



Parents'
Night
C.A.O.
2025

Apprentice-
ships

Study
Skills

Exam
Technique

Job
Application

Study
Abroad

Choice
Organiser

OPEN

You Will Learn

- How the CAO application process works
- The best ways to order choices
- Important dates

About Applying

It Is their Choice
It Is their Responsibility
It Is their Decision

Course Information



Consider Subjects Taught On The Course

What Options Are Within The Course

Distance From Home?

Good Career Opportunities

**Cost – Fees, Private Colleges,
Accommodation**



Getting The Information

Get the colleges' prospectuses

Check the colleges' website

Use Qualifax / Careersportal

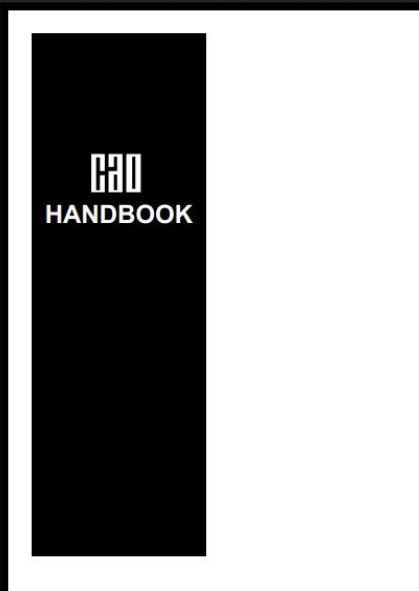
Go to open days & career exhibitions

Talk to students & friends

Read The Manual On-line !

Read it *carefully*.

All your questions are
answered.



The CAO Handbook has two sections:

1st Section - White Pages

Details Of Applications Procedures, Offers,
Deadlines And Other Instructions.

2nd Section – Yellow Pages

Lists of courses & codes in the different colleges

Choosing Your Courses

You can choose up to
10 honours degree
Level 8 courses

You can choose up to
10 higher certificate /
ordinary degree /
Level 6 & 7 courses

10

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS

Údarás Náisiúnta
Cáilíochtaí na hÉireann
National Qualifications
Authority of Ireland



Higher Certificates Level 6 = 2 years' study

Ordinary Degrees Level 7 = 3 years' study

Honours Degrees Level 8 = 4 years' study



Making Your Choice

Choose in genuine order of preference.

First choice is the course most wanted.

Ignore the points.

