

SPCGS Guidance Department



Pathways for after the Leaving Certificate 2026

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Tips for 6th Year

Use **SPCGS journal** for Home Learning / revision after **each class**



- Write in **Home Learning**
- **Schedule your weekly revision** – to help you to keep on track!
- Write in **class test** reminders
- Write in **important dates** of Leaving Certificate deadlines

After school routine every afternoon – plan time effectively



- Establish a **habit** e.g. *afterschool study/getting started upon arrival home*
- **Use your SPCGS journal** to tick homelearning & planned revision
- Build in **revision for each subject weekly** – *don't just study for class tests!*
- Work in/around your **other time commitments** e.g. *sport, music etc*

Sleep, nutrition, water, movement, fresh air



- **Wind down** before sleep – *important not to work late into evenings.*
- **Get off devices an hour before bed** – *read, watch a show (on TV, not phone!)*
- Make sure you're getting enough **water** throughout the day.
- **Cut-out caffeinated energy drinks**, if necessary caffeine via coffee is healthier
- **Move your body** – *a walk in fresh air, online classes, gym, sport etc*

Create revision **check-lists** & make/add to your **notes**



- Go through your **class notes**
- Use **Showbie** to check your folders & resources
- Cross-check with your **textbook**

Use **past exams questions** and familiarise yourself with **marking schemes**



- Get familiar with **phrasing**
- Pay attention to **marks allocated**
- Become familiar with **sequences/sections** and required answers
- Always correct with **marking schemes** – *add phrases to notes!*

Use resources on **Showbie**



- Check for helpful resources
- Monitor updates
- Engage with revision activities

Tool

Management/ Guidance and staff

Subject department teacher

Whole School

- Senior Management/ Guidance and staff
- Subject department teacher
- SEN team support



Qualifications Explained

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) operates the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

This allows learners to note where their qualifications are located on the framework. Qualifications can be 'recognised' in other countries frameworks as well as qualifications from abroad recognised here.



Junior Cycle

The Junior Certificate Examinations are Level 3

Senior Cycle

The Leaving Certificate spans Levels 4/5

National Learning Network

The NLN offer a wide variety of courses in their centres which include many courses awarded Level 2 – 5 certification.

Further Education College

Further Education courses may be Level 5 or 6, and be 1 or 2 years in duration. Some 'PLC' courses are recognised as 'QQI entry' for the CAO for Higher Education Institutes degree programmes.

Apprenticeships

There are a variety of apprenticeship programmes varying in QQI level (5 – 9) as well as duration.

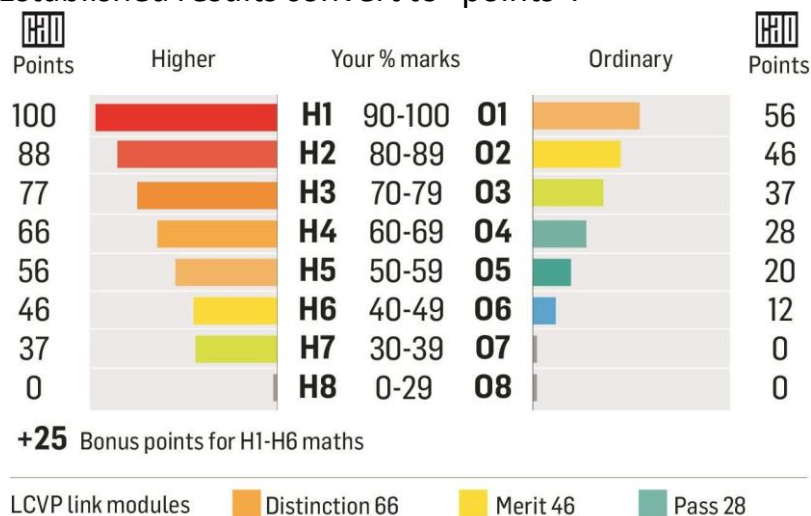
Higher Education Institute

Universities (including former 'Institutes of Technology') offer varying levels of undergraduate courses (*depending on the university*) varying from Level 6 – 8.

CAO

Central Applications Office www.cao.ie/

Leaving Certificate Established results convert to “points”.



Students are given a **place on the highest ranked course** that they meet the **points and eligibility** (*minimum entry requirements*) for.

How are course points determined?

Institute allocates set number of places to a course e.g. 50 places

The top scoring (e.g. 50) students who selected that course are given places.

The lowest score (i.e. the 50th student in) sets the point score.

**This causes changes to the points required each year*

CAO place allocation

Imagine you made the following selection 2026. . .

Rank	Course		*NEW 2026 Points	You will only be offered Maynooth as it was the 1st course you had enough points for. You cannot move down, even if you have the points !
1	MH 101	Aug 2026: You scored 490 points	310	
2	DN 530		440	
3	DC 009		360	
4	CK 101		300	
10	GY 101		336	

Ranking is the key to the course!

