Future Options & CAO Information Evening

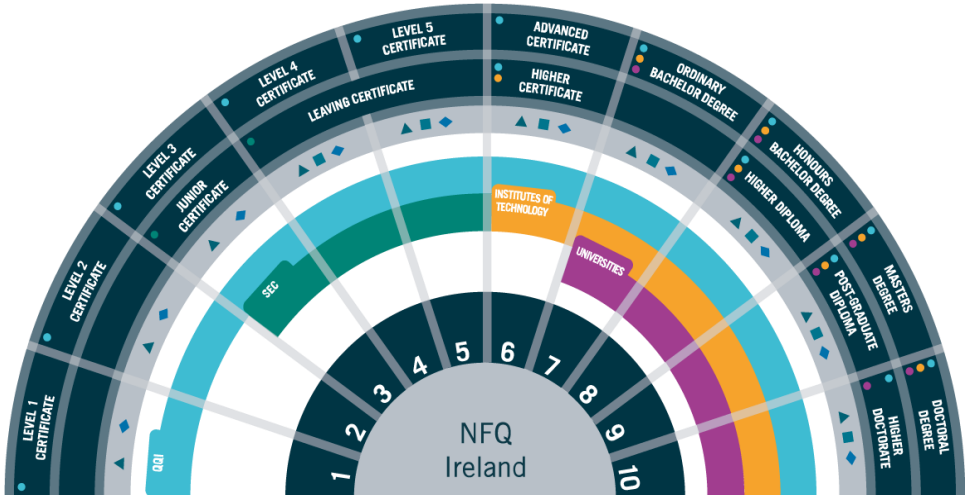
Leaving Certificate Students 2024/25

Aim for this Evening:

- What is CAO?
- What are CAO Requirements?
- Importance of Researching Courses
- CAO application, key dates & offer stage
- HEAR & DARE access route to college
- SUSI grant & Scholarships
- Alternative Options to CAO

What is CAO?

(Central Applications Office)



- CAO processes Irish college applications (incl. fee paying colleges)
- Students can complete 2 choice lists (level 6/7 ordinary degrees & level 8 honours degrees)
- Students can apply for up to 10 level 6/7 courses & 10 level 8 courses
- It is possible to receive an offer from both lists

https://careersportal.ie/school/cao_courses.php

CAO Requirements

Minimum Entry Requirements:

- Level 8: typically: 2x H5 & 4x O6/H7*
- Level 7: 5xO6/H7
- (incl. maths, Eng, Irish &/Or 3rd lang.*)

Subject Specific Requirements:

Example:

- Primary teaching Mary I **Irish = H4;**
- Sport & Exercise Science UL **Science = O3/H7**;
- Mathematical Science UG M**aths = H5/O1**

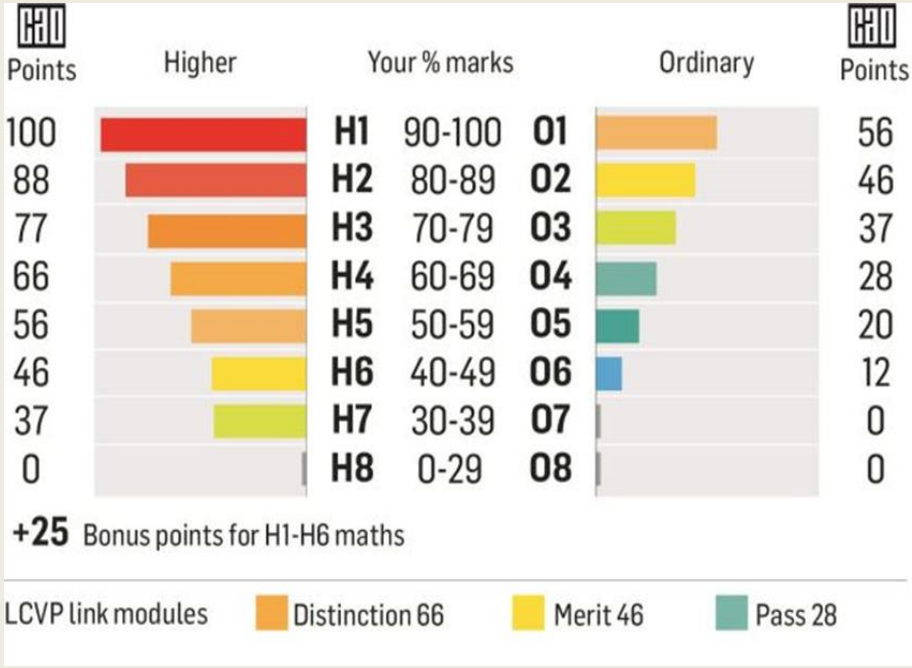
Points Requirement:

- Total points from Students' best six subjects
- (*bonus maths)

*****Additional Requirement:**

- Certain courses are Restricted-Application Courses
- They have early assessment procedures
- (must apply by 1st Feb)
- E.g. HPAT; Art portfolio; Interview
- Check cao.ie

