



Ardee Community School

# 6TH YEAR CAREER INFORMATION HANDOUT 2020/2021

Ardee Community School

Guidance Counsellors

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# AGENDA

- Applicants' Responsibilities
- General points regarding the CAO
- Entry Requirements and the Points System
- Making an application
- How places are allocated by CAO
- Other Options



# CAO

## Central Applications Office

Centralised application system for 44 3<sup>rd</sup> level institutions, including 5 fee-paying colleges.

- 2021 CAO Handbook – contains application and course information
- How do you apply? 2 ways
  - a) Online at [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) or
  - b) by application form and posting it into

CAO

- Applying online is preferable and encouraged by CAO

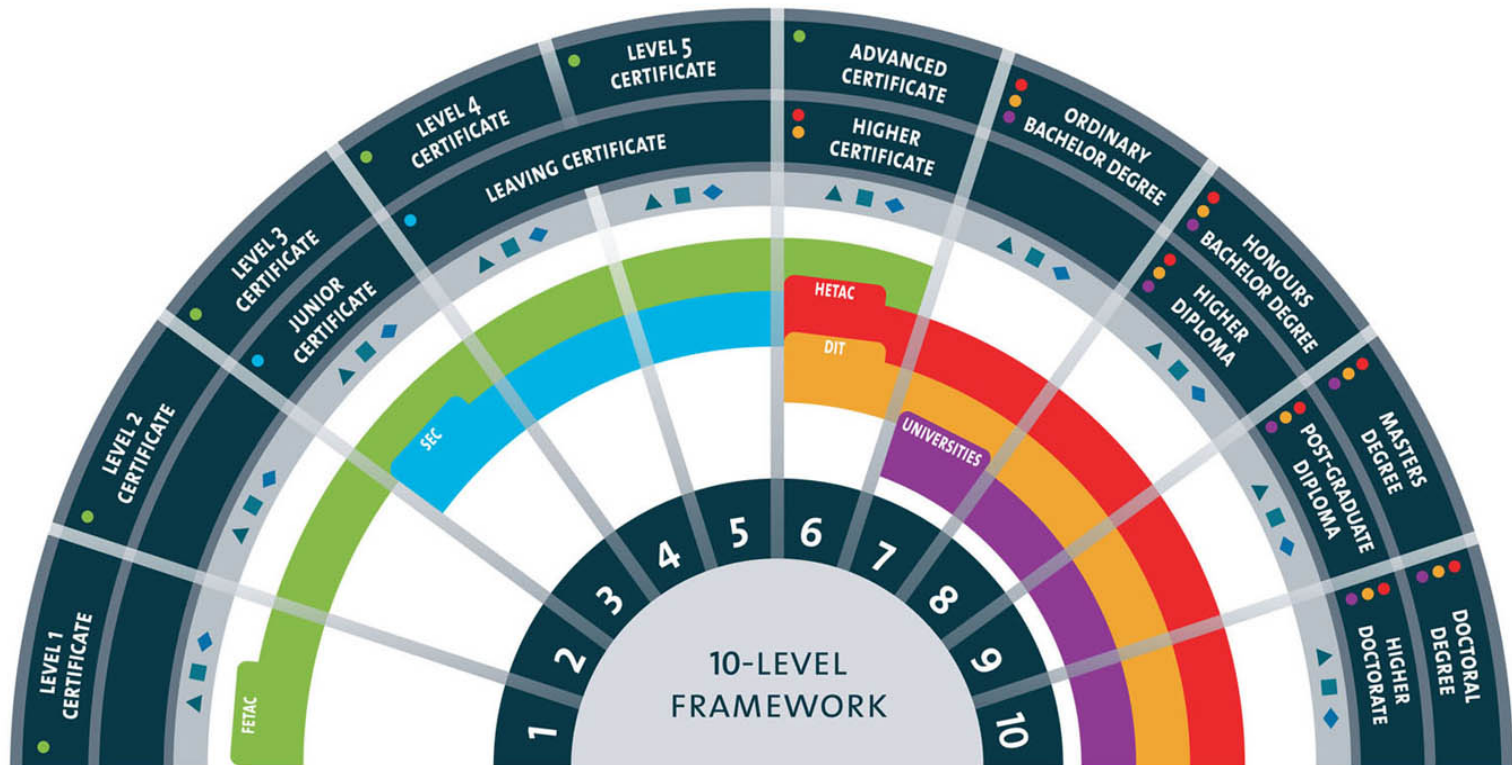


# **IT IS THE APPLICANTS RESPONSIBILITY TO:**

- **Research thoroughly all the courses for which they are making an application.**
- **Be familiar with all aspects of the CAO application system; procedures, dates, fees, rules, etc.**