Rank courses on **what you want to do, not the points!**

**Some courses are random selection for drawn points*

You can only move up (in CAO Rounds) offers but never down.

Make sure you can get in - even if you get the points!

Check the **subject requirements**

Check the **grade** requirement

Check the **Gaeilge** and **Language** requirements.

Each institute has own exemption application which students are responsible for.

More than just points may be required!

Check if there are **additional entry requirements**

‘Restricted’ courses and others may have additional entry components

- HPAT
- Portfolio
- Performance
- Aptitude testing
- Interview

These **must be in Feb 1st CAO ranking.**

Remember you can always remove the course in later ‘Change of Mind’ but it may be too late to add it in later!

The image shows a screenshot of the CAO (Central Applications Office) website. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, My Application, Apply, Courses (highlighted with a yellow box), Handbook, and Contact. The main content area is titled 'Course Search (2026 courses)'. It features two search methods: 'Search by Institution' and 'Search by title/keyword'. The 'Search by title/keyword' section has a dropdown menu for 'All Courses', 'Non-Restricted', and 'Restricted' (which is selected and highlighted with a green box). A blue arrow points from this 'Restricted' filter to the 'Search Results' page below. The 'Search Results' page shows a list of restricted courses, including AD101, AD102, AD103, AD104, AD202, AD211, AD217, and CK104, each with a brief description and a link to the course page.

CAO Home My Application Apply **Courses** Handbook Contact

Monday, 3 November 2025 19:43 As Gaeilge

Contact a HEI
Applicant Resources
Downloads
Important Dates
Have a Question?
Mature Applicants
Access Routes
DARE / HEAR
QQI FET/FETAC
Entry to Medicine
Restrictions
Parents / Guardians
Guidance / Schools
Media and Statistics
Useful Links
Contact Us

Course Search (2026 courses)

Search by Institution
Select by Institution and click on Go:
[Dropdown Menu] Go

☐ AND ☒ OR

Search by title/keyword
Do not enter either "and" or "&" in your search. e.g. for "Hotel and Catering" enter "Hotel Catering".
Enter a search keyword and click on Go:
[Text Input] Go

☐ All words ☒ Any words
☐ by title only? Filter: ☒ All Courses ☐ Non-Restricted ☒ Restricted

CAO Home My Application Apply **Courses** Handbook Contact

Monday, 3 November 2025 19:43 As Gaeilge

Search Results
Showing all restricted courses
(Links to HEI web pages are provided where supplied)

- AD101 First Year Art and Design (Common Entry) [Portfolio] - Level 8 (Restricted) ●
- AD102 Graphic Design and Moving Image Design [Portfolio] - Level 8 (Restricted) ●
- AD103 Textile & Surface Design and Jewellery & Objects [Portfolio] - Level 8 (Restricted) ●
- AD104 Fine Art and Applied Art [Portfolio] - Level 8 (Restricted) ●
- AD202 Education and Art or Design (Second Level Teaching) [Portfolio] - Level 8 (Restricted) ●
- AD211 Fashion Design [Portfolio] - Level 8 (Restricted) ●
- AD217 Illustration [Portfolio] - Level 8 (Restricted) ●
- CK104 Arts - Music - 3 years or 4 years (BMus or Chinese/European/International Pathway) [Audition] - Level 8 (Restricted) ●

Dates for filling out CAO <https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=importantdates>

- **Register before 5pm 20th January** for reduced **€35**
 - Input as many course codes for Level 8 and Level 7/6 as currently interested in
 - Check 'restricted courses' list! (***must be in by 1st February**)
 - Check if applying for DARE/HEAR, and tick the box if doing so
- **CAO registration closes 5pm 1st February**
- Complete HEAR/DARE student form online = 1st March
- Post HEAR/DARE education/evidence posted = **10th March**
- Free change of mind opens 7th May
- **CAO system CLOSES 5pm 1st JULY**

2 course selection forms

Pick **10 for each** – please list the 10 always have options.

Offered top 1 from each section.

Use the course/institute webpages to:

- Check if level 6/7 link and follow on to Level 8
- Check whether courses allow **internal** and/or **external transfers** or 'advanced entry' from other institutes.

CAO Handbook

<https://www.cao.ie/handbook.php>

This resource can help you become more familiar with the CAO process.

It includes a helpful list of all courses available in each Higher Education Institute.

