



# CAO and Further Education

11<sup>th</sup> of December 2018

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# Overview of Presentation

1. The Application Process to Third level Colleges – CAO
2. HEAR and DARE schemes
3. SUSI – student grant
4. Colleges of Further Education (PLC, FETAC)

**Many avenues to be explored when the decision is made to continue to higher education.**

**For the majority of students this will involve a CAO application.**



# Options after the Leaving Cert

- Training / Apprenticeships – [www.SOLAS.ie](http://www.SOLAS.ie)
- Third Level Colleges in Ireland – [www.CAO.ie](http://www.CAO.ie)
- UK Colleges – [www.UCAS.co.uk](http://www.UCAS.co.uk)
- Post Leaving Certificate Courses (FETAC links scheme)
- Direct to Employment
- Defence Forces – [www.military.ie](http://www.military.ie)
- Gardaí – [www.publicjobs.ie](http://www.publicjobs.ie)
- Study abroad – EUNICAS for European Colleges
- Gap year

# The Role of the CAO

- To process applications for first year undergraduate courses for third level Colleges and Universities in a fair and efficient manner
- Every LC student has the 2019 CAO handbook which contains application and course information. The handbook can also be found on [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)
- Third level colleges and universities retain the function of making decisions on admissions



# Applying to the CAO – Stage 1

- **Research** is vital to rule out as well as consider courses
- **Shortlist** CAO Courses
- Pay attention to **Specific Course Requirements**
- **Discuss** with the guidance counsellor, parents, teachers, college admissions personnel, significant others
- **Where?**
  - [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)
  - [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
  - [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
  - [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)
  - [www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie)
  - Attend Open Days

# Applying to the CAO – Stage 2

- Applicants are now required to apply online
- The website address is [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)
- Early bird Application €30: 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019
- Normal Application €45: 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2019
- Late Application €60: 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2019
- An applicant may only make one application in any given year

# The Application Form

- Personal Details: name, address, date of birth, gender, mobile phone number, email address
- Presenting Examination e.g. Leaving Certificate 2019
- Laser / Debit / Credit card
- CAO Account - CAO number sent by text / Email
- Print off proof of application
- Order of preference (CAO Handbook)
  - *List of level 8 courses*
  - *List of level 6 and 7 Courses*





**The Choices – There are 3 types of courses students can apply for under the NFQ. These are applied for on 2 separate lists in a single application:**

