

**2025**

**CAO  
Presentation**

The Leaving Certificate  
is important.

But what you do with  
the Leaving Certificate  
is more important.

**DON'T PANIC**



# Agenda

- Timetable
- Applicants Responsibilities
- General points regarding the CAO
- Entry Requirements and the Points System
- Making an application
- How places are allocated by CAO
- After submitting the application
- Non CAO Options / Changes / Jobs Market
- Questions?

## ADVICE FOR THE STUDENT

It is YOUR choice

It is YOUR responsibility



NOT the Guidance Counsellor

NOT your parents

NOT your friends

*This is **YOUR** life*

“It became apparent that at least some students and parents believe that the Guidance Counsellor has some role to play in the completion of the CAO application form, and indeed some responsibility for its accurate completion. May I make it clear that we find such an idea to be outlandish.” (C.A.O.)



# CAO Timetable of Events\*

2024

**September** • CAO 2025 Interactive Handbook available online at [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)

**October**

**November** • CAO online application facility opens on **5 November at 12:00 noon**  
• Facility to add/change course choices opens on **5 November at 12:00 noon**

**December**

2025

**January** • Discounted application fee (€30 fee) available up to **20 January at 5pm**

**February** • Normal closing date for applications (€45 fee) is **1 February at 5pm**  
• Online Change of Course Choices (free) facility closes **1 February at 5pm**  
• Online facility to amend course choices becomes available (€10 fee) on **5 February at noon**

**March** • Closing date for amending course choices is **1 March at 5pm**  
• Most tests and interviews for restricted courses are held in March and April  
• Closing date for final completion of online DARE/HEAR forms is **1 March at 5pm**  
• Closing date for completion of Mature Applicant section of CAO form is **1 March at 5pm**  
• Late application facility opens on **5 March at 12:00 noon**  
• **DARE/HEAR** supporting documentation to arrive in CAO before **15 March at 5pm**

**April** • Most tests and interviews for restricted courses are held in March and April

**May** • Closing date for late applications is **1 May at 5pm**  
• Online Change of Mind (free) facility becomes available on **6 May at 12:00 noon** (expected date)  
• Statement of Application Record email sent to all applicants before end of May. Inform CAO if you do not receive it.

**June** • Leaving Certificate examinations

**July** • Change of Mind Closes on **1 July at 5pm**  
• Round A offers for certain categories of applicant e.g. mature, deferral, etc. are issued in **early July**

**August** • Round Zero offers for certain categories of applicant issued in **early August**  
• Current year Leaving Certificate results issued (date to be confirmed)  
• Round One offers (date to be confirmed)  
• HEIs begin registration

**September** • HEIs begin registration  
• Results of Leaving Certificate appeals released (date to be confirmed)  
• Offer season ends (date to be confirmed)

Tá leagan Gaeilge den Lámhleabhar seo ar fáil.

Updates to the handbook, such as new courses and cancelled courses, may be viewed on the CAO website.

Go to [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie),

click on '**CAO Handbook**' and see the table with the title '**Important Changes**'.

Higher Education Institute

## H.E.I.s in the C.A.O.

- Universities
- Institutes of Technology
- Technical Universities
- Teacher Training Colleges

42

National College of Art & Design

- N.C.A.D.
- Incorporated Religious

Institutes

National College of Ireland

- N.C.I.
- Private Colleges

# Choice

1977 – 5 Colleges with 69 courses

2025 – 42 Colleges with 1565 courses

Creative Broadcast and Film Production, Visual Effects for Film, TV and Animation, Software Design with Artificial Intelligence for Cloud Computing, Renewable and Electrical Energy Engineering, Robotics and Automation Engineering, Physical Education with Business, Applied Sports Science with Performance Technology, Content Creation and Social Media, Criminal Justice Studies, Architectural and Building Information Modelling Technology, Set Design and Construction, Sport Rehabilitation and Athletic Therapy, Individual, Family and Community Support, Fashion Buying and Retail Management, Digital Health and Informatics for Healthcare, Smart Product Engineering, Wildlife Biology, Global Business and Pilot Studies, Marine Electrotechnology, Corporate Law, Cyberpsychology, Gastronomy Science and Food Innovation, Geography and Outdoor Education, Pharmaceutical Science with Drug Development, Fire Safety Engineering, Sound Engineering and Music Production, Chemistry with Artificial Intelligence, Digital Forensics and Cyber Security.....



Leaving Certificate points statistics for **1995**. Total candidates presenting LCE : 68,463

Candidates scoring 600 points	31	0.0%
Candidates scoring from 500 - 599	2,594	3.8%
Candidates scoring from 400 - 499	10,631	15.5%
Candidates scoring from 300 - 399	15,003	21.9%
Candidates scoring from 200 - 299	13,467	19.7%
Candidates scoring from 100 - 199	13,121	19.2%
Candidates scoring less than 100	13,616	19.9%

Has there  
been  
Grade  
Inflation?