How points are calculated



NB Research is crucial (rash decisions re subjects/ levels can be costly)

https://cc.careersportal.ie/courses/calculator/pointsCalculator.html#/

RESEARCH!
Make an **Informed** *Decision*

Don’t assume knowledge of a course by its title!
Don’t choose a course / college based on friend’s choices!
Research the modules across the 3 / 4 year degree
Are there work experience or year abroad options?
How will you be examined (group work / lab/ presentations)?
Get the college prospectus / Check college websites
Go to the Open / Taster Days
Consider the subjects you enjoy and excel in
Talk to students and friends who have completed the course
Discuss it with Guidance Counsellor

Use college websites to research modules

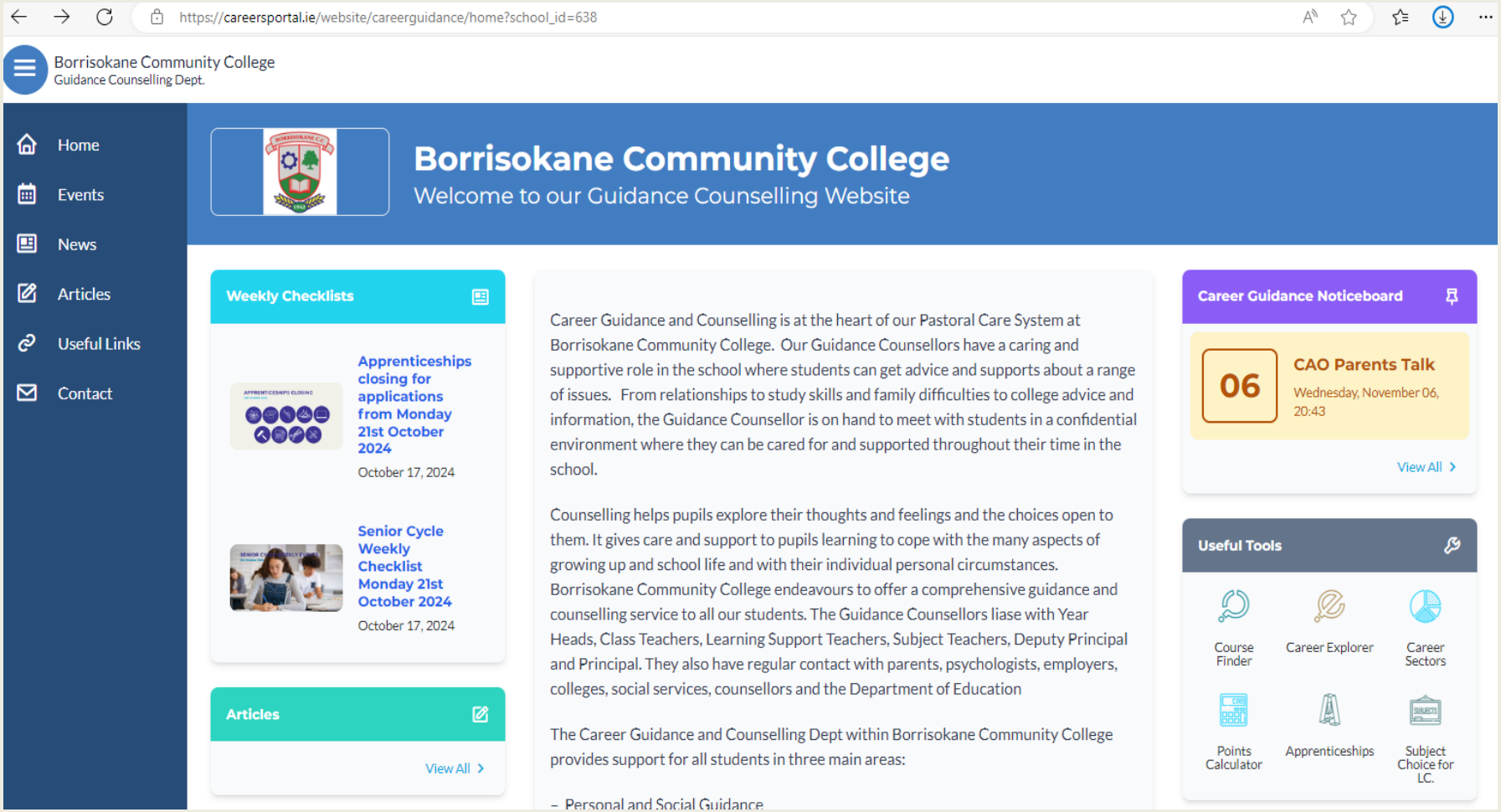
Year 1

CODE	SEMESTER 1	CODE	SEMESTER 2
NM4131	Shared Module: Promoting Safety within a Healthcare Context	CP4171	Practice Placement 1
NM4121	Shared Module: Foundations for Engaged Learning	NM4092	Shared Module: Introduction to Health and Health Promotion
NM4091	Philosophies Underpinning Person Centred Nursing	NM4181	Person Centred Medical Nursing
NM4141	Fundamentals of Nursing Practice	NM4152	Shared Module: Biological Sciences applied to Nursing & Midwifery 2
NM4151	Shared Module: Biological Sciences applied to Nursing & Midwifery 1	PS4062	Shared Module: Introduction to Psychology applied to Nursing and Midwifery
NM4161	Shared Module: Communication and interpersonal Relationships in Nursing & Midwifery		

Module list per semester: Nursing in UL (LM 150)

Visit the Book of Modules page and type the module code to access a detailed description of credit weighting, learning outcomes, form of assessment etc.