# The National Framework of Qualifications



# WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS AFTER THE LEAVING CERT?

- **Higher Education: (Level 6, 7 or 8 on NFQ)**
- **Further Education : Post Leaving Certificate Course (Level 5 on NFQ)**
- **Apprenticeship – Carpentry, Electrician, Plumber (Level 6 on NFQ)**
- **Join the Army, Garda Siochana, Bus Eireann**
- **Deferring a place**
- **Gain Employment**
- **Travel**



# CAO – GENERAL INFO.

- Three levels of courses applied for on 2 separate lists, through CAO:

## 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 course levels are clearly labelled in the CAO Handbook
- It is possible then to receive an offer from both lists



# RESTRICTED COURSES

- Some courses will be marked as restricted (#)
- These courses have the one restricted deadline for application ~ February 1<sup>st</sup>
- Courses such as music /art / some sports/ medical courses /design/architecture courses are all usually restricted and students may be required to attend interview or audition or to hand in portfolio as an extra entry procedure





# IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- CAO online application facility opens 5 November at 12 noon
- Discounted application fee (€30) available up to 20 January 2021
- Normal closing date for applications (€45) is 1<sup>st</sup> February @ 5.15 pm
- Closing date for **restricted entry** courses e.g. Art courses, Drama courses, some Film courses.... also 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021
- Change of mind facility becomes available on **5<sup>th</sup> May until July 1<sup>st</sup> @ 5.15pm**



# POINTS SYSTEM

Course points may change each year depending on supply and demand

## 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 Grade H6 or higher if among the student's six best subjects
- Entry Requirements can be satisfied over more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate



# THE NEW COMMON POINTS SCALE

Higher Level Grade	Points	Ordinary Level 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

A non-linear *Common Points Scale* was introduced to minimise the need for random selection (as a result of the reduction in grade bands).

Link Modules	Distinction	66
Link Modules	Merit	46
Link Modules	Pass	28



# COLLEGE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Your son/daughter needs to satisfy 3 criteria in order to secure his place on a degree course.

- 1. Basic Entry Requirements for each college**
- 2. Course Specific entry requirements**
- 3. Meet the designated points requirement for that year**



# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

THESE MUST BE SATISFIED BEFORE “POINTS” ARE CONSIDERED.

## Minimum Entry Requirements E.g. UCD

- Pass 6 subjects
- At least 2 H5 & 4 O6/H7 grades
- Pass in
  - ✓ *Irish*
  - ✓ *English*
  - ✓ *Mathematics\**
  - ✓ *Another Language\**
  - ✓ *Science Subject\**

## Specific Subject Requirements

E.g.


### Engineering(UCD)

- H4 Maths
- *Veterinary Medicine(UCD)*
- H5 Chemistry
- *Law with French Law(UCD)*
- H3 French


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



# POINTS

- If your child meets the eligibility criteria for the course(s) the CAO then calculates their points score.
  - The student is placed on a list in order of merit for each course that they are eligible for e.g. if your child has the highest points score he/she goes to the top of the list and the student with the second-highest points score goes second on the list, and so on.
  - The college instructs CAO on how many offers to make for each course. If your child was in 20th position for a chosen course, and the institution instructs CAO to offer 25 places, then your child will receive an offer of a place on that course (unless they have received an offer of a course higher up on their preference list).
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# HOW CAO PLACES ARE ALLOCATED

- Students are offered the highest of their course preferences for which they are eligible.
- It is really important for applicants to realise that they will be offered the single highest preference course on each list that they are deemed eligible for and have the required points.
- Applicants cannot be offered a lower preference course if they receive an offer of a course higher up on their preference 

