



# **Borrisokane Community College 2019**

**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.
- Career 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 applicant's 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 – 2019/2020
- Start Your Career journey Here Brian Mooney
- CAO Handbook 2020
  
- 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](http://www.qualifax.ie) Irish courses database
- CAO – [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) Contains links to course websites
- Careersportal [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
- [www.gotocollege.ie](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> level institutions, including some **fee-paying** colleges.
- Every 6<sup>th</sup> year should now have a CAO Application Pack which includes:
  - 2019 CAO Handbook – application and course information
- Application Dates and Fees

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

# 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:

## Level 6 & 7 Courses

Ordinary Degrees (7) Higher Certificates (6)
Up to 10 Course Choices

## Level 8 Courses

Honours Degrees (8)
Up to 10 Course Choices

- 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**

# HPAT 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 1<sup>st</sup> of February.
- Students apply to cao.ie and then directly to Acer to complete the
- The test takes place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February in various locations around the country.
- Students must register before the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 to do the test.
- Places in medicine are allocated on a combination of HPAT and LC scores.
- Further information on the HPAT test on [www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2020

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](http://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.

**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

**Course Cut Off Points = 330**

# Course Merit Lists

**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

**Course Cut Off Points = 335\***

← Last place to be filled

← Random Selection to be used

# A Students Course Preferences - Example

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

**NO**

**NO**

**YES**

**YES**

**NO**

**YES**

**NO**

**YES**

**YES**

**YES**

All Lower Preference Courses Disappear From Students Preferences

Students Points Total = 445

Cut Off Points for Course

1
AL020
600
595
590
580
**
**
**
**
**
<b>495</b>
480
470
465
460
460
460
<b>455</b>
455
450
450
450
<b>445</b>
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

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

# ROUND 2


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?



<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>



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

## 2019/2020 ENTRY

- **5th November 2019 CAO Online facility opens.**
- **20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 apply by this date to avail of discounted rate of €30**
- **1<sup>st</sup> February, 2020**
  - Closing date for receipt of normal applications
- **Before/By 15th February, 2020**
  - Receive Statement of Course Choices contact CAO if you don't receive by this date.
- **1st May, 2020**
  - Closing date for receipt of late applications
- **Before/By 31st May, 2020**
  - Receive Statement of Application Record
- **From early May, 2020**
  - Change of mind forms may be sent.
- **1st July, 2020** Latest date for receipt of change of mind form in CAO.
- **Mid August, 2020**
  - 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

- Some of the participants are, DCU, DIT, NUIG, Athlone IT, GMIT, CIT, LIT, Technological University Dublin, 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 eligible.

# 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.
- Some of the Colleges in the scheme, Athlone IT, Cork IT, DCU, Mater Dei, National college of Ireland, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, Trinity, NUI Dublin, NUI Cork, UL, Technological University Dublin City Campus, GMIT, Carlow IT, Tralee IT, LIT, Mary Immaculate, St Angela's Sligo.

# 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](http://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 2020.(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 1<sup>st</sup>.(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](http://www.studentfinance.ie)
- Eligibility depends on family income and number of full time students in family.
- Students should apply to before the 31<sup>st</sup> of August.
- Further information or to check eligibility at [www.studentfinance.ie](http://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](http://www.cao.ie) or individual college website.
- Apprenticeships
- Gardai and Army.
- Colleges in UK [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- Private fee paying colleges.
- [www.picktourism.ie](http://www.picktourism.ie)

# UCAS studying in the UK

- Good option if student hasn't the requirements here. (Hons Gaelge 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 15<sup>th</sup> January.
- Further information check out [www.ucas.com](http://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.