https://bookofmodules.ul.ie/Default.aspx

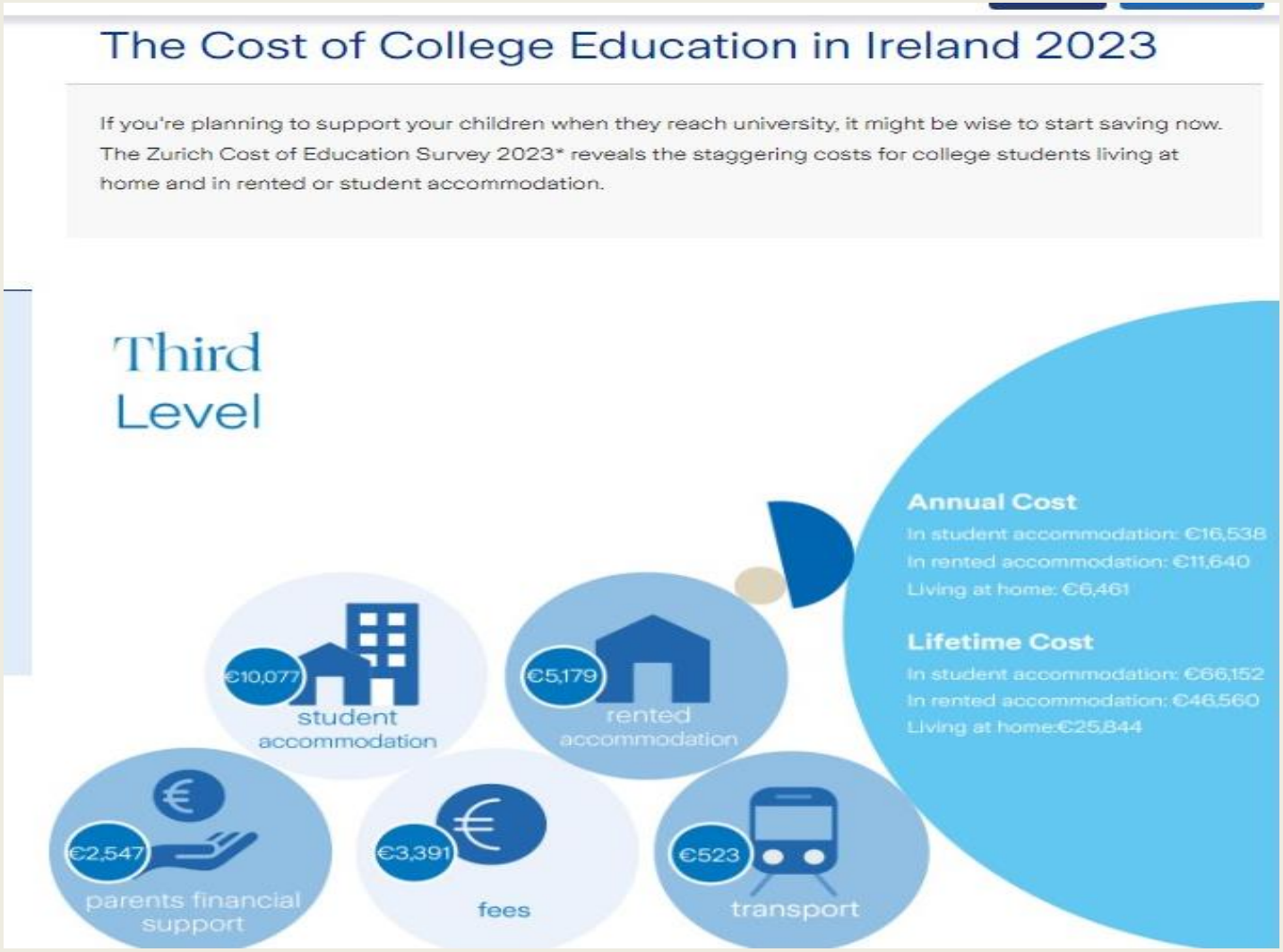


Be Informed
https://www.borrisokanecc.ie/

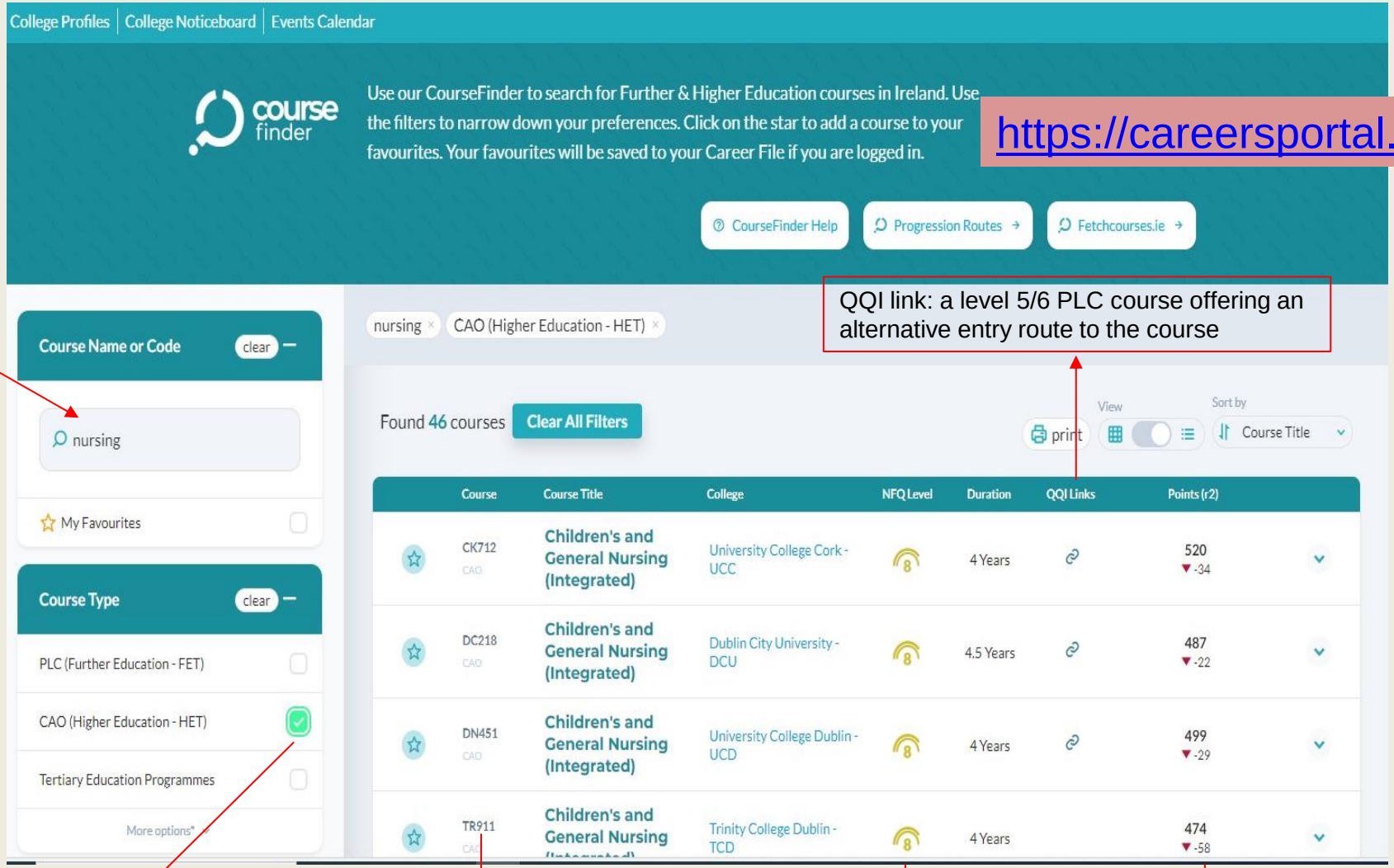
Keep checking our school Careers webpage for regular updates on open days & deadlines