## 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

**NO**

**NO**

**YES**

All Lower Preference Courses Disappear From Students CAO application

**Students Points Total = 445**

**Cut Off Points for Course**





# MAKING AN APPLICATION

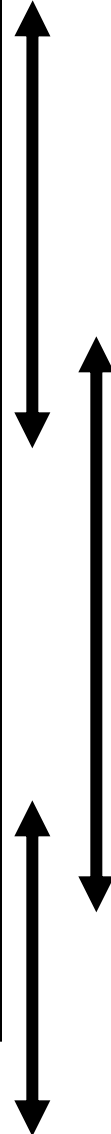
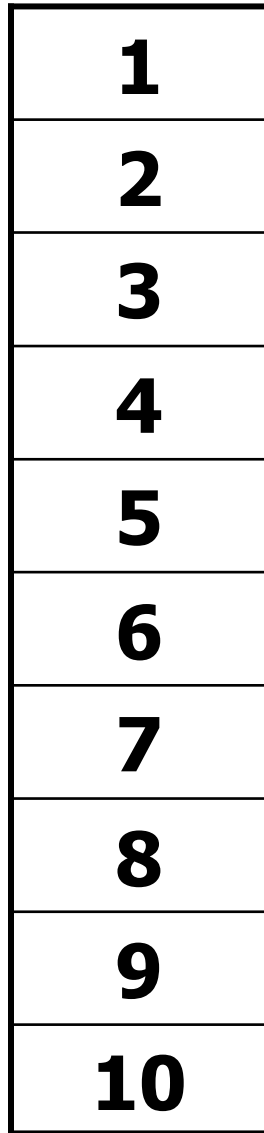
- Applications can be made online at [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)  
Always keep proof of sending application:
- Form is very straight forward to fill out.
- **\*\*VERY IMPORTANT\*\***
- Students must fill out both course lists in:

## **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.



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



Dream Courses

Realistic Courses

Banker Courses



# PLACES ALLOCATION

- The position of a course in a student's preference order does not in any way affect their chance of getting a place on that course.
- The exact same procedure takes place for both lists on the form, hence students may get 2 offers in August – one from L6/7 list and one from L8 list - may accept only one.
- 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 one.



# **COLLEGE ACCESS SCHEMES**

- **HEAR - Higher Education Access Route**
- **DARE – Disability Access Route to Education**



- **Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)**

- [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)

- **Indicators:**

- Income
- Medical/GP visit card
- Means tested social welfare
- Socio-economic group
- DEIS school attendance
- Area profile



# HEAR INCOME THRESHOLD

You must have a low family income to be eligible for HEAR. For the purposes of HEAR a low family income is determined by:

- How many children are in your family;
- How many people in your family are in full time education;

Use the information in the table to estimate if your total family income is below the HEAR Income Threshold.

A dependent child is a child under the age of 16 years on 1 October 2016, or over 16 years and attending a full time educational institution or medically certified as permanently unfit for work.

Number of dependent children in your family	Hear Income Limit
Less than 4	€45,790
4-7	€50,325
More than 8	€54,630

Add €4,670 to the total income for every sibling/parent enrolled in a full time college, university or post leaving certificate further education course.



# HEAR - HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS ROUTE

[www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)

- Entry to your course on reduced points
- Orientation Programme
- Extra tuition if required, study skills, exam prep
- One to one meetings with student advisors
- Social gatherings/mentoring
- Extra financial assistance when available/advice regarding grants and scholarships



- **Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)**
- **[www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)**
- Aspergers Syndrome/Autism
- ADD/ADHD
- Blind/Vision impaired
- Deaf/Hearing impaired
- DCD- Dyspraxia / Dysgraphia
- Mental Health Conditions
- Neurological Conditions (incl. Brain Injury, Speech and Language Disabilities)
- Significant Ongoing Illness
- Physical Disability
- Specific Learning Difficulty (incl. Dyslexia and Dycalculia)





# HEAR AND DARE SCHEMES

- [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)
- For both HEAR and DARE, students must apply to CAO by **1<sup>st</sup> February 2021**
- All supporting documents must reach CAO by **15<sup>th</sup> March 2021**
- For DARE applicants, you must disclose your disability and/or SLD in your CAO application and fully and correctly complete section A of the Supplementary Information Form (part of the CAO application) by **1<sup>st</sup> March 2021**
- For HEAR applicants, complete all elements of the HEAR application form by **1<sup>st</sup> March 2021**
- Guidance Teachers will be assisting students with DARE forms. HEAR forms are more straightforward and will be completed



# CAO/HIGHER EDUCATION

Common errors...