Leaving Certificate points statistics for **2019**. Total candidates presenting LCE : 56,071

Candidates scoring 625 points	207	0.4%
Candidates scoring from 600 - 624	574	1%
Candidates scoring from 500 - 599	6,684	11.9%
Candidates scoring from 400 - 499	13,489	24.1%
Candidates scoring from 300 - 399	14,266	25.4%
Candidates scoring from 200 - 299	10,732	19.1%
Candidates scoring from 100 - 199	6,557	11.7%
Candidates scoring less than 100	3,562	6.4%

# For Comparison

## Leaving Certificate Examination Points Statistics for 2024

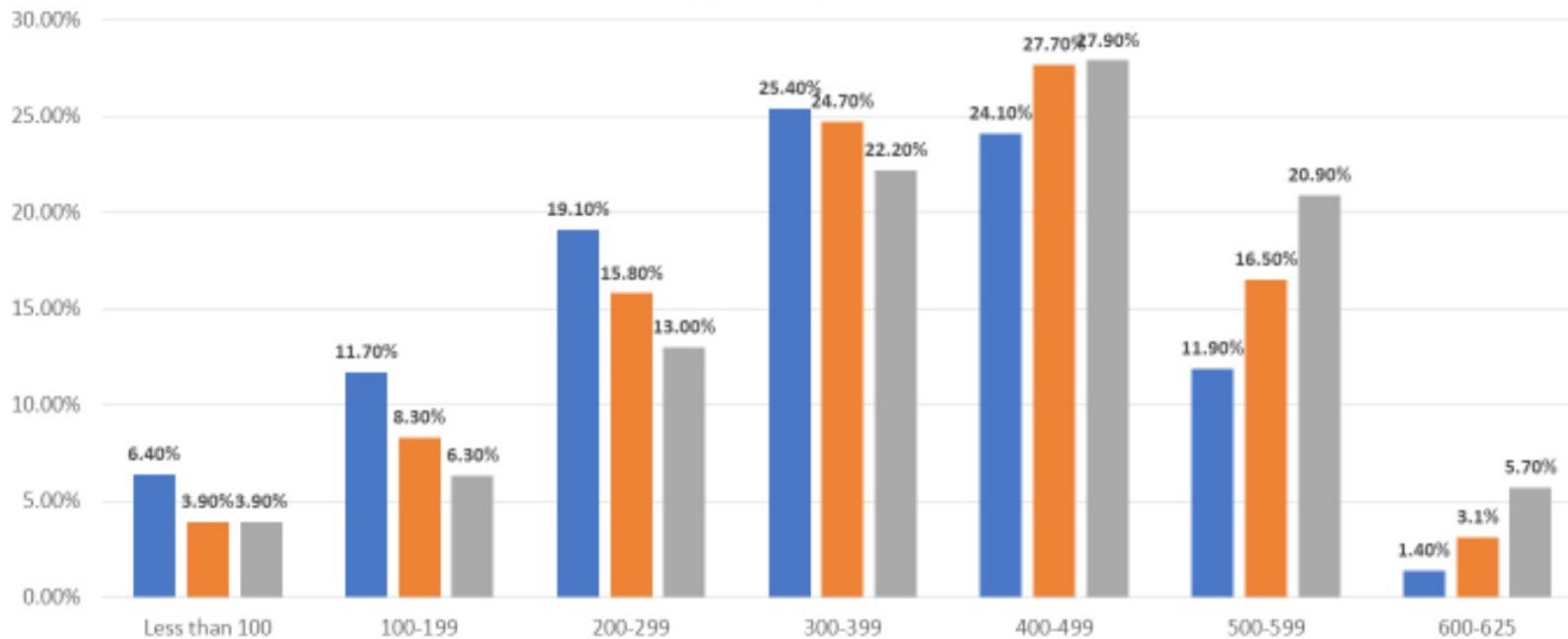
(nominal points score, including bonus for Higher Level Mathematics, without reference to eligibility)

Best six (6) subjects counted for scoring.