Why Research is Crucial

Zurich Cost of Education Survey 2023



- Cost of college
- Cost of repeating



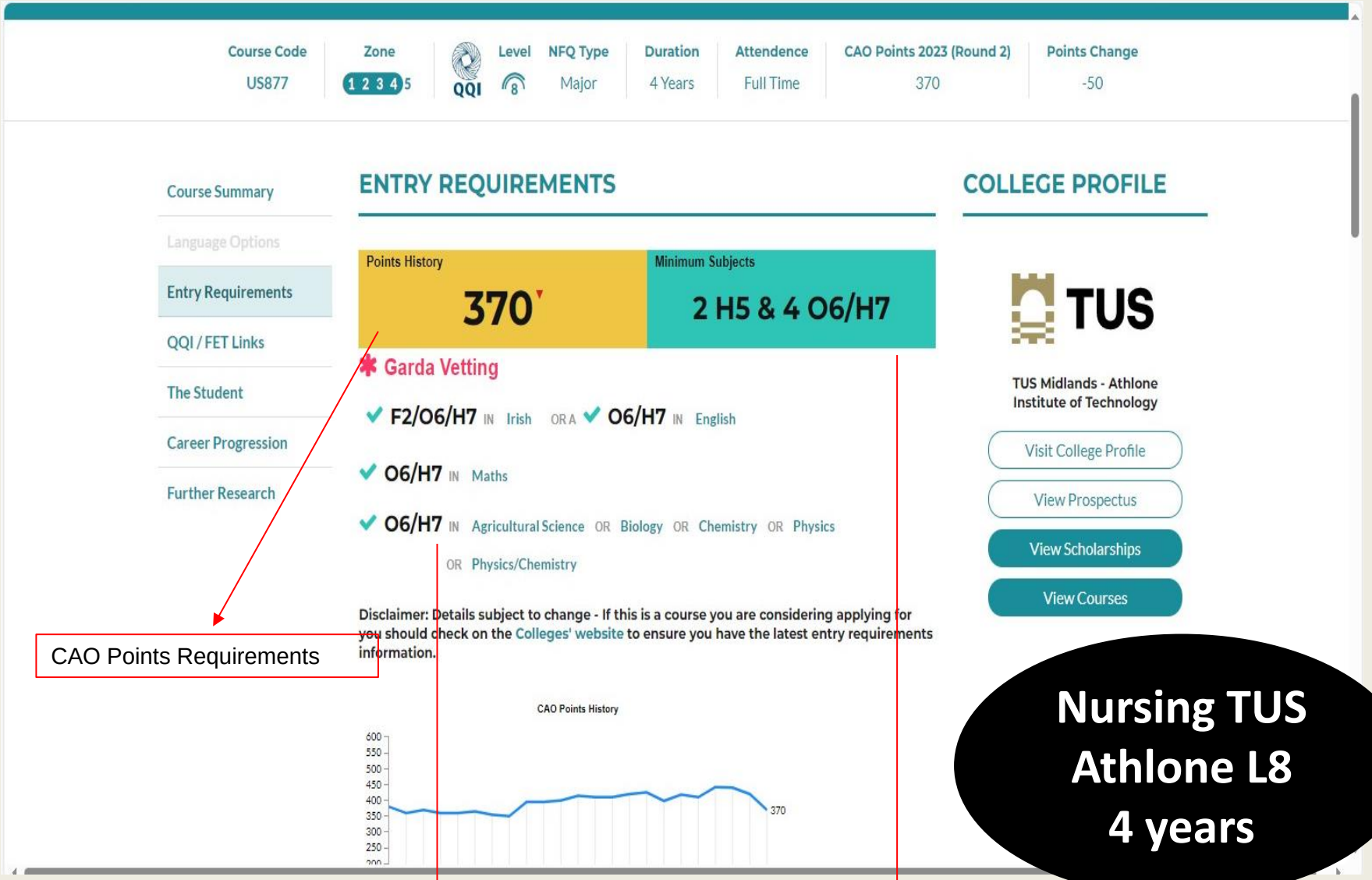
QQI link: a level 5/6 PLC course offering an alternative entry route to the course