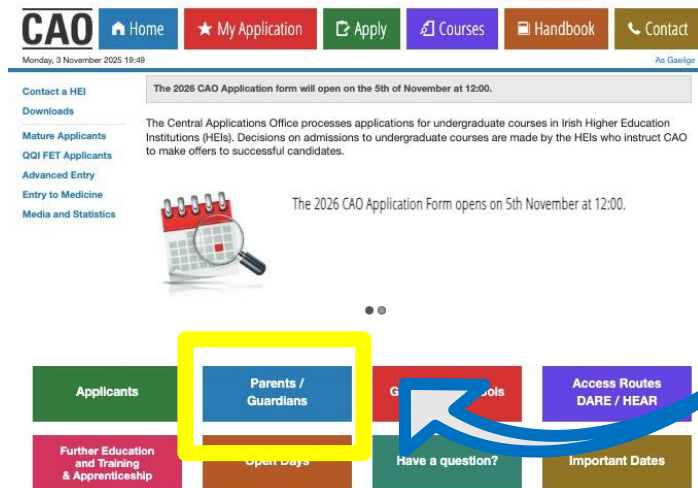
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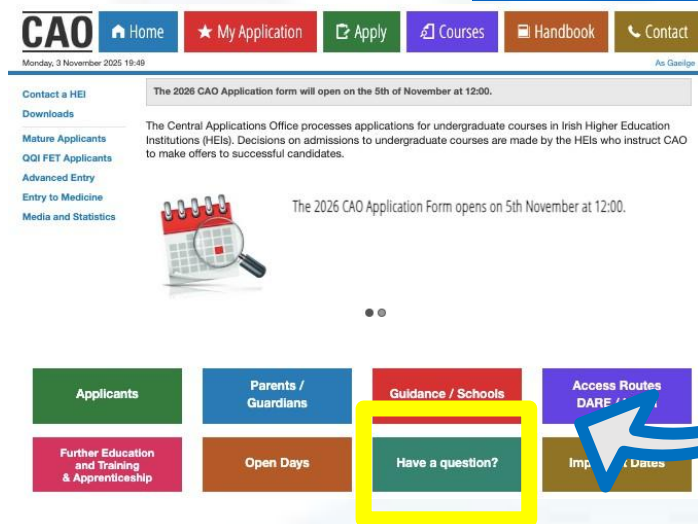
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Helpful supports

Parent/Guardian support available on the website: <https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=parents>

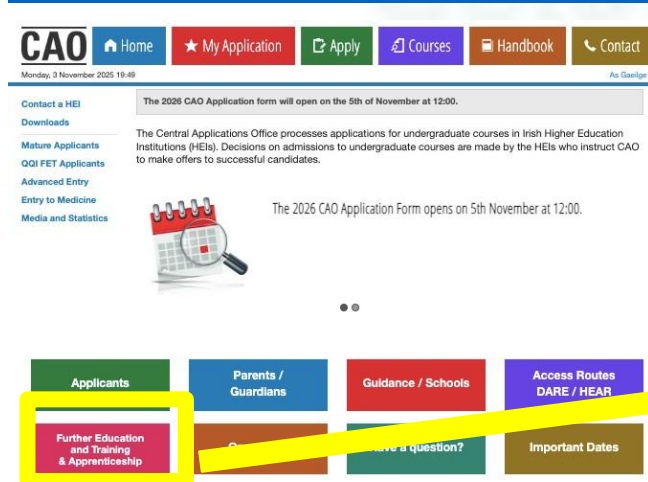


Question and answer section: <https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=haq>



Video guide

<https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=video&bb=studentresources>



Applicant Resources

All applicants must carefully read the CAO Handbook and take note of the important deadlines and any restrictions that may apply. Applicants must treat all correspondence from CAO as extremely important and notify CAO immediately through this website if there are any errors or omission recorded in application documents.

Advanced Entry Applicants	Further Education and Training & Apprenticeship
Alert Lists	GCE A/AS/GCSE Applicant Information
Applicant Checklist	Other School Leaving Applicants
Application Demo	Other Further Education Applicants
Applicant Scoring	Third Level Higher Education Applicants
CAO Handbook	Mature Applicants
CAO Video Guides	Map of HEIs
Courses Change of Mind	Points by Year
Order of Preference	Points Calculator
Entry to Medicine	QQI FET/FETAC Applicant Information
Exemptions	Restrictions
	Supporting Documents FAQ

Exemptions

If you are seeking an exemption from minimum entry requirements such as Irish (ROI applicants only) or a third language you must check the requirements and application for the universities you are applying to.

Some HEIs have language general entry/matriculation requirements. Before applying for any course it is important to check the minimum entry requirements on the HEI website and prospectus. If you do not meet these requirements and you believe you may be entitled to an exemption, you should make an application to the relevant body.

Language Exemptions

Some HEIs have language general entry/matriculation requirements. Before applying for any course it is important to check the minimum entry requirements on the HEI website and prospectus. If you do not meet these requirements and you believe you may be entitled to an exemption, you should make an application to the relevant body (see below).