			<b>Cumulative Total</b>	
Candidates scoring 625 points	923	1.6%	923	1.6%
Candidates scoring from 600 - 624	1,813	3.2%	2,736	4.8%
Candidates scoring from 500 - 599	10,988	19.3%	13,724	24.2%
Candidates scoring from 400 - 499	16,020	28.2%	29,744	52.4%
Candidates scoring from 300 - 399	13,683	24.1%	43,427	76.5%
Candidates scoring from 200 - 299	7,844	13.8%	51,271	90.3%
Candidates scoring from 100 - 199	3,613	6.4%	54,884	96.6%
Candidates scoring less than 100	1,903	3.4%	56,787	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,787</b>			

## Impact of Covid on Points continues into 2025

# Leaving Certificate Points 2019, 2020 & 2021





**Maynooth University**  
National University  
of Ireland Maynooth

## ARTS MH101

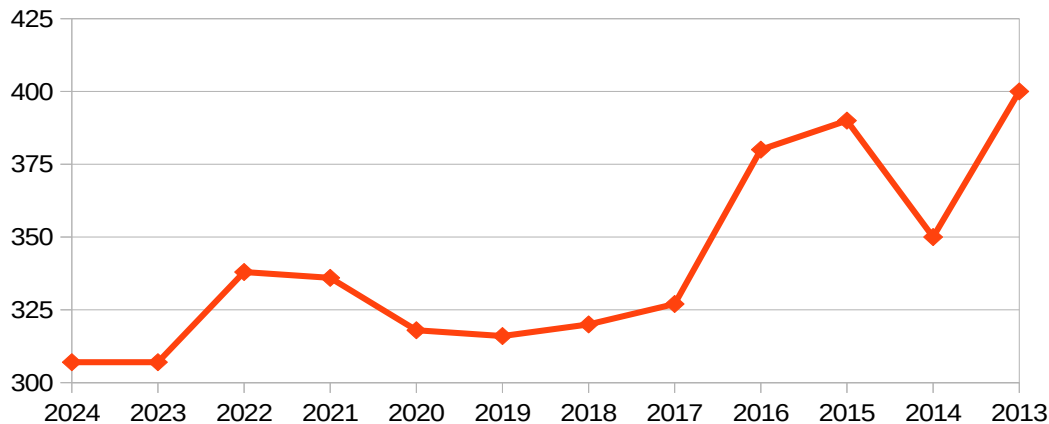
Points for 2024  
**307**

**Why Predicting  
Points Can Be  
Difficult**

Year	Points
2024	307
2023	307
2022	338
2021	336
2020	318
2019	316
2018	320
2017	327
2016	380
2015	390
2014	350

**53  
Points  
Drop**

**40  
Points  
Increase**



[Back](#)[Points Calculator](#)

CAO (Higher Education - HET)

Degree - Honours Bachelor

# Psychology

[☆ Add to favourites](#)National College of Ireland -  
NCI

Course Code

NC010

Zone

1 2 3 4 5



Level

8

NFQ Type

Major

Duration

3 Years

Attendance

Full Time

CAO Points 2024

392

Points Change

+1

[Course Summary](#)[Language Options](#)[Entry Requirements](#)[QQI / FET Links](#)[The Student](#)[Career Progression](#)[Further Research](#)