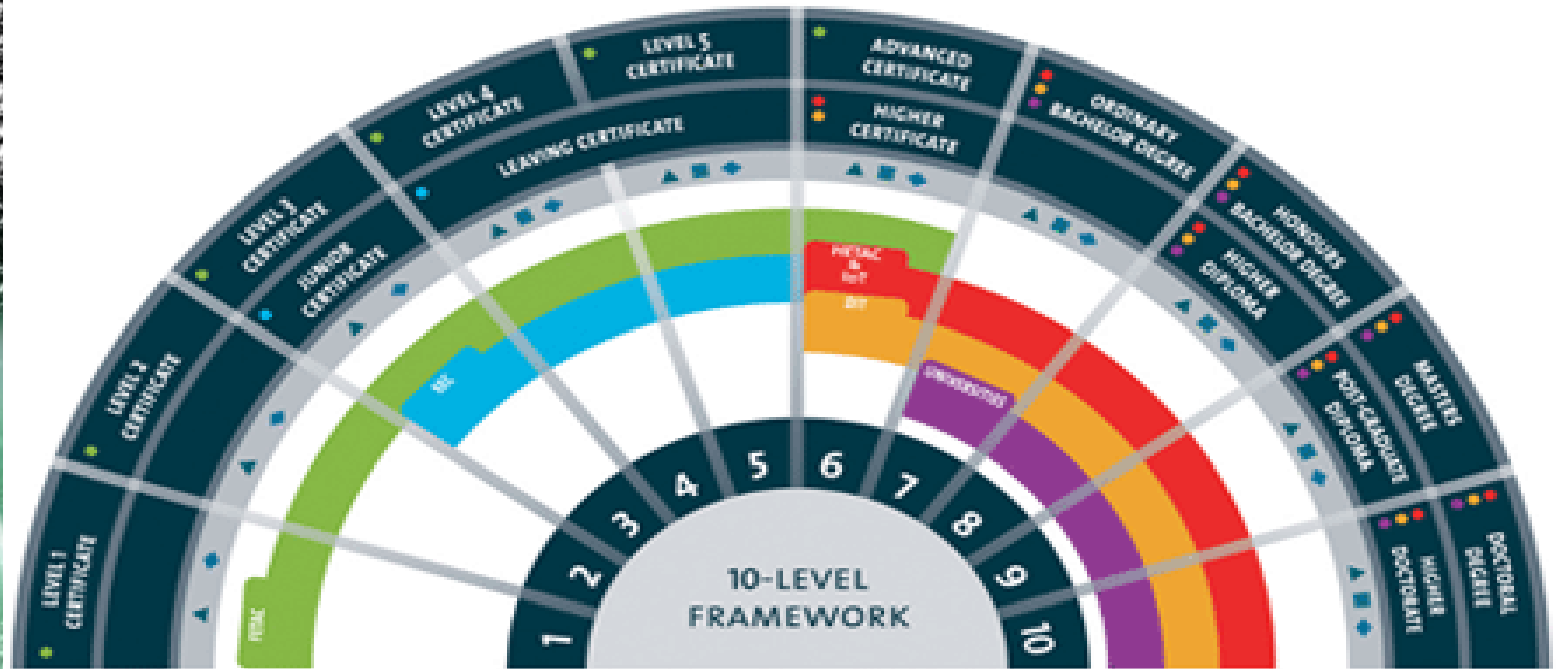
**Level 8**

- 10 choices
- All Honours Bachelor Degree courses – ITs and Universities
- 3-4 years

**Level 6 and 7**

- 10 choices
- Higher Certificate (6) ITs
- 2 years
- Ordinary Bachelor Degree courses (7) ITs
- 3 years

# National Framework of Qualifications



- Level 5 Certificate – 1 year
- Level 6 **Higher Certificate** - 2 years
- Level 7 Ordinary Bachelor Degree – 3 years
- Level 8 **Honours Bachelor Degree** – 4 years

# The Choices

- It is possible to receive an offer from both lists
- The applicant can then decide to accept the offer from Level 6/7 list or the level 8 list
- All courses are clearly labelled in the CAO Handbook. Keep an eye on the **Alert** list
- N.B. – Care must be taken with courses marked ‘Restricted’
- These courses cannot be applied for after February 1st due to early assessments like H-Pat, auditions, interviews, portfolio – See CAO Handbook



# Order of Preference

LIST COURSE CHOICES IN GENUINE ORDER  
OF PREFERENCE – 1 to 10

DO NOT LIST COURSES IN ORDER OF POINTS



# The CAO process

- Applicants must meet the **Minimum Entry Requirements** for the Level 6, 7 or 8 course
- Applicants must meet **the Specific Course Requirements** – subject and grade
- Applicants must meet the **points**
- If it is a restricted course applicants must meet the requirements in the interview or portfolio or performance
- Points are allocated to the **six** best grades of an applicant in any one sitting



# New Common CAO Points Scale

Higher Grade	Points	Ordinary Grade	Points
H1 90-100%	100	O1 90-100%	56
H2 80<90%	88	O2 80<90%	46
H3 70<80%	77	O3 70<80%	37
H4 60<70%	66	O4 60<70%	28
H5 50<60%	56	O5 50<60%	20
H6 40<50%	46	O6 40<50%	12
H7 30<40%	37	O7 30<40%	0
H8 0<30%	0	O8	0

▪25 bonus points Higher Level Mathematics (Grade H6 or above).

# Minimum Entry Requirements

- Level 8 Courses = 2 H5 and 4 O6/H7
- Level 7 Courses = 5 O6/H7 to include Maths and English/Irish
- Note: Different colleges have different entry requirements

# Specific Course Requirements

- Primary Teaching = H4 Irish
- Engineering = H4 Maths
- Veterinary Medicine = H5 Chemistry plus 60 hours practical experience
- Nursing = a Science Subject
- Dentistry Trinity – H3 and a H4 in two: Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Physics/Chemistry



# Statement of Application from CAO – Stage 3

1. The Statement of Application record includes notification of the CAO application number.
2. It lists the courses that your daughter has applied for.
3. If any mistakes or omission have been made in the course choices (codes) or personal details, exemptions or examination details, now is the time to rectify any errors. Contact CAO immediately.
4. Pay particular attention to restricted courses.