Please note: if you have been granted an exemption from completing Irish at secondary school by the Department of Education, it will still be necessary to follow the steps outlined below in order to obtain an exemption from Higher Education Institution minimum entry requirements. A school exemption will not be sufficient.

How do I Apply for an exemption from minimum entry requirements?

How do I inform CAO of my exemptions from Minimum Entry Requirements (granted in current or a prior year)?

How do I check that my exemption is recorded on my CAO application?

I have been granted an NUI/TCD/UL exemption from minimum entry requirements, but it is not showing on my CAO Account?

Do I need to apply for an Irish exemption if I live outside the Republic of Ireland?

Please note: if you have been granted an exemption from completing Irish at secondary school by the Department of Education, it will still be necessary to follow the steps outlined below in order to obtain an exemption from Higher Education Institution minimum entry requirements. A school exemption will not be sufficient.

Please use CAO website to find out more about how, links and important dates:

<https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=exemptions&bb=studentresources>

NUI :

Maynooth University, University College Dublin, University College Cork, National University of Ireland Galway, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, National College of Art and Design, Dublin, Shannon College of Hotel Management, Institute of Public Administration, St Angela's College, Sligo, Burren College of Art, Institute of Banking.



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Trinity College Dublin (TCD)



University of Limerick

DARE and HEAR

Offers reduced points places to those who meet the eligibility requirements set out by the institution.

It is the responsibility of students to research & correctly complete application process.



<https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=hear&bb=accessroutes>

as well as video guides/webinars past & scheduled: <https://accesscollege.ie/hear/>

The **Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)** is an admissions route for school leavers who for **social, financial or cultural** reasons are **under-represented** in **third level education**.

HEAR applicants must achieve a criteria score based on meeting these criteria.

Criteria	Score	Where to find more info
1. Income (Mandatory)	All applicants to HEAR need to meet the low-income criteria (no score awarded)	See page 9 for information required on this criteria
2. Medical Card Medical card in date on December 31st 2025	Yes = 1 or No = 0	See page 16 for information required on this criteria
3. Means-Tested Social Welfare Benefits	Yes = 2 or No = 0	See page 23 for information required on this criteria
4. Area (Deprivation Index Score)	Extremely Disadvantaged = 2.5 Very Disadvantaged = 2.5 Applicants who experienced homelessness = 2.5 Disadvantaged = 1.5 Marginally Below Average or higher = 0	See page 14 for information required on this criteria
5. DEIS School Status	Yes = 1.5 or No = 0	See page 15 for information required on this criteria
Maximum Achievable Points	7	

Total HEAR Criteria Score	Eligibility
5.5 - 7	HEAR Priority (Applicant competes for HEAR-reduced points offers via CAO and is prioritised for offers)
2.5 - 5	HEAR Eligible but not HEAR priority status (Applicant competes for HEAR-reduced points offers via CAO)
2 or Lower	Not eligible for HEAR, but still considered for CAO offers.

Use the table to estimate if your family income is equal to or less than the HEAR income limit.

Number of dependent children* in your family	HEAR Income Limit
Fewer than 4	€46,790
4-7	€51,325
8 or more	€55,630

Add €4,785 to the total family/household income for every sibling/parent enrolled in a full time college, university or post leaving certificate course.

* A dependent includes:

- a sibling under the age of 16 years on October 1st 2025.
- a sibling over the age of 16 years on October 1st 2025 who is either:
 - attending post primary education.
 - attending a full time course in FET or higher education.
 - medically certified as permanently unfit for work.
- a parent attending a full time course in FET or higher education.

The **Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)** is a third level admissions scheme for school-leavers whose **disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education**.

What types of disabilities does DARE consider?

- » Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- » Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Asperger's Syndrome)
- » Blind/Vision Impaired
- » Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- » Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) – Dyspraxia
- » Dyscalculia/ Significant Numeracy Difficulties
- » Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties
- » Mental Health Condition
- » Neurological Condition (including Brain Injury and Epilepsy)
- » Physical Disability
- » Significant Ongoing Illness
- » Speech and Language Communication Disorder

Meeting DARE's Educational Impact criteria

Has your disability/condition impacted you in a combination of the following indicators:

- Have you received intervention or supports in post-primary school?
- Has it impacted on your attendance or regularly disrupted your school day?
- Has it affected your school experience and wellbeing?
- Has it impacted on your learning or exam results?
- Has it caused any other educational impact?
- **Required for applicants with Dyslexia/Significant Literacy Difficulties or Dyscalculia/Significant Numeracy Difficulties: is it severely impacting on your literacy or numeracy scores?**

Applicants with Dyslexia/Significant Literacy Difficulties or Dyscalculia/Significant Numeracy Difficulties must meet **Indicator 6 plus one other indicator**.

All other applicants must meet **any combination of two indicators from Indicators 1 to 5**.

