Borrisokane Community College

CAO Information

Agenda

- Career Planning
- Applicants Responsibilities
- General points regarding the CAO.
- What students need to know about each course they are applying for
- Entry Requirements and the Points System.
- Making an application.
- How places are allocated by CAO
- After submitting the application.
- Hear and Dare schemes
- Common mistakes
- Finance
- Other Options
- Questions

Career Planning points to remember

- Career planning is a life long developmental process.
- Cao choice not a decision for life …a starting point.
- Important to get on the right track, not necessary to know exactly what you want to do.
- Important to get as high a qualification as possible.
- Many employers will take students from different disciplines (Science, Business, Psychology, Arts)
- The quality of the qualification, skills, work experience and ability to communicate also important.
- There is probably more than one route to what you want to do.
- Students should do what they want/ what they are good at.
- Change mindset from the notion of a job to developing skills.

Career Planning

- Factors to consider
- **The Student**

Interests (Centigrade)

Aptitude (DATs)

Personality

Predicted Grades in Leaving Cert

Leaving Cert subjects

Opportunities available

Finance

It is the applicants responsibility to:

- Research thoroughly all the courses for which he/she is making application.
- Be au fait with all aspects of the application system used (CAO) for these courses, i.e., procedures, dates, fees, rules, etc.
- Check the CAO website for updates etc

Course Research

What students need to know about each course they apply for.

- Educational or Vocational
- Subjects studied
- Optional subjects
- Number of hours per week
- Assessment (Exam, Continuous Assessment ,Practical)
- Work experience
- Qualification (Ladder of progression)
- Scholarships
- Post graduate opportunities
- Accommodation
- Graduate employment

Useful Resources
To assist with course research / application

Publications
- College Prospectuses – 2019 Entry
- Start Your Career journey Here Brian Mooney
- CAO Handbook 2019

- Cracking the College Code Catherine O Connor

Newspapers
- **The Irish Times**
  - Tuesdays   Education Section
  - January Special College Supplement
          Series of articles - Brian Mooney
- **The Independent**
  - Careers Articles - Mary O Donnell

Internet

- Qualifax – www.qualifax.ie Irish courses database
- CAO – www.cao.ie Contains links to course websites
- Careersportal www.careersportal.ie
- www.gotocollege.ie
- College websites (Addresses in CAO Handbook)

People

- Relatives
- Past pupils
- Admissions/Academic staff of colleges

Guidance Counsellor

- Interest Inventories / Guidance interviews
- Access to sources of information
- Appointments for parents

CAO – General Info.

- Centralised application system for Irish 3rd level institutions, including some **fee-paying** colleges.
- Every 6th year should now have a CAO Application Pack which includes:
  – 2019 CAO Handbook – application and course information

- Application Dates and Fees

Paper Application/ online	Fee	Payment Method
Before 20th January	€30	laser/credit card or bank draft
Paper/Online Application	Fee	Payment Method
Normal	€45	or Credit/Laser Card.
Change of Mind	No Fee	---

CAO – General Info.

- Since 2006 there are 3 types of courses students can apply for under the Nat. Qualifications Framework.
- These are applied for on 2 separate lists on a single form:

<table>
<tr><td>**Level 6 & 7 Courses**</td><td>**Level 8 Courses**</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ordinary Degrees (7)
Higher Certificates (6)</td><td>Honours Degrees (8)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Up to 10 Course Choices</td><td>Up to 10 Course Choices</td></tr>
</table>

- The courses are clearly labelled in the CAO Handbook
- N.B. – Care must be taken with courses marked 'Restricted'.
- These courses cannot be applied for after February 1st due to extra assessments required.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

These must be satisfied before "points" are considered.

Minimum Entry Requirements

E.g. UCD

- Pass 6 subjects
- At least H5 in two subjects and a minimum of O6 or H7 in four subjects
- Pass in:
  - Irish
  - English
  - Another Language (most courses)
  - Mathematics*
  - Science Subject*

Specific Subject Requirements

E.g.s

Engineering(UCD)

- H4 Maths

Veterinary Medicine(UCD)

- H5 Chemistry
- Journalism (DCU) H4 English

If all Entry Requirements are met → applicant is deemed 'Qualified' to apply.

