	C	F			
	Course 8	C				
	Course 9		F			

Deleted

Courses Below Offer Are Deleted From CAO Computer



Genuine Order



- You do not need to guess what the points are going to be for the courses you are interested in.
- Simply list your courses in genuine order of preference from the highest preference 1, to the lowest preference 10.
- If you are entitled to an offer, you will be offered the highest preference that you are entitled to.



COMMON ERRORS!

- Putting down today's date rather than your Date of Birth!
- Forgetting to tick the box for Leaving Cert 2025
- Not applying for an **Irish exemption** from NUI if eligible
- **Ignoring communications from CAO!!!**
- Applying for courses for which you don't have either the **basic entry requirements or subject specific requirements!**
- Applying for a course in a **fee paying college** without realising it!
- Going on holidays when the results and offers are out
- Not putting your courses down in **order of genuine preference!**



Put courses down in genuine order of preference!!!!!!

The course he wants the most
no.1

The course he wants 2nd most
no.2

The course he wants 3rd most
no.3

THE IMPORTANT THINGS....



CAO GOLDEN RULES

You can move
up but never
down

You can only
accept one offer
in each round

Treat any offer
as if it is your
last!

Random
selection*

Available Places
(listed after
round 1)

Deferrals



**Final closing date 1st
July 5pm.**

**The order of courses
listed as of 5pm on 1st
July is what CAO will
use when making
college offers.**



LEVEL 5 – PLC'S DIFE

- 5 Passes in LC
- 60+ Courses
- Direct Employment
- College Entry
- Fees €250+
- Has direct links with English colleges for Physio/ OT.
- Apply directly to DIFE from December 1st. First round offers 1st Feb 2025
- Winner of Best college of further Education 4 out of last 5 years
- Now has direct links to courses in DCU (Nursing, Business)



DIFE

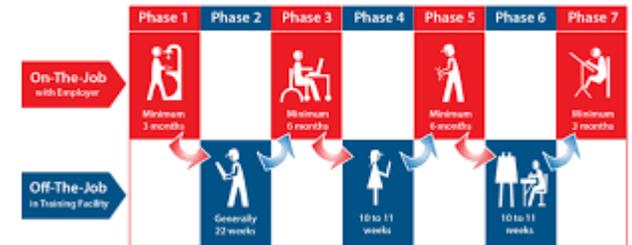
Drogheda Institute of Further Education



APPRENTICESHIPS



APPRENTICESHIP PHASES



APPRENTICESHIP'S

- 5 Passes JC (O4LC Maths, Safe pass, Manual handling, Own transport)
- Source Employer
- 4 years – 7 Phases
- www.apprenticeship.ie
- www.careersportal.ie



