

Upcoming Open Days

Visiting the colleges and exploring their campus is an imperative part of your college research. It is so important to get a “feel” for the colleges that you intend on applying to. There are quite a lot of Open Days coming up this month in both virtual and on-in person capacities including the following:

- Athlone Institute of Technology- 11th November (on campus)
- Carlow Institute of Technology- 18th November (on campus)
- Munster Technological University- 8th-12th November (virtual)
 - 26th November (on campus)
- Dublin City University (DCU)- 19th November (virtual)
 - 20th November (on campus)
- National College of Art and Design (NCAD)- 24th November (virtual)
 - *Portfolio Days*: 9th and 10th November
- University of Limerick - 12th & 13th November (virtual)

- National College of Ireland (NCI) – 12th & 13th November & 19th January
- Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI) -5th January
- St. Nicholas Montessori College (SMSI)- 18th November
- Technological University Dublin (TUDublin)- 6th November (virtual)
- Trinity College Dublin (TCD) – 6th November (virtual)
- University College Dublin (UCD)- 13th November (virtual)
- Dundalk Institute of Technology- 20th November (on-campus)
- Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT)- 20th November (virtual)
- Letterkenny Institute of Education (LYIT) – 18th November (on-campus & virtual)
- Irish College of Humanities and Applied Science (ICHAS)- 22nd November (virtual)
- Pontifical University, St. Patricks College, Maynooth- 26th & 27th November (virtual)
- National College of Ireland, Maynooth (NUIM)- 26th November (virtual) and 27th November (on campus)
- Shannon College of Hotel Management (A college of NUI Galway)- 3rd December (virtual)
- Institute of Technology, Sligo (ITSligo) 12th November (virtual) & 13th November (on-campus)
- Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)- 14th & 15th January (on-campus)

A comprehensive list of all Open Days are available on the CAO website:

<https://www.cao.ie/?page=open days&bb=importantdates>

College Fair

We are holding a College Careers Fair on Monday, 22nd November in the afternoon. As it stands, the following HEI's have confirmed their attendance at the event. UCD, DCU, TCD, TU Dublin, Waterford IT, Maynooth University (tbc) BIFE, Carlow IT.

Students will be able to speak with representatives from each of these colleges and gather information about the colleges and courses they offer. Attendance on this day is essential!

CAO Application System

The Central Applications Office (CAO) will open the application system for 2022 on Friday, 5th November at 12 noon. Students apply through the CAO for Level 8 (Honours Degrees), Level 7 (Ordinary Degrees) and some Level 6 (Higher Certificates) in Irish Universities, Colleges and Institutes of Education.

Each student can put up to 10 Level 8 courses and 10 Level 7/6 courses on their applications.

There is a discounted rate of 30 euro up until the 20th January. After this date, the fee goes up to 45 euro.

CAO will close on the 1st February but will re-open for the Change of Mind facility on the 5th May.

Students who are applying to *Restricted* courses (courses that require a Portfolio; audition ; interview) must be placed on a student's CAO form by the 1st February. You **cannot** add them to the CAO application after this date.

Students **must** familiarise themselves with the CAO Handbook which is available on CAO.ie. The handbook contains vital information on the CAO Application process and a comprehensive list of the courses offered at Levels 8, 7 and some 6.

Each course in the CAO Handbook has a unique code that the student puts on their CAO Application. The code also can be used to search for that particular course on careersportal.ie and/or qualifax.ie.

Once students create their CAO Applications, they need to regularly check their e-mails /CAO accounts for updates and correspondence.

All students have been given a presentation on CAO in their Guidance or LCVP class by Ms. Travers or Ms. D Arcy and this presentation has been uploaded to TEAMS.

All CAO related information is available on CAO.ie and in the CAO Handbbok.

CAO Demo

All 6th Year students will have the opportunity to complete the CAO Demo Application which is online in their Guidance or LCVP class in the coming fortnight.

This is an opportunity for students to prepare and familiarise themselves with the process of applying to the CAO.

CAO Alert List

Please keep an eye on the CAO Alert List which is available using the link below:

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

The Alert List has a list of the most up to date information on HEI's and courses from the respective HEI's including changes to courses, amended courses, new courses etc...

Opening CAO Applications

A lunchtime session will be offered to all 6th Year students who would like to register for their CAO account in school. A date for this is to be confirmed and this date will be communicated to all students in advance.

If students would like to register with the CAO on this day with their Guidance Counsellors, they will need to bring in a Debit/Credit Card to pay the 30 euro application fee.

Guidance Appointments

Individual Guidance appointments are currently on-going and all 6th Years will have met their Guidance Counsellors by Christmas.

Students receive a record of their Guidance session including further information/recommendations via e-mail.

Course Research

In order to make informed course choices, it is absolutely imperative that students are regularly using the "Course Search" facility on careersportal.ie and/or qualifax.ie.

Students need to research various courses of interest, similar courses in different HEI's, content structure/modules taught in each year of the courses and if courses are offered at different levels, eg. Engineering Level 8 and an equivalent course at Level 7

All students should have signed up to careersnews. ie which sends daily careers news and events to their email accounts.

Students need to check their TEAMS Guidance accounts regularly.

HEAR/DARE

All students have been given a presentation on the HEAR and DARE access schemes.

These presentations have also been uploaded to TEAMS.

Online DARE information presentation Saturday 9th January at 10am

Online HEAR information presentation Saturday 9th January at 12.30pm

Further information is available at **accesscollege.ie**

Both HEAR and DARE are access routes to college, that eligible students can apply to through their CAO accounts.

Both HEAR and DARE have an online section that needs to be completed through the CAO by the 1st March, 2022 @ 5pm.

All supporting documents for both schemes need to be posted to CAO, Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway, Ireland by the 15th March @5pm.

Please note that any student applying to DARE will have an EIS form which is completed by the relevant Guidance Counsellor to post alongside supporting documents.

The EIS form will be given to the student/posted out to the home of the student.

With both HEAR and DARE, it is the responsibility of the student and their parent/guardian to post all relevant supporting documents to the address provided above in advance of the deadline given.

PLC/ Apprenticeships

Students who are applying to PLC colleges will need to apply online **via the college websites. Students do not apply to PLC courses through the CAO application system.**

A number of PLC colleges have opened up their application portals so students will need to check the websites of the PLC colleges they are interested in applying to.

Students who are wishing to do an apprenticeship need to ensure that the person who they will be undertaking an apprenticeship with is registered with SOLAS.

Useful websites

Careersportal.ie- For course research (Levels 8,7,6 & 5)

Accesscollege.ie For HEAR and DARE information

Cao.ie- CAO applications, Deadlines, CAO booklet, Alert Lists (changes to courses etc..) Parent Guide and Information, Comprehensive List of College Open Days

Apprenticeships.ie- For students who are considering an Apprenticeship after their Leaving Certificate

Individual college websites (University, Institute of Technology, PLC colleges..)

Microsoft TEAMS (For presentations, careers information etc....)

Careersnews.ie

Ms. Orla Travers & Ms. Jude D'Arcy (Guidance Counsellors)