

# Cur i láthair ar an CAO 2021

Do Thuismitheoirí agus do Chaomhnóirí 09/12/20



# Tar éis an Ard Teist - After the leaving cert.



# NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS

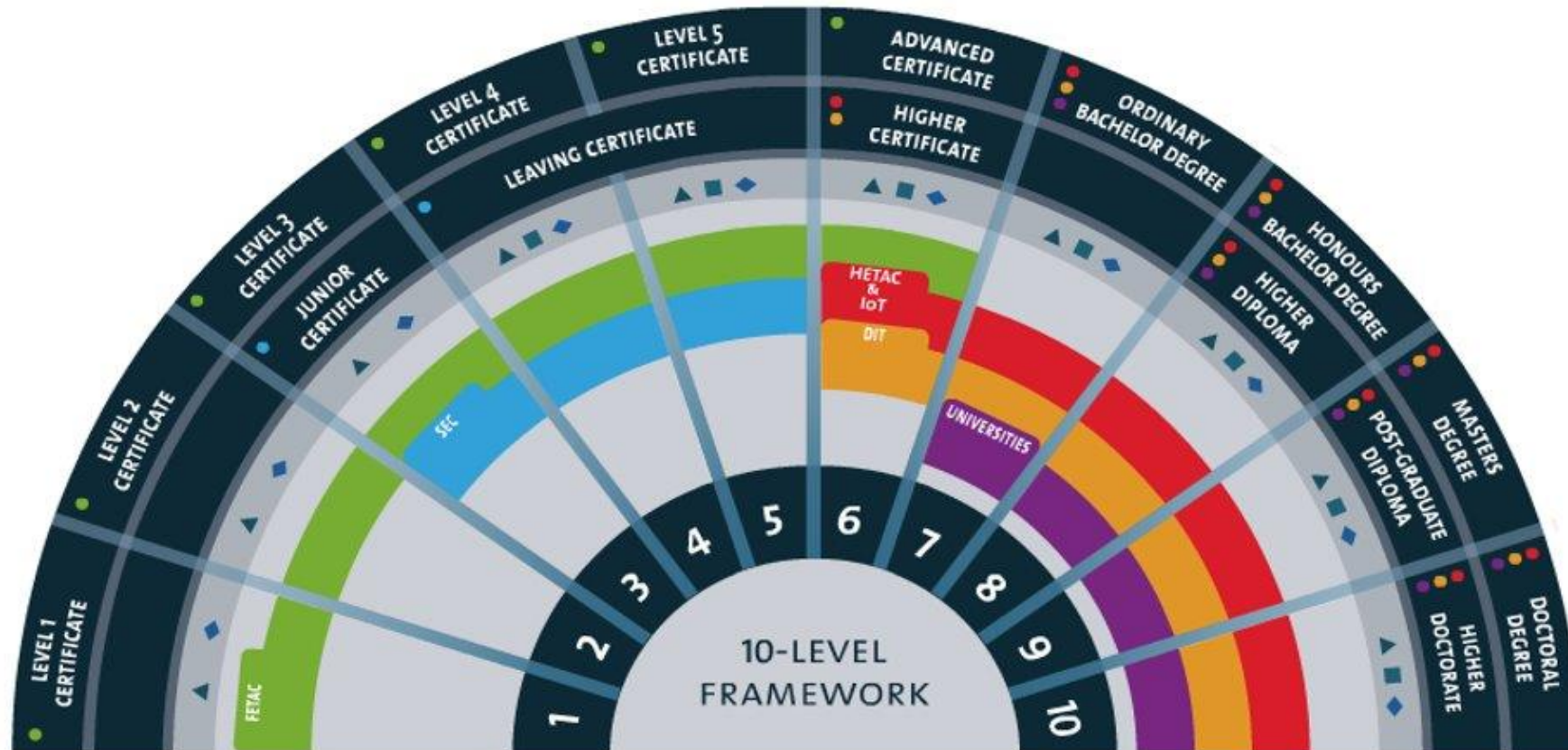
Údarás Náisiúnta  
Cáilíochtaí na hÉireann  
National Qualifications  
Authority of Ireland



WHAT ARE THE FRAMEWORK LEVELS?

WHAT IS AN AWARD -TYPE?

WHAT IS AN AWARDDING BODY?



# QUALIFICATIONS OFFERED BY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- ▶ When choosing a course, it is important that students ensure that the qualifications offered by the college are recognised
- ▶ The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) advise on qualifications in Ireland.
- ▶ Within the NFQ there are 10 levels of qualifications (Levels 1-10). Courses given by a college or university offer a qualification at a particular “level” of qualification

# WHAT IS AVAILABLE AFTER THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE?

## Higher Education Institution (Universities/Colleges/Institutes of Technology)

Applications to attend level 6, 7 and 8 courses are made by the student to the CAO system. They identify 20 courses they would like to complete.