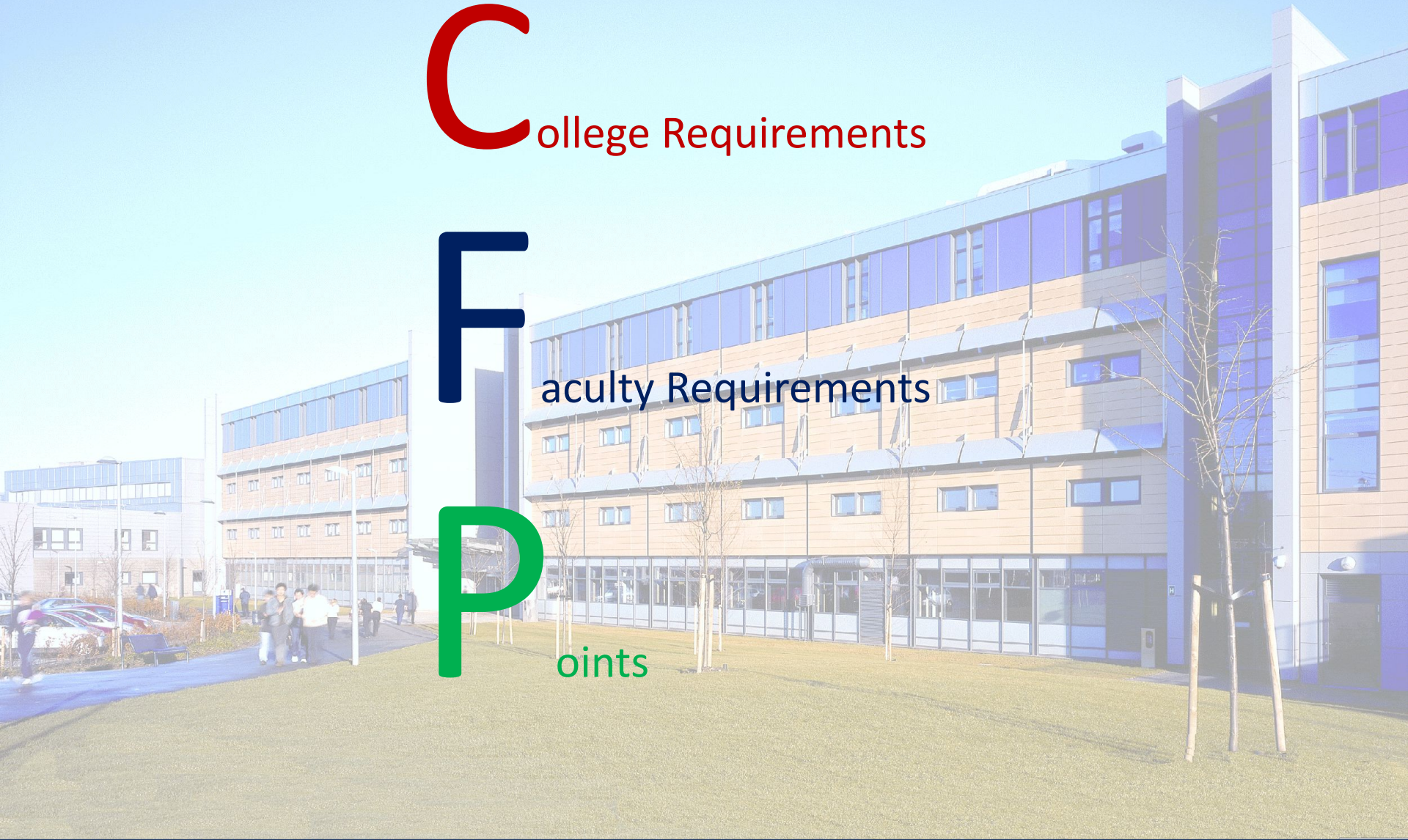
Keep at least “one dead cert ” in choices.

What You Need For Third Level

College Requirements

Faculty Requirements

Points



College Requirements

5 O6 in Leaving Certificate for Level 6 & 7 courses.

Level 8 courses need a pass in 6 subjects with at least 2 at H5 & 4 at O6.

Faculty Requirements

The Faculty (Or Course) Requirements

E.g. H4 In Irish For Primary Teaching, H4 In Maths For Engineering in universities

P oints

Best six subjects in one sitting of the Leaving
Certificate.






You Get An Offer When You Satisfy All

College
Requirements

Faculty Requirements

Points Requirements

ROUND ONE


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				
	Course 9		F			
	Course 10	C	F			

Courses Below Offer Are Deleted From CAO

Computer






**Some people
don't accept
offers...**



...leaving empty places in courses.
You can get a higher up offer in Round Two or
Three.

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			
	Course 10	C	F			

Deleted

Courses Below Offer Are Deleted From CAO

Computer

How The CAO Works

You get an offer when you satisfy all **College** Requirements, **Faculty** Requirements & **Points** Requirements. Some people don't accept offers, so you can get a higher up offer in Round **Two** or **Three.**



The Important Things Are



Know what the course involves before you apply.

Apply in *your genuine order of preference.*



Ignore points.

Only apply for courses *you genuinely want to do.*

It's a good idea to do the demo application first:



[Home](#)

[★ My Application](#)

[Apply](#)

[Courses](#)

[Handbook](#)

[Contact](#)

Friday, 29 April 2016 15:05

[As Gaeilge](#) | [Print Page](#)

Search Site...

Central Applications

The Central Applications Office provides applications for undergraduate courses in Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Decisions on undergraduate courses are made by the HEIs who instruct CAO to make offers to successful candidates.



Applicant News page for regular updates.

[HEI contact details](#)

[Downloads](#)

[Important Dates](#)

[Student Resources](#)

[About Change of Mind](#)

[Access Routes](#)

[DARE / HEAR](#)

[Restrictions](#)

[Mature Applicants](#)

[Information for Parents](#)

[Information for Schools](#)

[Media and Statistics](#)

[About CAO](#)

[Useful Links](#)

[FAQ](#)

Need Help?