Narrows search to type of course provider

CAO Course Code

NFQ Level of Degree

CAO Points & indication of increase/ decrease from previous year



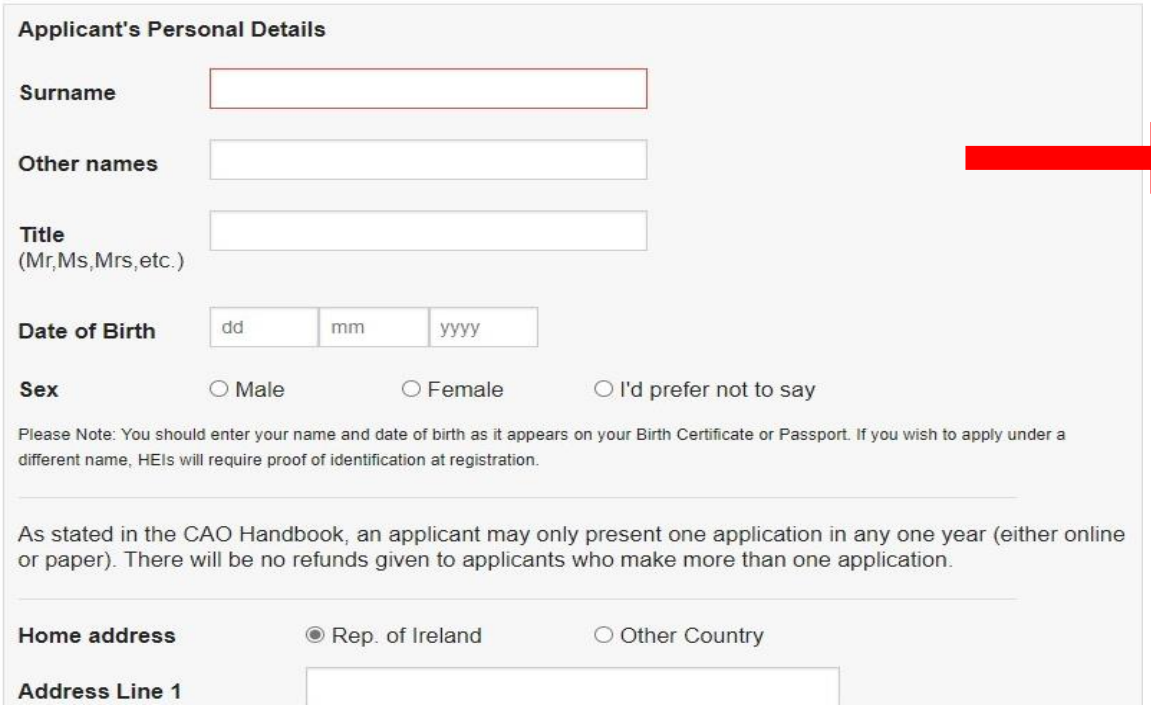
CAO Points Requirements

Subject Specific Requirements

Minimum Entry Requirements

Nursing TUS Athlone L8 4 years

Making an Application



Applicant's Personal Details

Surname

Other names

Title
(Mr,Ms,Mrs,etc.)

Date of Birth dd mm yyyy

Sex ○ Male ○ Female ○ I'd prefer not to say

Please Note: You should enter your name and date of birth as it appears on your Birth Certificate or Passport. If you wish to apply under a different name, HEIs will require proof of identification at registration.

As stated in the CAO Handbook, an applicant may only present one application in any one year (either online or paper). There will be no refunds given to applicants who make more than one application.