H PAT test

- All applications for medicine are now considered to be restricted as students must sit the HPAT.
- Must apply for medicine on or before the 1st of February.
- Students apply to cao.ie and then directly to Acer to complete the
- The test takes place on the 24th of February in various locations around the country.
- Students must register before the 2Oth of January 2019 to do the test.

- Places in medicine are allocated on a combination of HPATand LC scores.
- Further information on the HPAT test on www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au
- Sample aptitude tests available online to help preparation.

POINTS SYSTEM

Generally in the CAO system
No. of qualified applicants **>** No. of course places
--> selection system is needed.
Selection system used in Irish 3rd Level Colleges is

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 Honours Mathematics. (Students who obtain a H6 or better)
- Points for foundation level maths will be awarded by certain institutions. Check college websites or prospectuses for details.
- Entry Requirements can be satisfied over more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate.

POINTS ALLOCATION

LCVP Points 2019

Distinction 66

Merit 46

Pass 28 -

LC Points

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

Making an application

- Applications can be made online or by paper form – use one method only. (€10 charge if 2 applications sent)
- Always keep proof of sending application: online – print screen receipt, paper – obtain certificate of post.
- Form is very straight forward to fill out.
- www.cao.ie

VERY IMPORTANT

- Students must fill out both course lists in:

Genuine Order of Preference

- They should not put down courses on the basis of their predictions of next years cut off points or their own points scores.
- Why? – Look at how places are allocated.

Course Merit Lists

Science – UCD
100 places to be offered

Applicant Position	Points Score
1	560
2	535
3	525
4	520
5	510
6	510
7	505
8	500
9	490
--	--
--	--
15	455
16	445
17	440
18	435
19	420
20	410
21	405
--	--
--	--
98	340
99	335
100	**330**
101	325
102	315
103	310
104	305
105	295
--	--
--	--
182	265

← Last place to be filled

Course Cut Off Points = 330

Science – Maynooth
100 places to be offered

Applicant Position	Points Score
1	560
2	535
3	525
4	520
5	510
6	510
7	505
8	500
9	490
--	--
--	--
15	455
16	445
17	440
18	435
19	420
20	410
21	405
--	--
--	--
98	345
99	340
100	335
101	335
102	335
103	315
104	310
105	305
--	--
--	--
182	265

← Random Selection to be used

Course Cut Off Points = 335*

A Students Course Preferences - Example

1	2	3
AL020	GY004	CR105
600	560	595
595	535	595
590	525	590
580	520	580
**	**	**
**	**	**
**	**	**
**	**	**
**	**	**
495	485	475
480	480	475
470	475	470
465	465	465
460	460	460
460	455	460
460	445	460
455	440	455
455	435	455
450	420	450
450	410	445
450	405	440
450	405	435
445	405	430
435	400	430
**	**	**
**	**	**
**	**	**
280	325	280
275	315	275
275	310	275
270	305	270

All Lower Preference Courses Disappear From Students Preferences

Cut Off Points for Course

NO   NO   YES   YES   NO   YES   NO   YES   YES   YES

ROUND 2

Column 1

1
AL020
600
595
590
580
**
**
**
**
**
495
480
470
465
460
460
460
455
455
450
450
450
450
445
435
**
**
**
**
280
275
275

7 round one places not accepted

← Last place to be filled - Round 1

← Last place to be filled - Round 2

Round 2 cut off points - 455

Column 2

2
GY004
560
535
525
520
**
**
**
**
**
485
480
475
465
460
455
445
440
435
420
410
405
405
405
400
**
**
**
**
325
315
310

3 round one places not accepted

← Last place to be filled – Round 1

← Last place to be filled - Round 2

Round 2 cut off points - 460

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

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

Dream Courses

Realistic Courses

Banker Courses

Places Allocation

Note:.

- The exact same procedure takes place for both lists on the form, hence students may get 2 offers in August – one from each list, a student may accept only one.

- 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.

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 – check details carefully.

- Change of Mind facility becomes available – use sparingly and carefully.

- 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.