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Points History

392<sup>+</sup>

Minimum Subjects

2 H5 &amp; 4 O6/H7

✓ O6/H7 IN English

✓ O6/H7 IN Maths

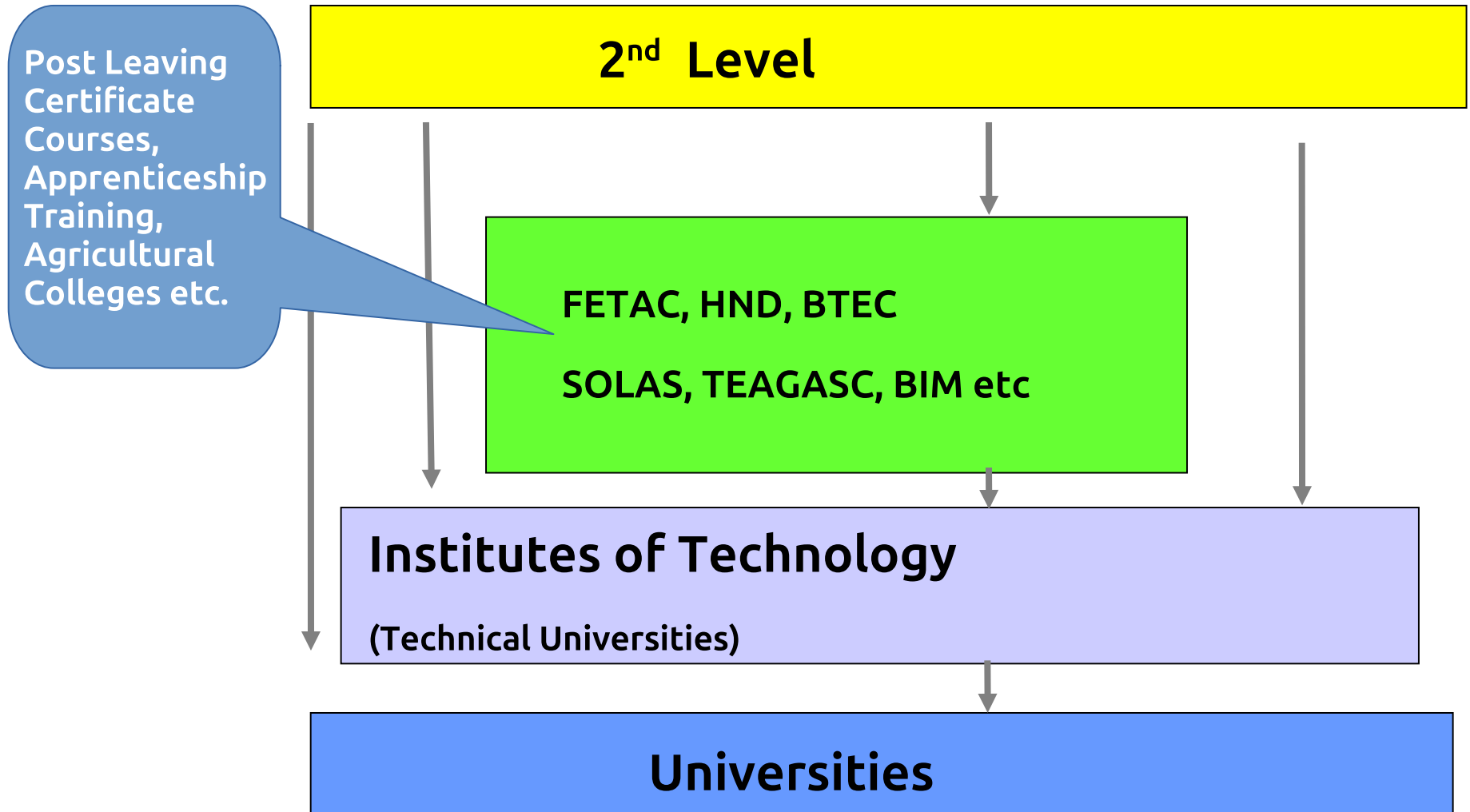
**Disclaimer:** Details subject to change - If this is a course you are considering applying for you should check on the [Colleges' website](#) to ensure you have the latest entry requirements information.

CAO Points History

## COLLEGE PROFILE

National College of Ireland -  
NCI[Visit College Profile](#)[View Prospectus](#)[View Scholarships](#)