Apprenticeships



Find out how you can access Higher Education in Ireland



HEAR | HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS ROUTE



DARE | DISABILITY ACCESS ROUTE TO EDUCATION



The 1916 Bursary

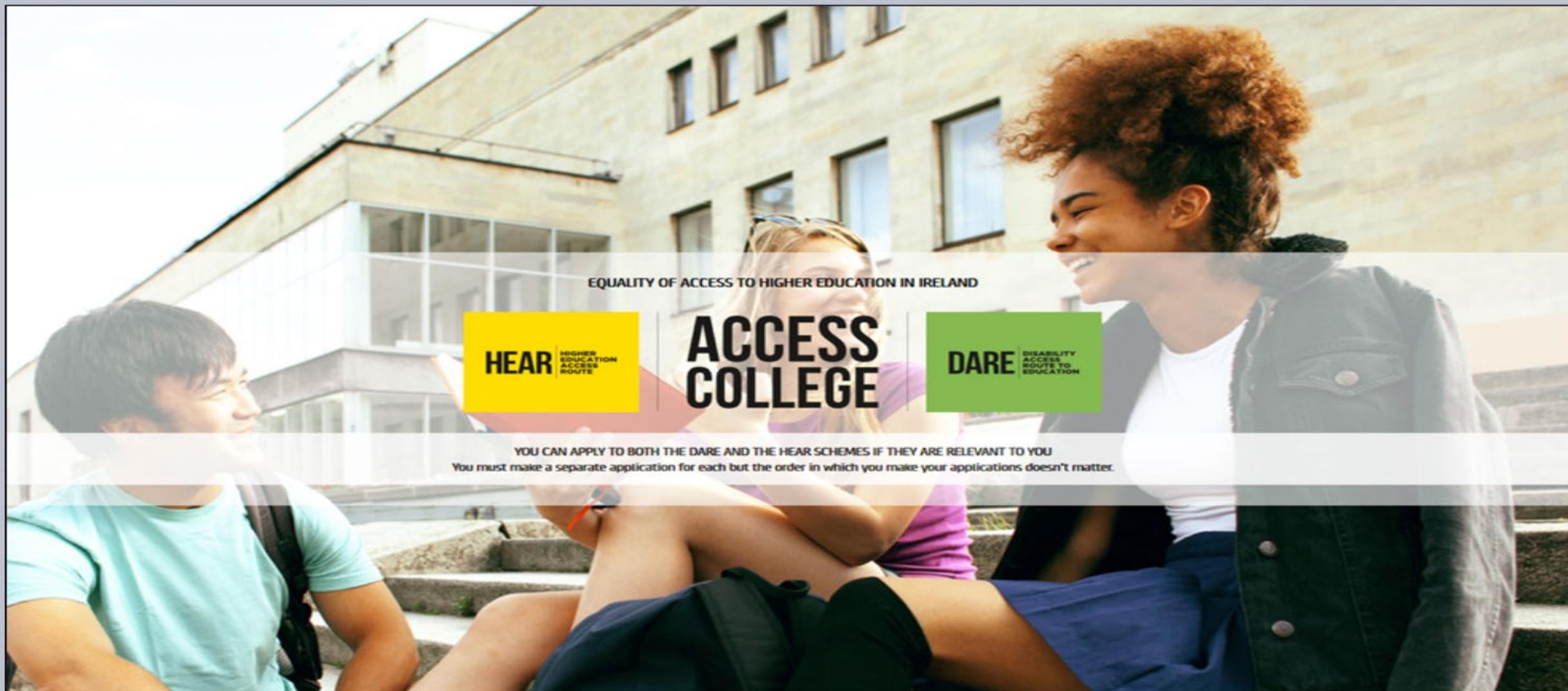
A higher education admissions scheme for Leaving Certificate students (under 23) whose economic or social background are

A higher education admissions scheme for Leaving Certificate students (under 23) whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their

A financial award to encourage the participation and success of students from sections of society that are significantly under-represented in higher



Further Information



EQUALITY OF ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN IRELAND

HEAR | HIGHER
EDUCATION
ACCESS
ROUTE

**ACCESS
COLLEGE**

DARE | DISABILITY
ACCESS
ROUTE TO
EDUCATION

YOU CAN APPLY TO BOTH THE DARE AND THE HEAR SCHEMES IF THEY ARE RELEVANT TO YOU
You must make a separate application for each but the order in which you make your applications doesn't matter.

SUSI

**(STUDENT
UNIVERSAL
SUPPORT
IRELAND)**

A 3D, isometric-style logo for SUSI. The logo is a dark red, rectangular block with a pointed bottom edge, resembling a speech bubble or a stylized 'S' shape. The word 'SUSI' is written in a white, bold, serif font across the front face of the block. The block has a slight shadow underneath, giving it a three-dimensional appearance.

SUSI

Grant Types & Rates

You could get a
25%, 50%, 75%,
or 100%
Maintenance
Grant depending
on your financial
circumstance.

[Hyperlink to Rates on SUSI.ie](#)





Welcome to the



eligibility

reckoner

start

RECOMMENDED OPTIONS

Plan A	10 Level 8 Courses
Plan B	10 Level 6/7 Courses
Plan C	PLC Course/ Apprenticeship/ Work



WHERE CAN WE FIND ALL THIS INFORMATION?

www.qualifax.ie

www.careersportal.ie

www.cao.ie

www.susi.ie (College Grants)

www.accesscollege.ie (HEAR/DARE)

www.apprenticeship.ie

QualifaxTM



CAO



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