Home address ◉ Rep. of Ireland ○ Other Country

Address Line 1

CAO online application facility opened on 5th November at 12:00 noon

****Spring is a busy period for LC students – mocks, orals, practical/ projects so try to get an account open before Christmas**

- Applications are made online via www.cao.ie
- Students receive their CAO number after paying their fee.
- Always keep proof of application: print screen receipt
- Indicate Leaving Cert. student
- Students must fill out course lists in:

  Genuine Order of Preference
- It is a mistake to put down courses on the basis of points predictions

A personalised CAO Handbook is available. Users can search courses & read handbook instructions & save to their phone

https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=demo

CAO closing Date and Fees

	Fee	Closing Date
Normal Closing Date	**€45**	**1st Feb 2024 (5pm)**
Discounted Application Date	**€30**	**20th Jan 2024 (5pm)**
Change of Mind Facility 6th May 2024 12pm	**Free**	**1st July 2024 (5pm)**

Change the order of choices or introduce/ delete courses
** **Does NOT include restricted entry**

Be Responsible: Check emails sent to all applicants before end of May & confirm details

Central Applications Office (link to CAO important dates)

Offers

How offers are issued

Example:

The applicant's leaving Certificate results are released to CAO.

CAO checks if the applicant meets the minimum entry requirements for each of their chosen courses.

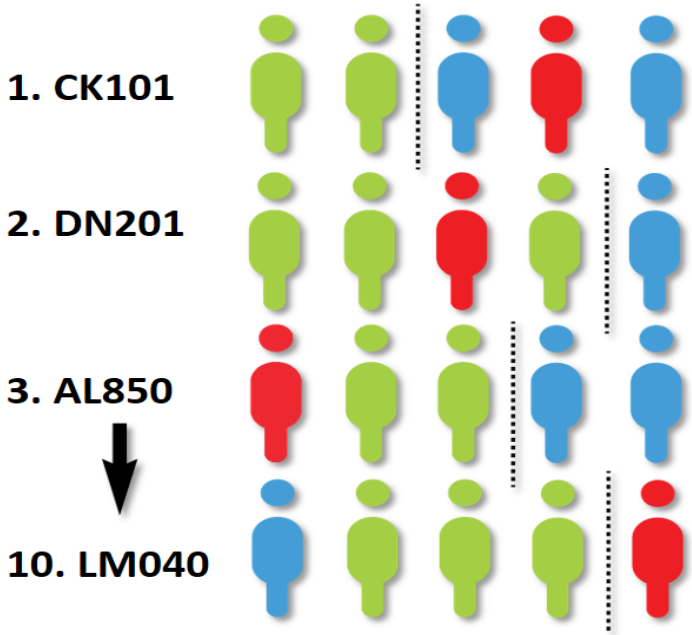
CAO calculates a points score for all of the courses that the applicant is eligible for.

The applicant is placed on a list for each of their eligible courses. Their position on the list is determined by their points score relative to the other eligible applicants for that course. The list is commonly referred to as the 'Order of Merit list'.

The colleges instruct CAO to make X number of offers for each course.

The offers are issued to applicants based on their position on the list. The applicant with the highest points score will be offered the first place, the second highest will be offered the second place, and so on until all places have been offered.

When applicants decline/ defer offers this results in subsequent places becoming available in the next round of offers in order of merit



EXAMPLE
– HEIs issue R1 offers

- The applicants marked in GREEN have enough points to be offered places.
- The applicant marked in RED has enough points for her second preference.

- Red applicant got 486 points
- Their number 1 choice CK101 was 488 points
- Their number 2 choice DN201 was 470 points
- Their number 3 choice AL850 was 477 points
- *Red applicant got offered their number 2 choice therefore they can not be offered number 3 - 10.*
- *They **MAY** get offered number 1 in a later round.*

Approximate outline of Offer Stage
*Dates to be Confirmed

Round 1: Offer made 4 days following LC results

→ **Accept Round 1 within 6 days**

Round 2: Offers made 1 week later

→ **Accept Round 2 offer within 2 days**

Subsequent rounds: Aimed at filling any remaining vacancies

→ To accept offer, follow instructions carefully and reply within deadline

Students can defer for most courses. Do not accept offer. Contact college and follow their instructions.

→ **NOT A GOOD TIME FOR STUDENTS TO BE AWAY ON HOLIDAYS!**

Access Routes to Education: HEAR/DARE

- **HEAR** (Higher Education Access Route) a college and university access scheme which offers places on reduced points to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds
- **DARE** (Disability Access Route to Education) offers reduced points places to school leavers who as a result of having a disability have experienced educational challenges in second level education
- Indicate on CAO form; online forms completed by March 1st & supporting documentation posted to CAO by March 15th

HEAR

https://accesscollege.ie/hear/

(HEAR Application Information Session 2025 will take place in January keep an eye on the website)

- Each HEAR applicant is assessed in relation to six indicators (criteria)
- Each applicant must meet at least 3 of the indicators (certain combinations allowed)