Once they have received their leaving cert results, they are offered one course from their level 8 list and one course from their level 6/7 list. They may then choose if either of those courses are suitable and accept that offer.

## P.L.C. (Post Leaving Cert. College/Course)/College of Further Education

Applications to a PLC are made directly to each College

Most PLC's require the applicant to attend for interview

Applications for these courses are made after October(approx.) onwards, depending on the individual colleges.

See College prospectus and websites for further details

Depending on the course and qualifications, students who graduate from a PLC may apply for a Job or apply for a place in a Higher Education Institution to continue their studies

Many Post Leaving Cert. Colleges have links with Higher Education Institutes in Ireland and England

# WHAT IS AVAILABLE AFTER THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE?

## Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship combines learning in an education and training institution with work-based learning in a company. At least 50% of apprenticeship learning is completed in the workplace.

To become an apprentice in Ireland you must be hired by an employer. Apprenticeship employers are formally approved by SOLAS in advance of employing apprentices. Apprentices get a formal contract of employment as part of their apprenticeship.

The minimum age varies from 16-18 years but there is no upper age limit.

Check out [www.apprenticeship.ie](http://www.apprenticeship.ie)

## Work/Training

Employers will often take on individuals and train them

We encourage our students to work to achieve the best they can in their Leaving Certificate as this will be an advantage when applying for a job or later in life if they decide to take up further study

Many State Agencies/Bodies and Public Services have their own individual application system and will advertise for applications at differing times

Applications to the Defence Forces are made directly to the forces

# The CAO

- ▶ CAO stands for the Central Applications Office.
- ▶ All applications to Higher Education Institutions (Universities/Colleges/Institutes of Technology) in the Republic of Ireland are made through the CAO
- ▶ All CAO information including application forms are available online at [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)
- ▶ An application fee is charged (early entry fee is €30)
- ▶ Applications to PLC Colleges are **NOT** made through the CAO

# Tabhachtach - Important!

- ▶ Check to ensure the student has the correct subjects and at the correct levels for entry to the course. These are called minimum entry requirements and must be met before a course will be offered.
- ▶ Confirm any restrictions that may operate on the course i.e. portfolio or interview requirements.
- ▶ Look up the points but remember they are only a rough guide and change every year.
- ▶ [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) is a very useful website for finding this information.
- ▶ PLC's do not require points; they set minimum requirements and conduct an interview to assess a candidates' suitability.
- ▶ Keep an eye on college websites, careers portal, CAO or qualifax for any changes to course titles, requirements or admissions.





## Lámhleabhar CAO - CAO Handbook

- ▶ CAO distributes this handbook to schools, each student received a copy in October. It contains instructions and information about the application process, important dates and fees.
- ▶ Every applicant should be familiar with the contents of the CAO Handbook.
- ▶ Check the CAO website regularly for cancelled courses or new courses coming online but not included in the handbook.

## [HEI contact details](#)

## [Student Resources](#)

## [Downloads](#)

## [Important Dates](#)

## [Mature Applicants](#)

## [Access Routes](#)

## [DARE / HEAR](#)

## [QQI FET/FETAC](#)

## [Restrictions](#)

## [Info for Parents](#)

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## [Contact Us](#)

The Central Applications Office processes applications for undergraduate courses in Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Decisions on admissions to undergraduate courses are made by the HEIs who instruct CAO to make offers to successful candidates.



Closing Date for Applications is the 1st February at 17:15.




### **Need Help?**


Click here for the demo application, video guides and answers to frequently asked questions.

### **Advanced Entry**

Click here for applications to year 2, 3 and 4.

### **Important Dates:**

 Apply online by this date to avail of the discounted fee of €30

 Normal closing date for applications (17:15)

**Applicant's Personal Details**

**Surname**

**Other names**

**Title**  
(Mr, Ms, Mrs, etc.)

**Date of Birth**

**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.

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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.

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**Home address**  Rep. of Ireland  Other Country

**Address Line 1**

**Address Line 2**

**Address Line 3**

**Address Line 4**

**Postal Code**  
(e.g. H91 X25V)

# An Fhoirm Iarratais - Application Form

It is vitally important that you enter your name as it appears on the VS ware system in school.

Double check it against the form issued by the state examination commission when the subjects to be taken for leaving cert are confirmed.

If there is any difference please inform the school immediately.

Once the application is complete, an application number will be issued. This number will be used for any other communication with CAO so take note of it and keep it safe.