Click here for the demo application, video guides and answers to frequently asked questions.

Advanced Entry

Click here for applications to year 2, 3 and 4.

Important Dates:



Late Applications

Close (restrictions apply)

CAO Application Number

You are now given a CAO application number (sent instantly by email and text).

You should keep this safe.

You will also be required to put your EXAM no on your CAO form. DO NOT CONFUSE THE TWO!

You will need your CAO no to log in to your account.

You can change your mind online free of charge until January 31st.

After that changes can be made free of charge from 6th May to 1st July.

Level 8 Course Choices

Courses

No courses selected.

Please enter all your course choices below, in order of preference.

You may type the course codes directly into the boxes below or click on the 'Courses' button to select course codes.

N.B. Enter all courses for which you wish to apply.

New Choices

Enter your new list below

1.

2.

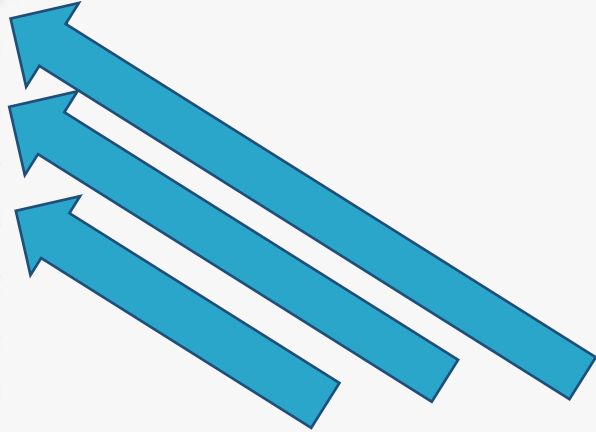
3.

4.

5.

6.

7.



Key in up to
ten codes
for **Level 8**
courses.

Level 7/6 Course Choices

Courses

No courses selected.

Please enter all your course choices below, in order of preference.

You may type the course codes directly into the boxes below or click on the 'Courses' button to select course codes.

N.B. Enter all courses for which you wish to apply.

New Choices

Enter your new list below

1.

2.

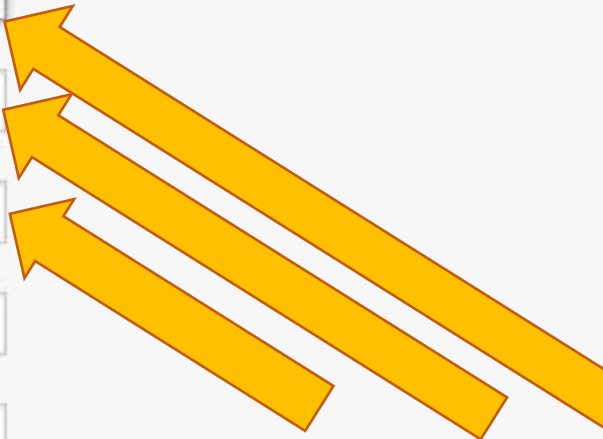
3.

4.

5.

6.

7.



Key in up to
ten codes
for Level 6
or 7 courses.

There are errors in your course choices. Please correct them below.

Level 8 Course Choices

Courses

Please enter all your course choices below, in order of preference.

You may type the course codes directly into the boxes below or click on the 'Courses' button to select course codes.

N.B. Enter under "New Choices", all courses for which you wish to apply.

Current Choices

1.

CK101 Arts - 3 years



2.

TR052 Dental Science



3.

DN101 *** ERROR - not a valid course - please amend.

4.

AL201 *** ERROR - not a valid course - please amend.

New Choices

Enter your new list below

1.

2.

6.

7.

Errors are highlighted.

Course Choices (stored on the CAO computer)

Entry to 1st Year

N.B. An application should not be made for any course without first consulting the information literature of the institution offering that course.

Level 8 Course Choices:

1. **AL852** Accounting
2. **BN113** Horticulture
3. **CK202** Accounting
4. **PD101** Education - Primary Teaching
5. **DN500** BA Degree - joint honours

6. **TR003** History
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Summary of
choices and
options to
change.

se Choices »

Level 7/6 Course Choices:

1. **CR052** Construction
2. **DK762** Communications in Creative Multimedia
3. **GA374** Tourism Management
4. **SG136** Computing - Software Development
5. **WD076** Forestry

Restricted Applications

Some courses consider more than just points.