Indicator 1: Income

Indicator 2: Medical/GP Card

Indicator 3: Social Welfare

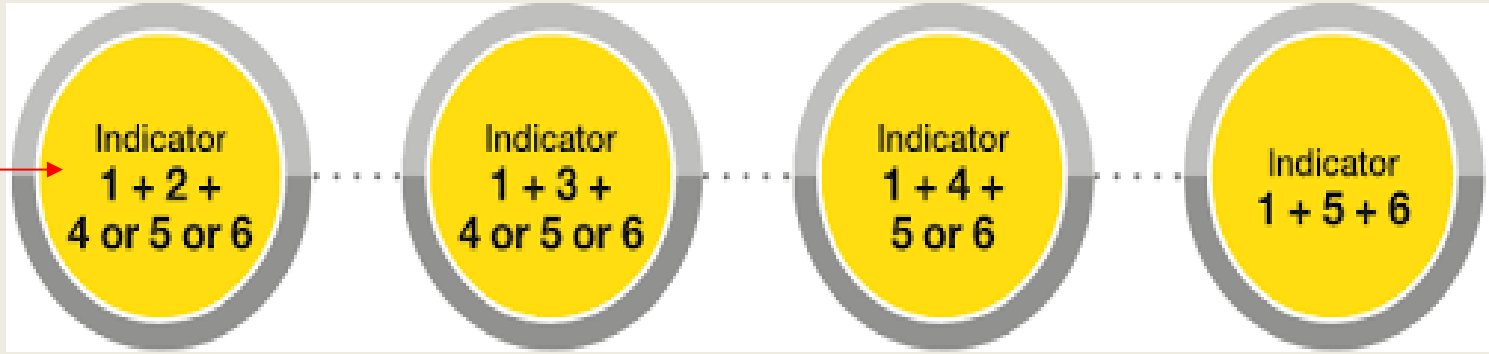
Indicator 4: Socio Economic Group (Employment & occupation status)

Indicator 5: DEIS school

Indicator 6: Area Profile – concentrated disadvantage

Use www.pobal.ie to check

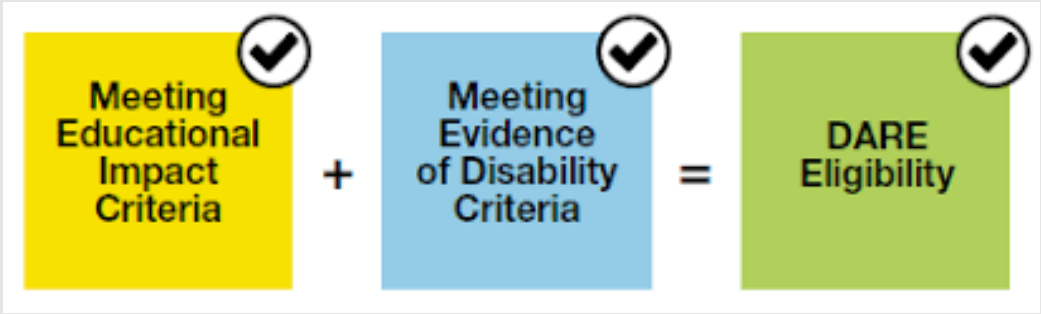
Combinations for eligibility are:



DARE: What disabilities are eligible?
https://accesscollege.ie/dare/
(DARE Application Information Session 2025 will take place January – keep an eye on accesscollege.ie for webinar dates.).

- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder including/Asperger's syndrome
- Blind/Vision impaired
- Deaf/Hearing impaired
- Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) –Dyspraxia
- Mental Health conditions
- Neurological conditions (incl. Brain injury, epilepsy)
- Speech and Language Communication Disorder
- Significant on-going illness
- Physical disability
- Specific learning difficulty (incl. Dyslexia

DARE DISABILITY ACCESS ROUTE TO EDUCATION



DARE Eligibility

- ✓ **Section A:** Personal Statement

  experience of being in school and the challenges you faced

- ✓ **Section B:** Educational Impact Statement completed by school

  school to provide detail of how your disability has impacted on your second level experience

- ✓ **Section C:** Evidence of Disability Form

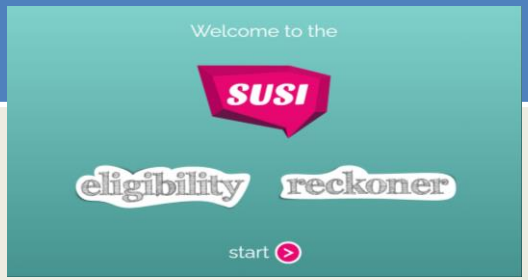
  completed by approved Medical Consultant/Specialist/GP

SUSI Grant

Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) is the single awarding authority for all grant applications www.susi.ie