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Level in Ireland

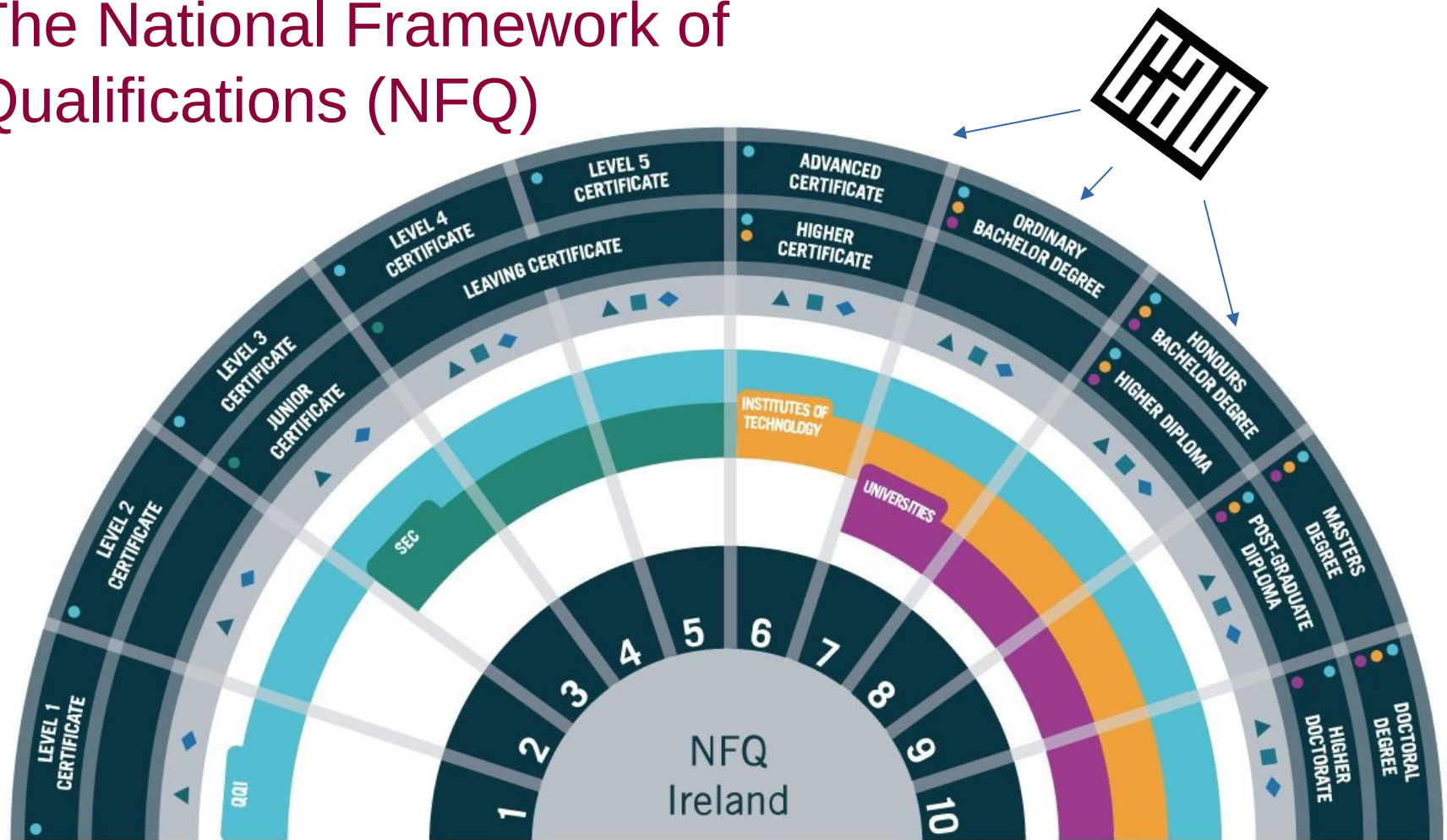




# The System is built on PROGRESSION



# The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)





# DANGER



- Do the Research!
- Points patterns
- Beware of -
  - College snobbery
  - Trendy courses
  - Family tradition
- Awareness of future employment trends
- Look outside of county/ country boundaries (Northern Ireland & the E.U.)
- Have a safety net!

# CAO HANDBOOK

*This Handbook (which is supplied free of charge) gives information on application and admission.*

*Application should not be made for any course without first consulting the information literature of the institution offering that course.*

PLEASE RETAIN THIS HANDBOOK FOR LATER REFERENCE

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Updates to this Handbook (new courses and deleted courses) may be viewed on the CAO website [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) under 'CAO Handbook and Important Changes'.

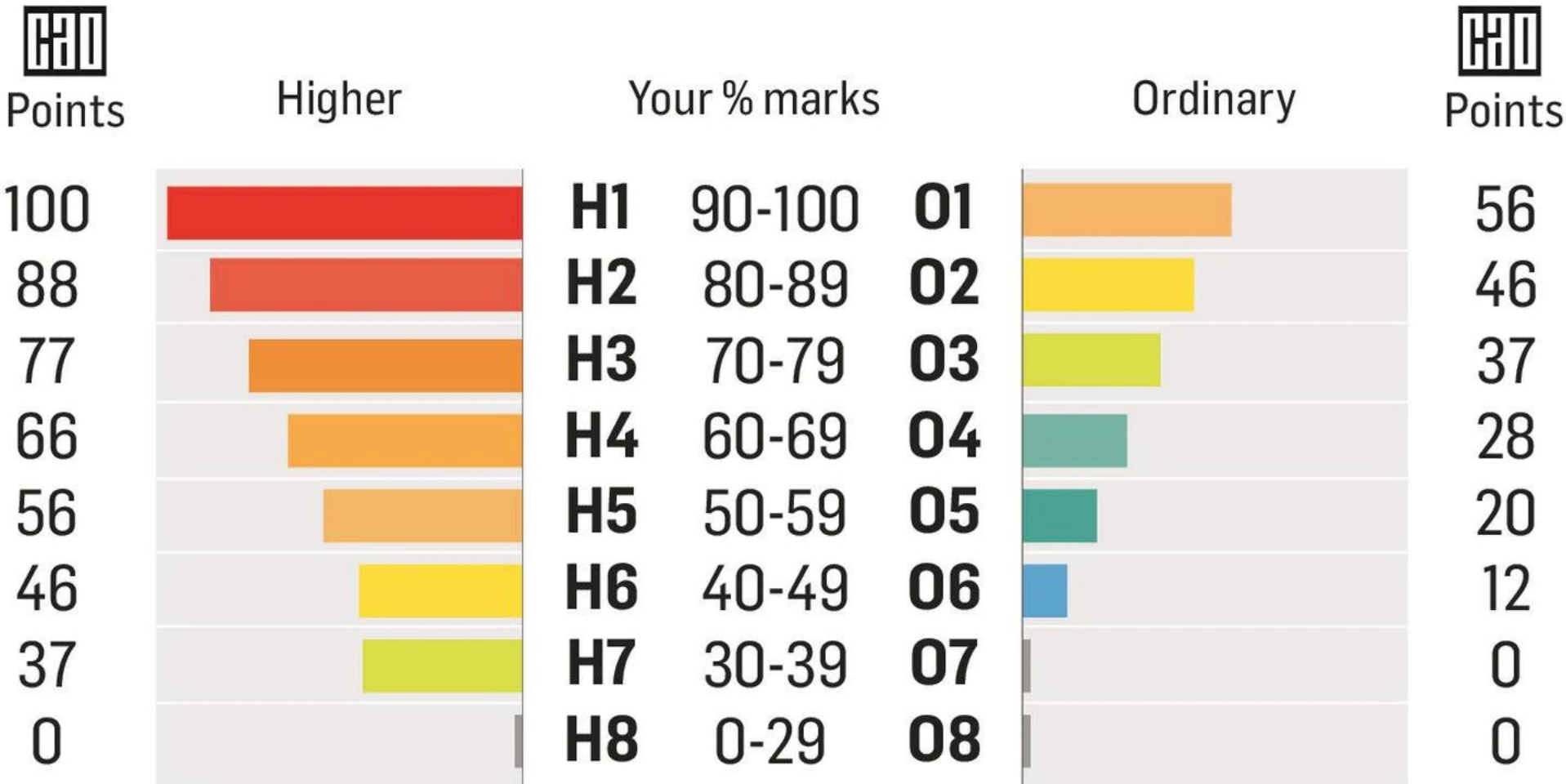
*Tá leagan Gaeilge den Lámhleabhar seo ar fáil.*