Students must complete Microsoft Form here: <https://forms.office.com/e/82YM3YJBF3> (and on TEAMS Guidance page) by Wednesday 26th November if considering applying.

We require students to notify us by this date as the school co-ordinates with the Student Support team to complete background work that students will need for 'Section B' form that students will post themselves to arrive with the CAO by 10th March 2026.

Students have a lot of responsibility for completing their own DARE application:

Before CAO application closes on 1st February:

1. Students complete the Microsoft form on Showbiw or here by **Wednesday 26th November**: <https://forms.office.com/e/82YM3YJBF3>
2. Students will need to **gather their 'evidence' of their disability** by either sourcing their assessment report (**if applicable*) **or** contacting the appropriate professional to complete a 'Section C - Evidence of Disability Form' for the student ASAP – *as they may need to follow-up in the new year.*
3. Students will meet with the guidance department who will outline the support available in CCS for their application
4. Students must begin to **draft their 'personal statement' and send a draft to the guidance department before school closes for Christmas break.**
5. In the new year students will refine their **draft 'personal statement'** so they are **finished by the mock examinations at end of January.**

Before 1st March

6. Students must complete and save 'Section A' in their CAO application by 1st March 2026. This includes their own concise 'personal statement' from before the mocks.

Before 10th March

7. Students will receive a 'Section B - Educational Impact Statement Form' from Celbridge Community School in early March.
8. Students will also need to gather evidence of their disability. *It is the student's responsibility to check what type of evidence is required e.g. assessment report or 'Section C - Evidence of Disability Form'*
9. Students need to post their Section B stamped & signed form along with supporting documents to arrive with the CAO by 10th March 2026.

It is the responsibility of students to research & correctly complete application process.

SUSI Grant

SUSI is Ireland's national awarding authority for further and higher education grants.

They offer support to eligible students in approved, full-time courses at PLC, undergraduate and postgraduate levels and in some cases, to students studying outside Ireland.



Who can apply?

The criteria change each year. The SUSI grant has opened in April in previous years.

We advise students to check the SUSI website in when applications open so they can review the criteria and check with home if they meet them.

In 2025, the **undergraduate** criteria were for reckonable income under €115,000 (where students could apply for €500 Student Contribution) and had varying grants & supports available depending on circumstances.

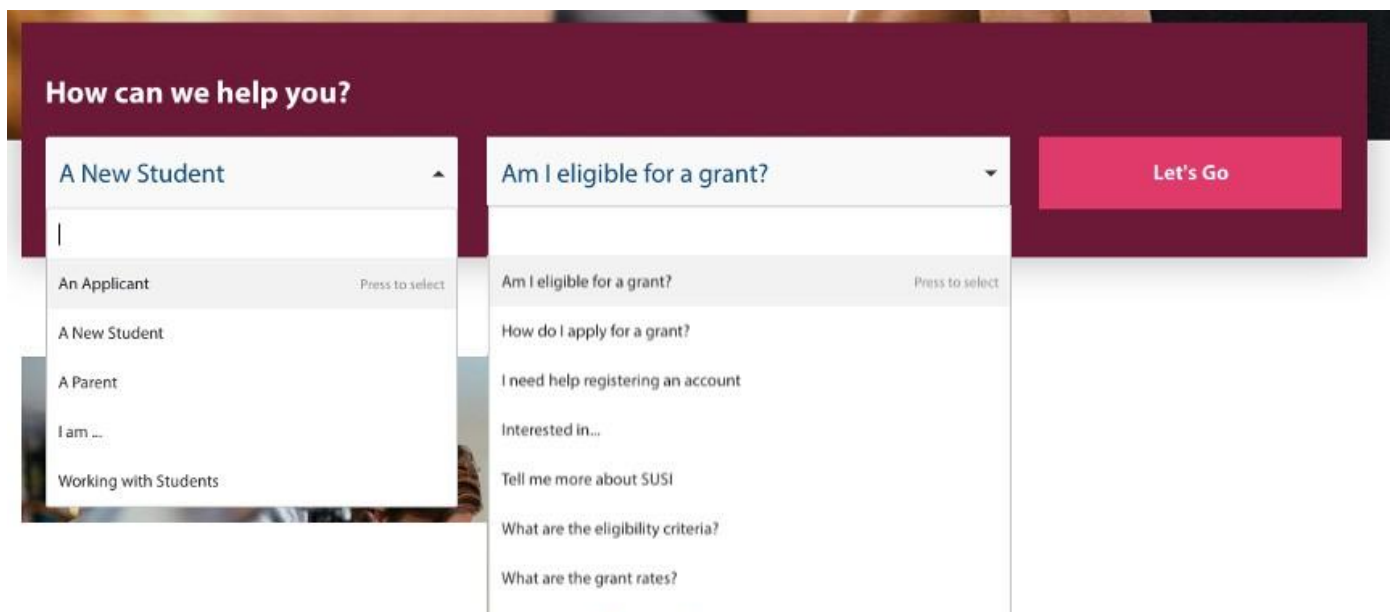
SUSI grants are also available for PLC courses and studying outside of the state – but have different thresholds and awards. All information is available on their website:

<https://www.susi.ie/>

Where can I find out more?