# If you need to contact CAO

- The easiest and most efficient way to communicate with CAO is by using the '**Contact Us**' facility on the CAO website.
- Always quote the CAO application number in any communication with CAO.
- If you post something to CAO, **ALWAYS** obtain a certificate of posting at the post office. This is a free service and it offers you peace of mind (see also back of CAO hand book).



## Change of Mind – Stage 4

- Opens in March but applicants must pay €10 for every change they make.
- This facility becomes free on May 6<sup>th</sup> until July 1<sup>st</sup> where applicants can make as many changes as they want for free.
- This may be used to change the order of course choices and/or to introduce new courses, subject to the **restrictions** detailed in the Handbook.

# Results and Offers – Stage 5

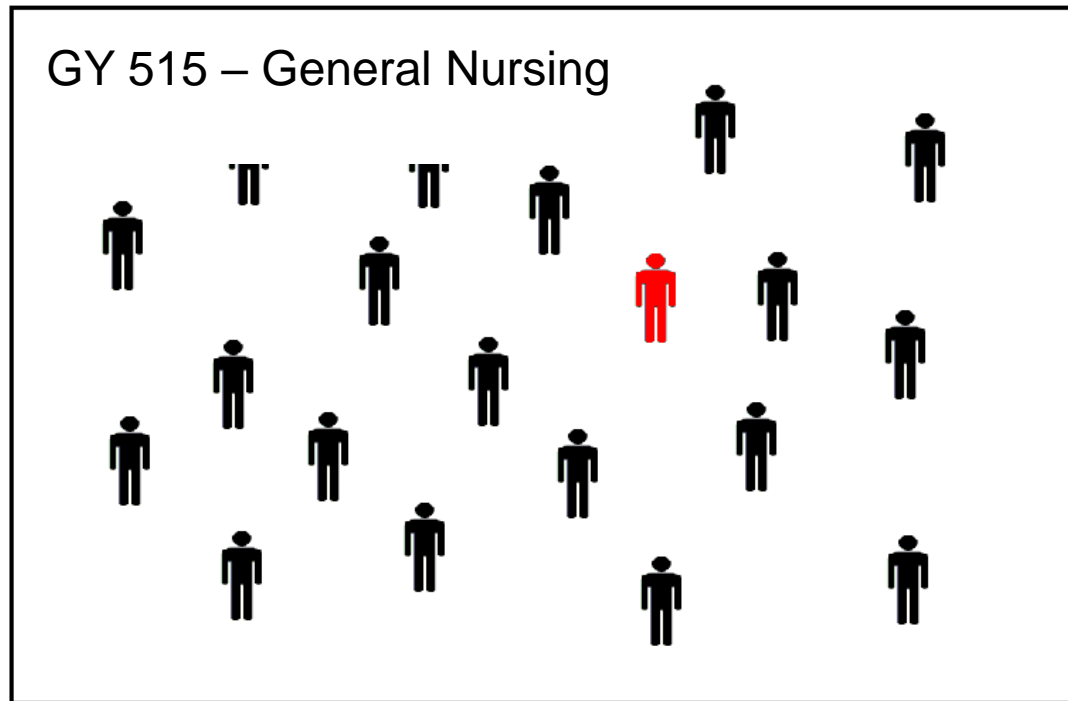
- Leaving Certificate results are sent to schools and students in August
- Leaving Certificate results are also sent to the CAO office and input into the computer system
- For each course the applicant applied for the computer system checks if the applicant meets the minimum entry requirements, the subject requirements and ranks them in order of merit for each course

- The admissions officers of the HEI inform CAO how many places are to be offered on each course
- CAO makes offers to the required number of applicants on each course starting at the top of the order of merit list
- Place declined - place become available in the next round of offers.
- This process continues until all the places on the course are filled or until all the eligible applicants on the order of merit list have been offered places.

# Completing Order of Preference

	Level 8	
460	1. GY515	General Nursing - NUIG
410	2. GA880	General Nursing - GMIT
420	3. TR091	General Nursing - Trinity
375	4. GA882	Psychiatric Nursing – Mayo
415	5. TR095	Mental Health Nursing - Trinity
410	6. GY301	General Science - NUIG
	7.	
	8.	
	9.	
	10.	