# 2025

Published by  
Central Applications Office,  
Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway.  
Phone (091) 509800. Fax (091) 562344.  
Website: [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)

Printed by KPW Print Ltd, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

# How Does the Points System Work?



**+25** Bonus points for H1-H6 maths

LCVP link modules

Distinction 66

Merit 46

Pass 28

# Accompanying Conditions:

- **Bonus points** for Leaving Certificate Higher Level **Mathematics** has been awarded since 2012.
- The **six best results**, in recognised subjects, in one Leaving Certificate Examination will be counted for points computation.
- **One sitting** only of the Leaving Certificate Examination will be counted for points purposes.
- In the case of certain subjects, e.g. Alternative Ordinary Level Mathematics, or Foundation Level Irish, some HEIs may not award the points shown above. However some of the I.T's are now awarding some points for **Foundation Level Maths**. If in any doubt, check with the Admissions Office of the appropriate HEIs.
- **LCVP** points awarded: Distinction - 66, Merit - 46, Pass - 28 (Not acceptable for some courses always check!)

**SAMPLE:**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Irish</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>O3</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>English</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H3</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Maths</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>O2</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Biology</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H3</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>D.C.G.</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H2</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>German</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H3</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>O2</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Ag. Science</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>O3</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Add the best 6 scores shown in red.</b>			<b>Points = 411</b>

# Interview with Portfolio

## When will I hear about the portfolio?

The School of Architecture, Building and Environment will contact all CAO applicants for the TU832 Architecture programme directly by email, using the email contact details included in your CAO application with details about the portfolio submission. TU832 is a restricted programme so late applications will not be accepted.

Admission to the TU832 Bachelor of Architecture programme comprises the following elements:

- Leaving Certificate (625 max CAO points, including 25 bonus points for higher level mathematics)
- Portfolio submission and Interview (200 points max)

**OTHER WAYS  
TO  
ACCUMULATE  
POINTS**



# MEDICAL ENTRY SYSTEM

- You must now register for and sit the 'HPAT-Ireland' test.
- Registrations close 5.15pm GMT 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- Cost is €160.80
- Test Window: 14<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025
- All medical programmes are now **restricted entry**.