Eg: Interviews, Tests, Auditions, Portfolios or Projects.

These are conducted around Easter.

These courses cannot be added to your application after February 1st.

They can be changed or dropped.

Confirmation

In May you will be sent a confirmation of course choices.

Check all details carefully.

If there are no errors you do not need to do anything.

Notify the CAO of any errors by marking them on the form and sending it back.

Change Of Mind

You will also be sent a change of mind form in May. Add, delete or change the order of preference of your courses.

The main change of mind dates are from 05 May to 01 July (unrestricted, free of charge)

The final date for changing my mind is July 1st.

Change Of Mind

Please note that you can remove a restricted course (a course that requires something in addition to points such as an audition, suitability test, etc) from your level 6, 7 and 8 choices, AFTER 06 May but you cannot put it back on your list if you change your mind again after this date .

Offers & Acceptance

Made approx. one week after leaving cert results.

Made by post and online.

I can get an offer from both lists
(Levels 6 & 7 & Level 8).

I can only accept one. Accept online
or by post. No need to pay any money.



Available Places

In August, courses with places still available or new courses are advertised on the website *www.cao.ie* .

You can apply for these provided you have the minimum requirements for them.

You don't have to have previously made an application to CAO to avail of these.

They can be worth checking out.



Deferring A Place

Deferring means that you don't want to take your place this year but will do so next year.

Some courses can not be deferred, check beforehand.

Once the offer comes do not accept it.

Email IMMEDIATELY the college concerned.

They will let you know if the offer will be deferred.

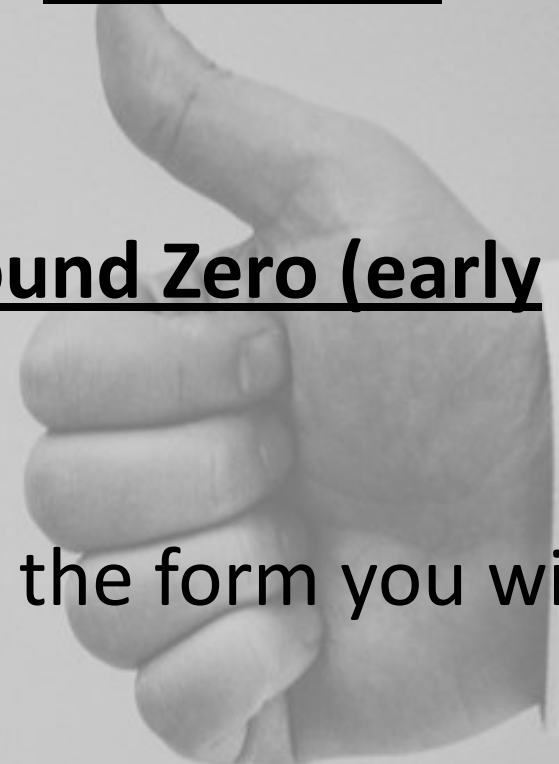
Accepting A Deferred Course The Following Year

Re-apply the following year with **that course** as your only choice.

You will then get offered it in **Round Zero (early August)**.

If you put any **other courses** on the form you will **lose** your deferred place.

You will then have to **compete** for places with all **other** applicants.



Deferring a place - continued

Not every College will allow you to defer your course offer for a year.

The Royal College of Surgeons will not allow you defer your course offer unless there are exceptional circumstances such as a family bereavement/illness.

The same applies for medicine and dentistry course in UCC.

The NCAD and IADT are also strict in relation to deferred places.

DARE SCHEME (www.accesscollege.ie)

DARE SCHEME (DISABILITY ACCESS ROUTE)

DARE is a third level alternative admissions scheme which offers applicants reduced entry points requirements as a result of their disability.

When filling out page 1 of the CAO application form, if your child has a **specific learning difficulty** tick the relevant box and complete section **A** of the on-line SIF (Supplementary Information Form):

Then print section **B** (Educational Impact Statement) which will be completed by the School.

DARE continued

Section C – Download Evidence of disability section – and have completed by the appropriate medical professional (if you do not have an existing medical report).