# The Application Process illustrated



These are applicants for GY515 – General Nursing NUIG

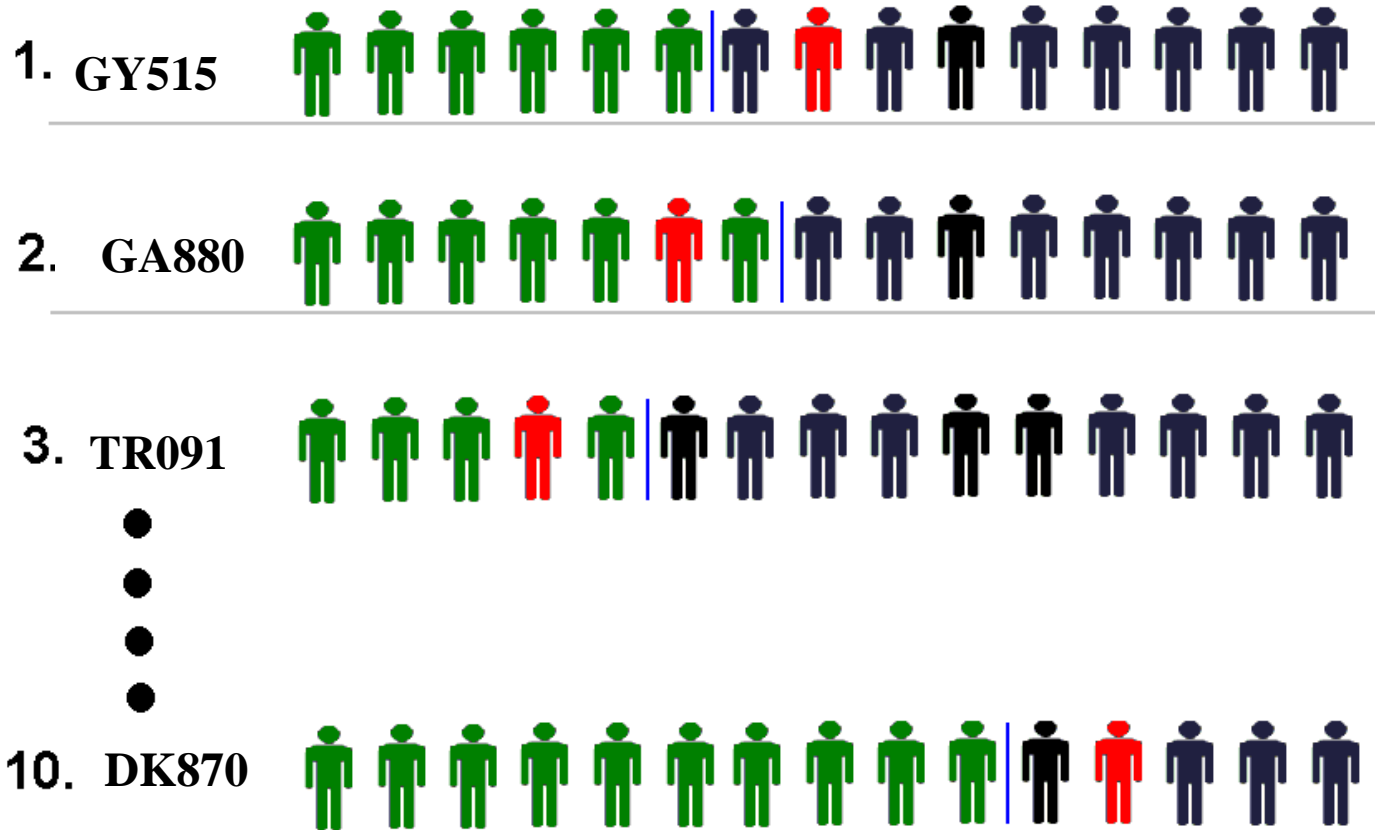
The Leaving Certificate results are not available so these applicants are in no particular order

We will follow the applicant in red



# Following the LC results





All applicants left of the blue line have enough points to be offered places

The applicant in red is offered their second choice – GA880

1. GY515



2. GA880



The applicant in red must decide to accept or reject her offer. If she rejects the offer the place will be offered to the next person in the queue.