CAO TIMETABLE 2018/2019 ENTRY

- **5th November 2018 CAO Online facility opens.**
- **20th January 2019 apply by this date to avail of discounted rate of €30.**
- **1st February, 2019**
  - Closing date for receipt of normal applications
- **Before/By 15th February, 2019**
  - Receive Statement of Course Choices contact CAO if you don't receive by this date.
- **1st May, 2019**
  - Closing date for receipt of late applications
- **Before/By 31st May, 2019**
  - Receive Statement of Application Record
- **From early May, 2019**
  - Change of mind forms may be sent.
- **1st July, 2019** Latest date for receipt of change of mind form in CAO.
- **Mid August, 2019**
  - First round of offers will commence.

Access schemes

- Two schemes HEAR and DARE.
- The HEAR scheme is an admissions scheme for school leavers from socio economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Applicants eligible for the scheme may gain entry to college on less than the full CAO points. All applicants must however meet college and course entry
- requirements.

The HEAR SCHEME

- DCU, DIT,NUIG, NUIM,TCD,UCD,UCC,UL,National College of Ireland,Colaiste Mhuire Marino,Church of Ireland college of Education, Mary Immaculate, Mater Dei,St Angela's Sligo, St Pat's Drumcondra.

- Each applicant is assessed in relation to

  six indicators.Each applicant must meet three of the indicators in order to be elgible.

The Hear scheme the six indicators

- Receipt of Social welfare
- Deis school
- Medical card
- Geographical Area
- Low income
- Socio economic grouping (Employment and occupation status)

The Dare scheme

- The Disability Access route to education is a supplementary admissions route for school leavers with disabilities which operates on a reduced points scheme.

- Colleges in the scheme, Athlone IT, Cork IT,DCU,DIT, Mater Dei, National college of Ireland, NUI Galway, NUi Maynooth, Trinity, NUI Dublin, NUI Cork, UL, IT Tralee and GMIT.

Dare scheme

- What disabilities are eligible?
- Aspergers syndrome
- ADD
- Blind/Vision impaired
- Deaf/Hearing impaired
- Neurological conditions
- Physical illness/ disability
- Specific learning disability(Dyslexia)
- Long term illness
- Other illness
- Further information on both schemes at www.accesscollege.ie
- Assessment must be less than three years old in most cases.

Common mistakes according to the CAO office!

- Students forgetting to tick box saying they are doing LC in 2019.(Cao will not offer place without LC results)
- Students who don't satisfy college entry requirements.

- Statement of course choice not checked and mistakes not noticed until it is too late.(August)
- Too few CAO choices.
- Not understanding what order of preference actually means.
- Not applying to the Hear/Dare schemes by February 1st.(No late application system)

Finance

- The maintenance grant is means tested.
- All new student applications will be made online to SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) through their website www.studentfinance.ie
- Eligibility depends on family income and number of full time students in family.
- Students should apply to before the 31st of August.

- Further information or to check eligibility at www.studentfinance.ie
- Scholarships both academic and sporting available from most colleges check out individual college websites or prospectuses.
- Students who are not eligible for a Grant the cost of keeping a student in college per month is approx 1,115 euro. (DCU student affairs)
- The student Registration charge is 3000 euro subject to change over time. Students who are eligible for a Grant do not pay the above charge.

Other Options

- PLC courses in colleges of Further Education.
- A separate application form for each college.
- Prospective students are interviewed.
- Students can transfer from PLC courses in to certain level 6,7 and 8 courses in ITs and Universities.(Most courses require 5 distinctions in Fetac exams= 400 points)
- Further information on www.cao.ie or individual college website.

- Apprenticeships
- Gardai and Army.
- Colleges in UK www.ucas.com
- Private fee paying colleges.
- www.picktourism.ie

UCAS studying in the UK

- Good option if student hasn't the requirements here. (Hons Gaeilge for primary school teaching)
- Fees range from 3,000 pounds to 9K per year
- Medical/Paramedical courses subsidised by NHS
- No Fees in Scotland entry requirements usually higher than elsewhere in UK.
- Closing date 15th January.
- Further information check out www.ucas.com

Final Word what can we do to help?

- Allow/ Encourage the dream
- Facilitate Research
- Inform yourself
- Support and Encourage
- Praise
- Encourage short study breaks to improve concentration
- Leaving Cert is similar to a marathon very important that the student is at their peak in June.
- Ultimately decisions are student's own allow them to take responsibility.