Candidates with Specific Learning Difficulty (dyslexia, etc) must provide a full psychological assessment of any age.

Apply to the CAO by 1 February and remit documentation to the CAO by 15 March 2025 at the latest

HEAR SCHEME (www.accesscollege.ie)

The higher Education Access Route is a college and university scheme which offers places on reduced points and extra college support for school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds who are resident in the Republic of Ireland.

Students need to apply to the CAO by 1 February and tick the HEAR box on the CAO form by 1st March 2025.

Supporting documents (social welfare statements, salary slips etc) must be submitted to the CAO by 15 March 2025 to be deemed eligible for such a scheme.

Access to Medicine 2025/HPAT

Minimum of 480 CAO points

1 but preferably 2 science subjects

Completion of the 2.5 HOUR HPAT (Health Professions Admissions Test-Ireland)

114 multiple choice questions broken down to three sections.

1.Logical reasoning and Problem solving. 2 Interpersonal Understanding and 3. Non-verbal Reasoning.

Register on-line by 17 January 2025 at www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au

On-line test will take place from 14-23 February 2025

Results released late June 2025

Cost: € 160.80 (all inclusive).

Access to Medicine 2025 continued

HPAT test is a 2.5 hour paper-based test consisting of 3 modules or sections

- (i) Logical reasoning and problem solving
- (ii) Interpersonal Understanding
- (iii) Non-Verbal Reasoning
 - Maximum score of 300 to be added to their CAO points score.
 - A combined minimum of 725 points generally required to access medicine.



option among 5th year students interested in medicine.

The Structure of HPAT[®]-Ireland Exam

Section	No. of Questions	Time
Section 1: Logical Reasoning & Problem Solving	44	65 mins
Section 2: Interpersonal Understanding	36	45 mins
Section 3: Non Verbal Reasoning	30	40 mins

The 'Weighting' of HPAT[®]-Ireland Exam Scores

- **Section 1** is worth 40% of the the total marks
- **Section 2** is worth 40% of the the total marks
- **Section 3** is worth 20% of the the total marks

For students intending on studying postgraduate Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy in the University of Limerick Section 4 is applicable.

- **Section 4:** Written English (UL Postgraduate only)

Registering for the Official HPAT[®]-

Irish Exam

Table 3: Moderated Leaving Certificate points from 550 points

Normal LCE points	Moderated LCE points	Normal LCE points	Moderated LCE points	Normal LCE points	Moderated LCE points
551-555	551	576-580	556	601-605	561
556-560	552	581-585	557	606-610	562
561-565	553	586-590	558	611-615	563
566-570	554	591-595	559	616-620	564
571-575	555	596-600	560	621-625	565



Combination of Leaving Certificate Examination results and the HPAT-Ireland score

For CAO applicants to medicine the maximum achievable score will be 865:

565 as the maximum score based on the Leaving Certificate Examination (after adjustment)

and

300 as the maximum score based on the HPAT-Ireland test.

For example:

- If you achieve 621 points in the LCE this will become 565 moderated LCE points and if you achieve a score of 160 in the HPAT-Ireland test, your overall score will be 725.

The combined score will then be used to offer a place to an applicant for the highest of their programme choices to which they are entitled (if any), in line with standard CAO procedures www.cao.ie.

Applicants with the same combined score will be ranked in order of their Leaving Certificate (or equivalent) pre-moderated point

Table 4 provides a sample of scores that eligible applicants would receive when the Leaving Certificate Examination points and HPAT-Ireland scores are combined. Leaving Cert scores over 550 have been moderated.

Table 4: Sample combination scores

L Cert score moderated	HPAT scored to a maximum of 300										
	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240	250
524	674	684	694	704	714	724	734	744	754	764	774
530	680	690	700	710	720	730	740	750	760	770	780
536	686	696	706	716	726	736	746	756	766	776	786
538	688	698	708	718	728	738	748	758	768	778	788
540	690	700	710	720	730	740	750	760	770	780	790
542	692	702	712	722	732	742	752	762	772	782	792
548	698	708	718	728	738	748	758	768	778	788	798
553	703	713	723	733	743	753	763	773	783	793	803
555	705	715	725	735	745	755	765	775	785	795	805
559	709	719	729	739	749	759	769	779	789	799	809
565	715	725	735	745	755	765	775	785	795	805	815

In 2017, applicants receiving an offer achieved LCE scores ranging from 532 to 625 and HPAT-Ireland scores ranging from 16 to 249. Table 5 outlines the minimum combined points per programme in 2017. Please note that changes to the Leaving Certificate grading and points scales came into effect in 2017. For more information on these changes, please see <http://www.transition.ie>.