She will now disappear from the queue on all her lower choices

Placing GA880 as her second preference meant that she would prefer to receive an offer on GA880 than on any other course except GY515 – which is her first preference

1. GY515



Regardless whether she accepts or rejects the offer she will still be considered for a place on her first preference if it becomes available.

In the second round one more offer was made on GY515, now the applicant in red is top of the queue.



In the third round offers two more offers are made, the applicant in red, who was at the top of the queue will now receive an offer.

The applicant in red may accept the offer or remain in GA880





## **KEY message**

**Place courses in genuine order of preference**





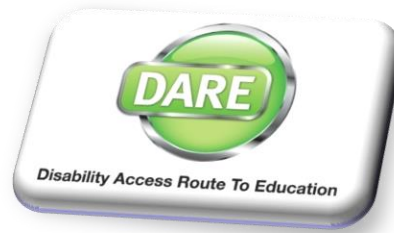
- The points cut-off in any given year will depend on:
  - the volume of applications for that year
  - the number of places the college can accommodate and
  - the examination performance of the applicants in that year.
- Students should avoid drawing direct comparison between 2018 points and 2019 points.

# Access routes to education

- HEAR (Higher Education Access Route)
  - *A college and university scheme which offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds who are resident in the Republic of Ireland*
- DARE (Disability Access Route to Education)
  - *A third level alternative admissions scheme for school-leavers whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education.*
- Colleges not participating in either scheme may have their own access route or disability supports



- Colleges offer a variety of personal, social and academic supports
- Check [accesscollege.ie](http://accesscollege.ie) for eligibility indicators and information on the application process
- Complete all elements of the HEAR Application form on [cao.ie](http://cao.ie) by March 1st
- Submit copies of supporting documents to CAO office by April 1st



- Disability Access Route to Education
- DARE offers reduced points places to school leavers who as a result of having a disability have experienced additional educational challenges in second level education
- Check [accesscollege.ie](http://accesscollege.ie) for eligibility indicators and information on the application process
- Fill in the online Supplementary Information Form (SIF) at [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) by March 1st
- Complete your Educational Impact Statement with your school
- Gather your Evidence of Disability documentation and submit by April 1st



# Key Dates

- CAO closing date – early online rate – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019
- CAO closing date – normal online rate – 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2019
- HPAT – registration closes 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019
- Sit HPAT Ireland 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019
- HEAR and DARE clinic – 19<sup>th</sup> of January NUIG



# Post Leaving Cert (PLC) Courses

- Usually 5 O5 in the Leaving Cert and an interview
- Some minimum subject requirements may apply
- There are links to progress to Level 6, 7 and 8 in Institutes of Technologies and Universities
- PLC colleges in Galway: GTI, GCC



# Words of wisdom

- Help your daughter to choose a course that they will engage with and enjoy
- 51% of employers want graduates of any discipline
- Employers are looking for technical and soft skills more than knowledge and students need to articulate these skills
- The world of work is constantly evolving: some of the roles that exist in the work place today couldn't have been predicted 5 years ago.

- Research courses thoroughly before entering them on the CAO (Open Days, guest speakers, prospectuses, current or past students, lecturers)
- Include up to 10 options in both lists
- Do not ignore the Level 6/7 route
- List courses in genuine order of preference and not in order of perceived points
- Have a PLC back-up plan
- Do not target low point courses only
- Do not make drastic changes during the change of mind period

# Student Maintenance Grants

- Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI)
  - *Susi.ie*
- Use the Eligibility Reckoner to determine if you should apply
- Apply online when the system opens for 2019
- More information - [studentfinance.ie](http://studentfinance.ie)



# Resources

- College websites
- Qualifax (Irish courses)
- UCAS (UK and Northern Ireland)
- Careers Portal
- CAO.ie
- Careeersnews.ie
- HEAR and DARE – [accesscollege.ie](http://accesscollege.ie)
- Student grant – [susi.ie](http://susi.ie)
- Solas.ie



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matter value sport  
respected value sport  
safeguarding responsible  
options goals youth care  
ethos safe play aim  
youth care  
engagement equality learning knowledge lifelong  
community  
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