# So What are Restricted Application Courses?

- These are courses that have Interviews/ Assessments / Portfolios / Auditions
- Medicine – HPAT Test
- Application for these courses must be made by the **1<sup>st</sup> February**.
- Details of all restricted entry courses are in the CAO Handbook



8	TU832	Architecture (Portfolio) (Interview) (Restricted, see page 3)	Bolton Street
---	-------	---	---------------



# How does the allocation work?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	10
DN077	TR032	DN074	LM067	DT025	LC019	CR105	DN003	AL020	DC193
607	560	595	562	600	570	600	540	601	555
595	535	595	536	595	535	595	535	595	535
590	525	590	526	590	525	590	525	590	525
580	520	580	520	580	520	580	520	580	520
**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
495	485	475	485	475	485	475	485	**	485
480	480	475	480	475	480	475	480	495	480
470	475	470	460	465	470	470	480	480	470
465	465	465	455	465	465	465	465	465	465
460	460	460	445	460	460	460	460	470	460
460	455	460	440	460	455	460	455	465	455
460	445	460	440	460	445	460	445	460	445
455	440	455	440	455	440	455	440	460	440
455	435	455	435	455	435	455	435	460	435
450	420	450	420	450	420	450	430	460	420
450	410	445	410	450	410	445	410	455	410
450	405	440	405	445	405	440	410	455	405
450	405	435	400	435	405	435	405	450	405
445	405	430	395	430	405	430	405	450	405
435	400	430	393	430	400	430	405	450	400
**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	450	**
**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	450	**
**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	445	**
**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	435	**
280	325	280	335	280	325	280	335	**	325
275	315	275	335	275	315	275	335	**	315
275	310	275	315	275	310	275	315	**	310
270	305	270	308	270	305	270	310	**	305

NO

NO

YES

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

YES

YES

# 1

## DN077

611
596
590
582
**
**
**
**
**
<b>495</b>
482
470
466
463
462
460
<b>455</b>
454
453
451
451
451
<b>445</b>
435
**
**
**
**
281
275
275

7 round one places not accepted

Last place to be filled - Round 1

Last place to be filled - Round 2

Round 2 cut off points - 455

# 2

## TR032

567
535
527
520
**
**
**
**
**
486
<b>480</b>
476
464
460
455
<b>445</b>
440
<b>433</b>
429
418
405
405
405
402
**
**
**
**
326
314
310

## ROUND 2

3 round one places not accepted

Last place to be filled - Round 1  
 Last place to be filled - Round 2

Round 2 cut off points - 433

# R a n d o m S e l e c t i o n

## EXAMPLE

List BEFORE bring re-ordered according to random number:

Applicant	Position of applicants in points order	Random number (relevant only for last places)
1	600	---
2	595	---
3	590	---
---	---	---
---	---	---
198	360	342
199	360	123
200	360	765
201	360	417
201	360	561

List AFTER bring re-ordered according to random number:

Applicant	Position of applicants in points order AND THEN IN RANDOM NUMBER ORDER	Random number (relevant only for last places)
1	600	---
2	595	---
3	590	---
---	---	---
---	---	---
198	360	765
199	360	561
200	360	417
201	360	342
201	360	123

Reordered according to highest random number

The three applicants with the higher random numbers are placed ahead of the two with the lower random numbers and those three are offered places.

Course Level  
6 / 7 / 8

Name and Website  
Address

**DUBLIN**

**NATIONAL COLLEGE OF IRELAND (NCI)**  
[www.ncirl.ie](http://www.ncirl.ie)

Course  
Options

**Level 8**

Level	Code	Title
8	NC003	Computing Degree options in: Software Development   Games Programming   Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning   Cybersecurity   Digital Business Transformation
8	NC005	Human Resource Management
8	NC009	Business
8	NC010	Psychology
8	NC020	Marketing Practice
8	NC022	Accounting and Finance
8	NC025	Data Science
8	NC030	Early Childhood Education and Care
<b>End of NATIONAL COLLEGE OF IRELAND (NCI) Level 8 Listing</b>		

Every Course  
has a Five Digit  
Code

**DUBLIN**

**DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY**  
[www.dcu.ie](http://www.dcu.ie)

**Level 8**

Level	Code	Title
8	DC001	Education - Early Childhood Education
8	DC002	Education - Primary Teaching
8	DC003	Education - Primary Teaching - Gaeltacht Applicants
8	DC004	Education - Primary Teaching - CIC (Church of Ireland Centre formerly CICE) (Restricted, see page 3)
8	DC009	Arts: Joint Honours (Humanities) Subject options on registration:  Students must choose two subjects in total: Up to two permitted from English / Gaelige Only one permitted from Human Development / Philosophy Only one permitted from History / Music Only one permitted from Geography / World Religions and Theology
8	DC010	Post Primary Teacher Education - Religious Education and English
8	DC011	Post Primary Teacher Education - Religious Education and History
8	DC012	Post Primary Teacher Education - Religious Education and Music
8	DC013	Post Primary Teacher Education - Gaeilge and French, German or Spanish
8	DC014	Jazz and Contemporary Music Performance (Audition)
8	DC015	Post Primary Teacher Education - Technology, Engineering and Graphics
8	DC110	Business Studies International
8	DC111	Business Studies
8	DC112	Global Business (France)
8	DC113	Global Business (Germany)
8	DC114	Global Business (Spain)
8	DC115	Accounting and Finance
8	DC116	Global Business (USA)