The SUSI website contains all the information for the application and grant process.

They have information sections for students as well as parent/guardians:



Further Education College / PLCs / QQI route

Further Education Colleges are part of Further Education & Training available in Ireland.

Their courses are often referred to as 'PLCs'.

Further Education Colleges operate within Education & Training Boards.

**Further
Education
& Training**

They offer almost 2,000 various QQI accredited courses in a variety of sectors.

Many courses are well regarded sector/niche courses where there are few/no university equivalents.

There are also a lot of emerging 'pre-university' and pre-apprenticeship' courses available.

Why choose a 'PLC'?

- Brilliant introduction to a sector/industry
- Excellent centres of learning in 3rd level
- Often sector specific, where there are limited University qualifications
- Alternative entry-route to Higher Education courses

How do I apply to a 'PLC'?

Each college operates their own admission entry, and many are opening in autumn.

There are online applications on their college websites and students can apply for several courses at once, and in several colleges. *Therefore, students can be offered a conditional place in several colleges, unlike the CAO university application process.*

How do I get a place?

Upon application, the college will contact the student to outline the admission process which may involve interview, reference, deposit etc.

Students are usually offered a provisional / conditional place during the academic year.

Places are often allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis – therefore we recommend applying ASAP to help alleviate any concern.

How do I go to university after my 'PLC'?

Each college has a guidance department who can assist students with applying.

Students apply on the CAO via the QQI route.

****Before applying students must check if their preferred university course accepts QQI applicants – this can be on their course website under 'entry' requirements or via the CAO website using the CAO university course code.****

CAO Home My Application Apply Courses Handbook Contact

Monday, 3 November 2025 20:20

Contact a HEI

The 2026 CAO Application form will open on the 5th of November at 12:00.

Downloads

Mature Applicants

QQI FET Applicants

Entry to Medicine

Media and Statistics

The 2026 CAO Application Form opens on 5th November at 12:00.

QQI FET/FETAC qualifications

Applicants presenting QQI FET/FETAC awards may find the following links useful.

Applicants

Parents / Guardians

Guidance

Further Education and Training & Apprenticeship

Open Days

Healthcare

QQI FET/FETAC Entry Requirements

Scoring Scheme for QQI FET/FETAC Qualifications

Information sheet 2022-2026 QQI FET and FETAC Applicants

Quota reserved for QQI FET/FETAC applicants on Nursing courses

Video guide for QQI FET/FETAC Applicants

2026 QQI FET/FETAC Requirements Look-up (CAO Courses only)

QQI FET/FETAC level 5/6 major awards are made up of a number of component awards. Different sets of components lead to different major awards.

The applicant must be getting a **FULL** major award. Some courses require a specific major award and/or a specific grade in specific components.

For information on the evaluation of QQI FET/FETAC qualifications, click [here](#).

QQI FET/FETAC requirements are provided where supplied. For HEIs not listed, you may wish to view 2025 entry requirements by clicking [here](#).

Enter a CAO course code and click on **Go**:

Course Code : **Go**

Select by Institution and click on **Go**:

Institution : **Go**

e.g. You searched for Maynooth University B.Sc. Sport Science & Health which has CAO code MH221

Course	Course Title	Level	Essential major awards	Essential component awards	Notes (info)
MH221	Sport Science and Health	8	CASLT 5M3807 5M5267	Five Distinctions. Must achieve one of the following: - Distinction in C20139 or 5N1833 or C20174 or C20175 or 5N0556 or 5N2066 or 5N18396 - Merit in 6N3395 - O4/H7 in LCE Maths	Qta/One/-

This allows you to check the major QQI awards accepted.
You can then use www.careersportal.ie to search for the course e.g. 5M3807

Courses Careers Apprenticeships Jobs Career Sectors Site Search

5M3807

by College here...

SEARCH COURSES

Course Name or Code clear

5M3807

Example: "ani" will find [animal](#) and [mechanical](#).