Minimum Entry Requirements:

EU Applicants:

This brochure provides details of the selection criteria for EU applicants to undergraduate medicine in NUI Galway, RCSI, TCD, UCC and UCD.

School Leavers:

In order for school leavers to be eligible to compete for entry to undergraduate medicine in 2018, they must:

- 1 achieve a minimum of 480 points and
- 2 meet the minimum entry requirements¹ for each Medical School for which they have applied and
- 3 complete the required admissions test (HPAT-Ireland) in 2018.

Criteria 1 and 2 above must both be met in the same sitting of the Irish Leaving Certificate Examination, or equivalent².

Pre 2018 Leaving Certificate results may be presented but the HPAT must be presented in the year of entry. See Table 1 for details of requirements for each medical programme.

Table 1: Summary of minimum entry requirements for EU admissions for each Medical School¹

Medical programmes			Minimum SUBJECT Requirements ¹						Minimum POINTS Requirement
Institution	CAO Code	Duration	Minimum Number of subjects	English	Irish	Third Language	Maths	Science	
National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI GALWAY)	GV501	6 Years	2 x H5 and 4 x O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 in one of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science	
		5 Years	2 x H5 and 4 x O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	H4 in two of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Chemistry, Agricultural Science	
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)	RC001	6 Years	2 x H5 and 4 x O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 in one of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science	
		5 Years	2 x H5 and 4 x O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	H4 Chemistry and H4 in either Biology or Physics	
Trinity College Dublin (TCD)	TR051	5 Years	3 x H5 and 3 x O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 in a language other than English		O6/H7 or O4/H6 if no Physics	H3 and a H4 from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science	
University College Cork (UCC)	CK701	5 Years	2 x H5 and 4 x O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	H4 Chemistry and H4 in either Biology or Physics	
University College Dublin (UCD)	DN400	6 Years	2 x H5 and 4 x O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 in one of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science	

In addition all students will be required to satisfy the Garda Vetting, Medical Clearance and Fitness to Practice requirements as required by each institution.¹

Mature Applicants (23 years or over by 1 January of 2018):

For those applying for a place on grounds of mature years, the minimum educational requirements and places available for mature students are available from each institution. In all cases the medical admissions test, HPAT-Ireland, is required. As HPAT-Ireland results form part of the selection procedure for mature applicants, results will be sent to the universities for short-listing purposes prior to the official release of results.

- 1 Students are advised to check the website of the relevant institution for full details of all entry requirements and policies and procedures.
- 2 For EU students presenting qualifications other than the Irish Leaving Certificate, equivalent qualifications are required. For details please consult the CAO website at www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/guidelines-EU-EFTA.pdf.

The Admissions Test: HPAT-Ireland

The admissions test is called HPAT-Ireland (Health Professions Admission Test-Ireland). This test is independently administered by ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research).

The HPAT-Ireland test measures a candidate's logical reasoning and problem-solving skills as well as non-verbal reasoning and the ability to understand the thoughts, behaviour and/or intentions of people. It does not test academic knowledge and candidates do not require special understanding of any academic discipline. However, some familiarity with the question types typically presented in HPAT-Ireland would be an advantage and therefore a practice booklet with worked answers is supplied to all candidates. The test results will complement the Leaving Certificate Examination assessment for selecting applicants for admission to an undergraduate Medical School programme.

EUNICAS

EUNICAS supports students in applying up to eight degree programmes taught through English mainly, but not exclusively, in the Netherlands and Denmark and further afield.

Fees are approx. 2,060 euro per annum in the Netherlands but you are entitled to a free tuition loan fee loan with up to 20 years to pay it back.

Courses such as Medicine, physiotherapy, veterinary pharmacy, nursing, dentistry, etc are all available at entry requirements that are invariably lower than those for similar course in Ireland.