# An Fhoirm Iarratais - Application Form

- ▶ The Guidance Counsellor will show each class how to fill in the CAO form.
- ▶ The Guidance Counsellor will **NOT** fill in any application form *for* the student.
- ▶ The closing date for CAO applications is **1<sup>st</sup> February at 5.15pm.**
- ▶ The CAO will accept late applications up to **1<sup>st</sup> May at 5.15pm** but will charge a late fee.
- ▶ Once an application has been made the CAO will allow for applicants to change their mind. Change of mind applications are accepted up to **1<sup>st</sup> July at 5.15pm.**

# Roghnú Cúrsa - Course selection

- ▶ Having completed research on courses available the students should then begin to rank their choices.
- ▶ Students select 10 level 8 courses (higher level degrees).
- ▶ These are arranged in order of preference; students place their most desired course in position 1 regardless of points.
- ▶ Students then select a further 10 level 6 and level 7 courses and place them in order of preference with their favourite in position 1.

## COURSE CHOICES

Application may be made for up to ten Courses in EACH of the TWO categories below.

In BOTH cases, courses should be entered in order of preference.

**Take special care NOT to mix courses in the different categories.**

Level 8

Pref.	Course Code
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Level 7 & Level 6

Pref.	Course Code
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

# CAO: significant dates

- ▶ CAO closes on February 1st at 5.15pm.
- ▶ CAO change of mind opens on May 1st. You may use this facility to change the order of your course choices and/or to introduce new courses, subject to the restrictions detailed in the handbook.
- ▶ Before the end of May you will be sent a Statement of Application Record as a final acknowledgement and to enable you to verify that all information has been recorded completely and correctly.
- ▶ Check the statement carefully, and if there is any error or omission amend the statement and return it to CAO.
- ▶ Change of mind closes on July 1st at 5.15pm. Students will not be allowed change their CAO form after this date.

# Próiseas na n-Ofrálacha - The Offer Process



LC results are received by the student and the CAO system from the SEC.



The applicant's points are calculated, and minimum requirements are checked.



All students applying for a course are arranged in order of points. The course administrator decides how many places will be offered. Those offers are made on behalf of the college through the CAO.



A student may be offered a course from both lists but may only accept one of these.



Once a course has been offered to a student all other courses lower down their list is erased, they will not be offered them at any later stage. They may however be offered a course higher up their list.

# Supports and grants for those preparing to attend college/university

- ▶ Depending on your household income a variety of financial supports are available
- ▶ If your family income is below a certain figure you may be entitled to financial supports
- ▶ This figure can change each year
- ▶ Your area of residence may have a system of financial support. Seek advice from your local Community Information Centre.
- ▶ Supports are available for students with additional/special needs
- ▶ Applications for support should be made as soon as possible as funds are limited and are made available on an individual basis and at the discretion of each support agency
- ▶ GOVERNMENT GRANTS MAY BE APPLIED THROUGH [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie) and [www.grantsonline.ie](http://www.grantsonline.ie) . BE AWARE OF THE CLOSING DATES!!!!!!!!!!



# Other Supports/Access Scheme (HEAR)

- ▶ Depending on Household income, you may be entitled to additional student supports and a possible reduction in CAO points
- ▶ If the household income is limited to €45,790 (approx. This may change each year) you may be entitled to various supports under the HEAR (Higher Education Access Route) Scheme including a possible reduction in CAO points
- ▶ This figure (€45,790) may alter depending on the number of children at home and/or if a parent is in full time education themselves
- ▶ If you feel you may be entitled to apply for these supports you should seek further information from the Guidance Counsellor and/or [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)
- ▶ A talk on the HEAR Scheme will be organised for students at a later date
- ▶ See [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)

# DARE - Disability access route to education

- ▶ Students that have struggled with illness or with extra learning needs may be entitled to additional supports.
- ▶ This support is available to allow them access college but also to support them once they have secured a place.
- ▶ Information is available from the Guidance Counsellor, the Department of Education and Science and/or DARE.
  
- ▶ Check out DARE on [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)
  
- ▶ A student may be able to apply for a reduction in required points based on their disability. Applying for DARE does NOT guarantee a place or reduction in points.

# Important numbers and websites

- ▶ [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) (Telephone: 091-509800)
- ▶ [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie) (Telephone:0761 08 7874)
- ▶ [www.grantsonline.ie](http://www.grantsonline.ie)
- ▶ HEAR/DARE [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)
- ▶ LOCAL BUS/TRAIN CONTACTS FOR TRANSPORT TO COLLEGES ETC
- ▶ CONTACTS LIST FOR ACCOMODATION FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

[www.daft.ie/student-accommodation/](http://www.daft.ie/student-accommodation/)

- ▶ [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
- ▶ [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
- ▶ College websites