My Favourites

Career Sectors

Accountancy, Finance & Insurance

Agriculture, Animals & Food

Business, Sales & Tourism

Creative Arts, Fashion & Media

Found 69 courses **Clear All Filters**

View: ☐ ☐ ☐ Sort by: **Print**

Save	Course	Course Title	College	NPQ Level	Duration	QQI Links	Points
☐	5M3807 PLC	Agricultural Science	Tullamore Further Education Centre	5	1 Year	Link	☐
☐	5M3807 PLC	Agricultural Science - Pre-University	Dunboyne College of Further Education	5	1 Year	Link	☐
☐	5M3807 PLC	Animal Science (Laboratory Techniques) - Clash Road	Kerry College	5	38 Weeks	Link	☐
☐	5M3807 5M2768 PLC	Animal Science (Pre-University)	Dunboyne College of Further Education	5	1 Year	Link	☐

Tertiary Degrees

Tertiary Degrees are co-designed and co-delivered by the Education and Training Boards and Higher Education Institutions to provide seamless pathways from Further Education to Higher Education. <https://nto.heai.ie/courses/>

These are available to Leaving Certificate Established students or QQI Level 5 and are not via the CAO system, you must apply to the Further Education College.

Traineeships

Some companies/professions offer traineeships via employment and part-time Higher Education undergraduate qualifications.

An example of this is Quantity Surveying: <https://www.tudublin.ie/study/part-time/courses/quantity-surveying-construction-economics-pt/> and a company providing such an opportunity is SISK: <https://careers-johnsiskandson.icims.com/jobs/1877/ireland-trainee-quantity-surveyor-opportunities--dublin/job?mobile=true&width=375&height=634&bga=true&needsRedirect=false&jan1offset=0&jan1offset=60>

Many traineeships are developed and delivered by the Education and Training Boards (ETBs) working in partnership with industry representatives and employers. A Traineeship combines learning in the classroom and experience in the workplace to improve employment outcomes for participants and increase retention and productivity in the sector. Partner Employers provide work-based learning opportunities and collaborate with Education and Training Boards (ETBs) on existing and new programmes to identify skills gaps in different sectors and industries.

Over 75 programmes are available nationally in a range of industries with new Traineeships being developed on an ongoing basis by ETBs. You'll find a list of Traineeships:

<https://www.solas.ie/programmes/traineeship/>

- Lead to an award at NFQ Levels 4-6, or equivalent.
- Are between 6-20 months in duration.
- Include at least 30% of learning on-the-job.
- Combine transversal and technical skills development.
- Are designed for flexible delivery – online, face-to-face, blended learning.
- Provide open access to prospective trainees, unemployed people may be eligible for income support.
- Respond to an identified industry skills need.

Please Note: *Not all Traineeships will be available nationally at all times and elements of Traineeships may vary (in content, award, duration, etc). The website provides a general overview of Traineeships available, further information on programmes available in your area can be obtained from your local ETB.*

Apprenticeships

- There are **78** national apprenticeship programmes currently available, in many different industries, from international finance to construction, to engineering, to healthcare, to biopharma, to hospitality.
- Over **10,000** employers are currently employing over **29,000** apprentices in Ireland.
- To become an apprentice, you need to be hired by an employer for the duration of your apprenticeship. All apprenticeship employers are formally approved to employ apprentices.
- Apprentice jobs come up all year round; *many* apprenticeship jobs are advertised on our website and [can be found here >](#) as well on company websites.
- All national apprenticeships lead to a qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). Apprenticeships leading to awards at Levels 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 on the NFQ.
- Apprenticeships are between 2 and 4 years in duration, depending on the programme. [Click here](#) to find out more about the wide range of exciting apprenticeship opportunities available.

**Please note many apprenticeships are offered by small companies who are unable to keep adverts posted long due to large number of applications. Therefore, we advise researching local companies and directly contacting them enquiring about their apprenticeships.*



Students must find their own apprenticeship via an organisation programme or with an individual apprentice employer.

The website www.apprenticeship.ie lists each apprenticeship alongside key career information including FAQ, key skills, job brochure etc

Company Apprenticeships

Many organisations/companies have developed apprenticeship programmes, advertising their vacancies online. These apprenticeship programmes can be competitive with varied application procedures.

We recommend **researching the application process from a previous entry year and contacting the company to find out the specific opening date** for this year's competition!

Ireland offers close to 80 apprenticeships across 16 different sectors:

- Agriculture & Horticulture
- BioPharma
- Construction
- Electrical
- Engineering
- Finance
- Hairdressing
- Healthcare
- Hospitality & Food
- ICT
- Insurance
- Logistics
- Motor
- Property Services
- Recruitment
- Sales



[Full list here](#)

The Generation Apprenticeship website

www.apprenticeship.ie contains a lot of information on each of the apprenticeships available in Ireland.

Each apprenticeship tab contains information on:

- 'How to become an apprentice'
 - Brochure
 - Occupational Profile
 - Code of Practice
 - Further information / contacts
- FAQ
 - What work is done
 - Skills
 - How to become
 - How much you can earn etc

Higher Education providers e.g. TU Dublin

TU Dublin is one of the Higher Education providers involved in apprenticeship programmes. Given our close proximity to their campuses, finding out what is available may be helpful:

<https://www.tudublin.ie/study/apprenticeships/apprenticeship-courses/>

National Learning Network

The National Learning Network provide quality training courses, vocational training and employment opportunities.