- Putting down today's date rather than your Date of Birth!
- Forgetting to tick the box for Leaving Cert 2021
- 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!
- **Not putting your courses down in genuine order of preference!**



# **FURTHER EDUCATION COURSES (FETAC) LEVEL 5**

- Full time courses – Dundalk (OFI) and Drogheda (DIFE)
- Very practical – include work experience
- They have no points requirements and are mainly based on interview
- Wide range of courses
- They can be:
  - A qualification in their own right
  - Can be used as a stepping stone to Higher Education
  - An extra year to mature



# POST LEAVING CERTIFICATE COURSES

## How to apply

- Students apply online to the college/institute's own website
- Its free to apply and students can put down 3 choices
- Students can apply to PLC courses and to the CAO without compromising either application



# APPRENTICESHIPS

- Find an employer who will take on a apprentice
- Register with FAS/SOLAS
- A mixture of

On the job training with the employer  
and training in a training centre/college

ESB apprenticeships advertised in Feb usually each year

- Army apprenticeships – e.g. fitter, armourer apprentice
- Heavy Vehicle Mechanic



# CAREERSPORTAL.IE > PARENTS GUIDE

Parents Guide

What is a Career Anyway?

Parents as Career Coach

School Guidance

Career Development Guide

Knowing your Child

Career - Which direction?

What Subjects to Take

Exam Stress - Help for Parents

New LC Points Scale 2017

LC Results - Whats Next?

Options after School

Applying to College

Supported Routes to College

In College - Wrong Course!

## Grants & Scholarships

A study conducted by the Irish League of Credit Unions found that nine out of ten parents support their child through third-level education, contributing an average of €428 a month. When tuition and registration fees are added into the mix, it brings the average cost of going to college in Ireland to almost €10,000 a year. Around 20% of students drop out of college, often due to financial pressure, yet, only one-third of students are eligible for the full **SUSI student maintenance grant**.

See: *3rd Level Education Costs Survey & What's Left Tracker* [here](#)

When you consider the high cost of going to college, it's well worth taking a look at the opportunities available to supplement those costs in some way.

In this area, you will find useful information on **Student Finance**, **Disability and Financial Support**, and **Scholarships and Award Schemes**.

It may surprise you to discover that there are over 300 scholarships and bursaries available in third level institutions across Ireland with a wide variety of criteria for eligibility. These can range from entrance scholarships for exceptional academic results, to supports for sports excellence, or talent in particular subject areas such as music or the arts and many, many more.

It is well worth taking the time to investigate the options. explore the menu on this page.

## In The News...

- [60 jobs with new food court at Dundrum Town Centre](#)  
November 28, 2016
- [150 New Jobs for Dublin with COSMO](#)  
November 25, 2016
- [Weekly Jobs and Career News November 25th](#)  
November 25, 2016
- [New Report Launched on STEM Education Review](#)  
November 24, 2016
- [National Ambulance Service is hiring for ICO driver roles](#)  
November 22, 2016

[>> View more...](#)

Parents Guide:  
After the Leaving Cert...

WHAT NEXT?



Points Calculator



# **PARENTS/GUARDIANS CAN HELP BY ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO.....**

- **Keep all their options open**
- **Be pro-active in their career research**
- **Plan for by registering early and attend this years virtual college open days & careers evening**



# IN CONCLUSION....

- Final date for application to CAO if students have not availed of the early deadline is Feb 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:15pm
- Change of mind opens on 5<sup>th</sup> of May, new courses may be entered then (except restricted courses)
- Apply to individual colleges for PLCs
- Register with [publicjobs.ie](http://publicjobs.ie) for Gardaí, Fire Service, Civil Service
- Register with Solas for starting an apprenticeship





# AND FINALLY

- Don't panic – there are many different routes to achieve your goal
- But do take **RESPONSIBILITY** and **RESEARCH** your choices fully
- Ask if you need help
- Act **NOW** to ensure you make informed choices



# RESOURCES

## Publications

- College Prospectuses – 2021 Entry
- CAO Handbook 2021 Entry

## 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
- Careers websites – [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)

## College Open Days

- dates available under Career Events on [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)





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# CONTACT DETAILS

- **School Phone Number:**  
**(041) 685 3557**
- **e-mail contacts**
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