Generally opens in April

Can complete Grant Eligibility Reckoner as a guide



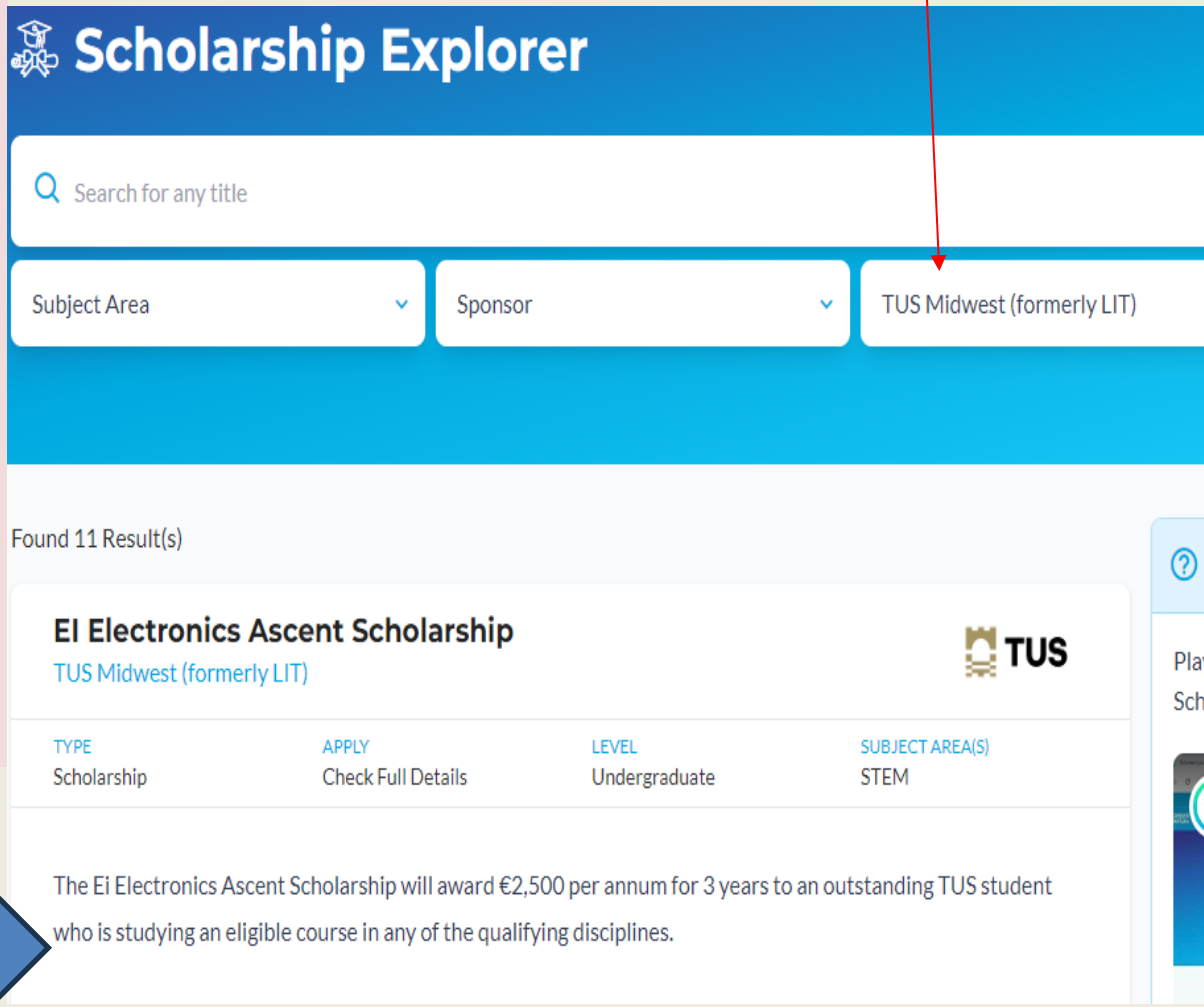
Criteria:

- ✓ Nationality
- ✓ Residency
- ✓ Income
- ✓ Previous Education & Progression
- ✓ Approved Course in Approved Institution

Scholarships

- Entrance
- All-Ireland
- Sports
- Performing/Creative Arts
- Active Citizenship
- Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Academic
- Subject Specific : studying in a particular sector e.g. *Accounting*, Science, *Engineering*, Languages

Enter your college of interest under the 'Sponsor' section to identify Scholarships and criteria



Use careersportal to check scholarships available in colleges of interest

https://careersportal.ie/scholarships/index.php

Other Options

UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) – colleges in the UK. Closing date 6pm 31st January 2024 (***MEDICINE, VETERINARY MEDICINE/SCIENCE, AND DENTISTRY = MID OCTOBER)*

EUNICAS (European Universities Central Application Support Service) – colleges in Europe (study through English).

Post Leaving Certificate, obtain FETAC (QQI) level 5/6 qualification with which student can reapply through the CAO system (alternative to repeating the Leaving Certificate). Links to Universities and TU's. Note: Some courses require specific grades for entry purposes e.g. Nursing.

Some Universities & TU's offer a **Special Maths exam** (students who missed a maths requirement)

Army, Navy, Air corps more info at: www.military.ie

- Huge expansion of apprenticeships in recent years
- Possible to do apprenticeships in areas such as Construction, Electrical, Engineering, Finance, Motor, IT, Accountancy and Hospitality.
- Information available on www.apprenticeship.ie and www.careersportal.ie
- On the job and college training (earn & learn!).

Further Considerations…

FEES: Student Registration fee: €3000. (if receiving the full grant students don't pay this). If a student drops out they may be liable for fees; check cut-off dates with individual colleges. Tuition fee paid by the government (will only be paid for each college year once – not for repeating a year)

ACCOMMODATION: Keep abreast of individual accommodation circumstances through their websites (lottery system/ online booking etc.)

Deferral: All the colleges & universities have different policies regarding deferrals and most expect a specific reason. If you received a CAO offer & decide to defer, do not accept the offer. Contact the College Admissions mark "DEFERRED ENTRY" clearly in the email. If you have successfully deferred & want to take your place, you will need to apply for the course through the CAO again the following year. You will need to put down your deferred course as your first and only choice; additional entries will forfeit your place and enter you back into the CAO lottery.

Thank you for listening

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