Processing fee of 38 euro per student AND a 10 euro per month REGISTRATION FEE. Applicant Premium plan is 150 euro.

Please see or www.eunicas.ie for further information.

The take-up of EUNICAS courses is on the increase.

Important Information



If you have lived outside the EU see page 20 of the CAO Handbook.

You may be required to apply

directly to some *HEIs. Contact the Admissions Office of each HEI to see how you should apply.

*HEI = Higher Education Institute



After Making Application

(Online) Students receive CAO number online and use 'My Application' to check every their application details.

May make changes to courses up to March 1st - €10 – for mature and restricted entry applicants.

Some students may be called for extra assessments.

Receive Statement of Application Record – check details carefully.

Change of Mind facility becomes available 5 May to 1 July 2025. – use sparingly and carefully, especially after exams.
(email confirmation)

Leaving Cert. Results are sent to CAO.

Places are allocated and offered by post and online.

Students accept, reject or defer offered places.

Further rounds of offers are made until all course places are filled.

Irish language exemptions

Contact the NUI with respect to current or desired exemptions in Irish/specific learning disabilities.

Ring NUI on 01 -4392424 – please submit your current supporting documentation.

They will issue then you with a letter of exemption which you should forward to the **CAO**.

NUI Colleges such as UCD and Maynooth require students to have a pass in Irish in order to secure a place on courses in these colleges (unless the candidate has an exemption).

Many NUI colleges also require a pass in a modern language such as French or Spanish.

However there is no foreign language requirement for **science, engineering or nursing courses in NUI Colleges/Universities.**

Important Dates

CAO on-line application opens	Nov 5th
Closing date for online cheaper applications €30	Jan 20th
Closing date for applications €45	Feb 1 st
Change of Mind Opening date (free of charge)	May 6th
Closing date for change of mind	July 1st
Round One Offers	<u>approx. 7 Days</u> <u>after Leaving</u> <u>Cert results</u>
Round Two Offers	Early September

Leaving Cert Appeals Process

–Approximate timeline

- Students should have on-line access to their results by late (approx. date)
- Students will be able apply to view certain scripts on-line shortly afterwards if they wish to appeal a result.
- Scripts which can be viewed on-line include shortly afterwards free of charge
- LC Appeal dates: No dates provided as yet
- No fee was payable in 2024 for appeals and no cap on number of appeals was in place. We do not expect a fee to be charges in 2025 either.
- Appeals results week ending Friday 18 September (approx.).

SUSI – GRANTS AUTHORITY

- SUSI offers funding to eligible students in approved full-time third level education. **PLC course fees are not covered as they have been recently abolished for Irish and EU citizens.**
- SUSI does not offer funding for courses in **private colleges** such as Griffith college or the DBS.
- Students generally apply on-line at the beginning of April of the year of entry to third level.
- In addition to covering part of all of the € 2,000/2,500* student contribution charges to third level colleges, SUSI also provides Maintenance grants to CAO and PLC students.
- Rates available if eligible: € 1, 774 per year adjacent rate (30 km or under)
- €4, 292 non-adjacent rate (over 30 km).
- Contact details: www.susi.ie or tel: 0761 087 874

Finally

Get lots of information.

Read the instructions.

Be on time.

Courses in YOUR order of preference.

Include one “dead cert”.

You Learned



Thursday, 28 April 2016 13:20

As Gaeilge | Print

Search Site...

Central Applications Office

HEI contact details

Downloads

Important D

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Mature App

Information for

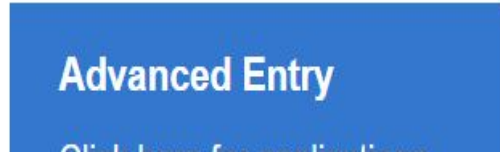
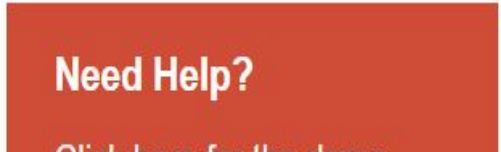
Parents

Information for

Schools

- How the CAO application process works
- The best ways to order your choices
- Important dates

location
instruct CA



Questions????

Please address any queries you may have to:

ffarrell@portmarnockcommunityschool.ie

and/or

bcoggins@portmarnockcommunityschool.ie