The NLN offer specialised programmes that are QQI accredited and can be an excellent pathway for students who need support before moving to Further Education & Training and work.

Their courses are tailored to each student's needs, to help them to build their confidence while getting practical job-seeking skills to help students get a job or go on to further training.

<https://rehab.ie/national-learning-network/our-courses/>



National Learning Network

Address: Unit J4, Maynooth Business
Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
Tel: 01 651 0329
Email: kildare@nlm.ie

<https://rehab.ie/national-learning-network/centres/national-learning-network-maynooth/>

Address: 1st Floor, Naas Town
Centre, Naas, Kildare
Tel: 0459 88400
Email: kildare@nlm.ie

<https://rehab.ie/national-learning-network/centres/national-learning-network-naas/>

UCAS – Studying in the UK

Irish students can apply to University in the UK as students from the Republic of Ireland, not as EU students, for reduced fees.



How do I find a course?

Students should use the UCAS website <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate> to find courses of interest and check their location and application date (*October or January ***all students were directed to check in September.***)

How do I apply?

We advise all students to familiarise themselves with the UCAS application via the helpful website and guides: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-to-university>
Students must register with UCAS and set up an account for their application.

There are several parts of the application process:

- Personal Statement (<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-your-personal-statement>)
- Reference – *students need to ask a CCS teacher*
- Predicted grades – *students obtain these via their class guidance counsellor*

As students require predicted grades and a reference, **we ask students to complete the Microsoft form on Schoology or here: <https://forms.office.com/e/cBeHLbjPCK> by Wednesday November 26th** so students can get support for beginning their application in December and drafting a personal statement before Christmas.

How much is it?

While fees can be more expensive than Ireland, there are some maintenance grants and supports available.

More information on fees & supports is available at

<https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/third-level-education/studying-abroad/>

****Department of Health Northern Ireland funded courses:****

The Department of Health in Northern Ireland provides funding on a number of courses. More information is available at:

<https://www.ulster.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/full-time-fees/funded-courses>



Department of
Health
www.health-ni.gov.uk

and <https://www.qub.ac.uk/Study/Feesandfinance/doh-funded-courses/>

Studying in Europe (*in English)

EU citizens are entitled to study at EU universities under the same conditions as nationals.

However, conditions of entry vary significantly between individual countries and universities.



How do I find out more?

There are many companies and organisations online with information but we advise using the European Union websites to find out more such as those below:

https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/education/university/index_en.htm

and https://youth.europa.eu/go-abroad/studying/studying-abroad-ireland_en

How much is it?

University fees in Europe vary considerably - while in some EU countries admission to higher education is free, in others university can be rather expensive.

EU financial support in the form of scholarships, grants and loans also depends on different criteria.

There is also information about supports from Ireland available:

SUSI grant: <https://www.susi.ie/eligibility-criteria/income/outside-the-state-income-thresholds-and-grant-award-rates/>

Citizens information: <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/third-level-education/studying-abroad/>

Help with applying:

EUNICAS is an independent European University application support service that facilitates UK and Irish students who are looking to study in Europe: <https://www.eunicas.ie/>



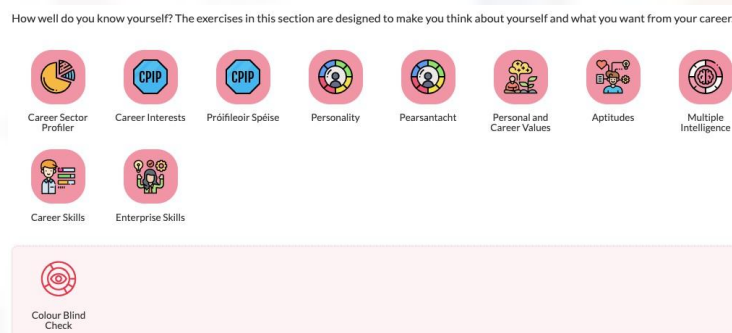
How to research courses in Ireland?



Reach+ through CareersPortal:

All students have a 'Reach+' account with <https://careersportal.ie/>. The account allows students to bookmark courses and compile their research in one place.

The account also gives students access to a self-assessment section, where students can complete the various types of tests in many formats and even do careers/course matching to see relevant options available in Ireland.



CareersPortal

<https://careersportal.ie/> can be used without a Reach+ account and has a very useful course finder.

Courses can be filtered according to CAO/PLC, level, location etc



Qualifax

<https://www.qualifax.ie/> operates another database and search engine for courses.



!!!**Course provider website**!!!

We strongly advise using the websites above as search tools/resources **and locating the webpage of the course** to find out the most reliable information on entry requirements, course structure, modules etc