Watch for  
Restricted  
Application  
Courses

**Level 8**

Level	Code	Title	Location
8	TU801	Sustainable Energy Engineering #	Tallaght
8	TU802	Electrical Services and Energy Management	Grangegorman
8	TU804	Engineering (General Entry) Degree options in: Computer Engineering   Mechatronic Engineering	Blanchardstown
8	TU805	Engineering (General Entry) Degree options in: Building Engineering   Civil Engineering   Computer and Communications Engineering   Electrical and Electronic Engineering   Manufacturing and Design Engineering   Mechanical Engineering   Structural Engineering	Bolton St AND Grangegorman
8	TU807	Computer Engineering in Mobile Systems #	Blanchardstown
8	TU810	Mechatronic Engineering #	Blanchardstown
8	TU811	Product Design	Aungier Street AND Bolton St AND Grangegorman
8	TU828	Mechanical Engineering (General Entry) Degree options in: Automation Engineering   Biomedical Design   Mechanical Engineering	Tallaght
8	TU829	Electronic Engineering and Engineering Software (General Entry) #	Tallaght
8	TU831	Architectural Technology	Bolton Street
8	TU832	Architecture (Portfolio) (Interview) (Restricted, see page 3)	Bolton Street
8	TU833	Construction Management	Bolton Street
8	TU835	Planning and Environmental Management	Bolton Street
8	TU836	Property Economics (Valuation Surveying)	Bolton Street
8	TU837	Quantity Surveying and Construction Economics	Bolton Street
8	TU850	Data Science and Artificial Intelligence	Grangegorman
8	TU851	Analytical Chemistry (Environmental Forensic and Pharmaceutical)	Grangegorman
8	TU852	Chemical Sciences with Medicinal Chemistry	Grangegorman



**Two Subject  
 Moderatorship  
 (Battleships)**

**Trinity College Dublin- Joint Honours/ Modern Language Permitted Combinations**

	AH	AR	BU	CC	CL	CS	DR**	EC	EN	FS	GG	HS	LS	LW	ME	ML^	MT	MU	PH	PO	RL	SC	SO	^Modern Language
AH	-	TR113	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR111	TR112	-	-	TR547	TR114	-	-	-	-	TR117	-	-	AH: Early Irish, French*, German, Irish*, Russian, Spanish
AR	TR113	-	-	TR173	TR231	-	TR485	-	TR263	-	-	TR443	-	-	-	TR455	-	-	TR479	-	TR665	TR482	-	AR: Early Irish, French*, Irish*, Italian, Spanish
BU	-	-	-	-	-	TR188	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR580	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	BU: see main course list for Business & Language courses
CC	-	TR173	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR166	-	-	-	-	-	TR548	TR177	-	-	TR179	-	TR663	-	-	CC: Early Irish, German, Italian, Irish*, Russian, Spanish
CL	-	TR231	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR228	-	-	-	TR230	-	TR233	TR239	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CL: French*, Italian, German, Russian
CS	-	-	TR188	-	-	-	-	TR197	-	-	TR240	-	TR241	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CS: See main course list for Computer Science, Linguistics and a Language course
DR**	-	TR485	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR276	TR311	-	-	-	-	TR566	TR323	-	TR635	-	-	-	-	-	DR: Early Irish, German, Irish*, Italian, Russian, Spanish
EC	-	-	-	-	-	TR197	-	-	-	-	TR198	TR202	-	-	-	TR208	TR207	-	TR209	-	-	TR212	TR214	EC: French*, German, Irish*, Spanish, Russian
EN	-	TR263	-	TR166	TR228	-	TR276	-	-	TR312	-	TR262	-	-	TR546	TR277	-	-	TR269	-	TR664	TR272	-	EN: Early Irish, French*, German, Irish*, Russian, Spanish
FS	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR311	-	TR312	-	-	TR325	-	-	-	TR324	-	TR320	-	-	-	-	-	FS: Early Irish, French*, Irish*, Italian, Spanish
GG	TR111	-	-	-	-	TR240	-	TR198	-	-	-	TR322	-	-	-	TR326	-	-	-	-	TR328	-	TR332	GG: French*, Italian, German, Russian
HS	TR112	TR443	-	-	-	-	-	TR202	TR262	TR325	TR322	-	-	TR581	TR554	TR447	-	-	TR449	TR457	TR454	-	-	HS: Early Irish, German, Irish*, Italian, Russian, Spanish
LS	-	-	-	-	TR230	TR241	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR587	TR588	-	-	TR589	-	-	-	-	LS: Early Irish, French*, German, Irish*, Russian, Spanish
LW	-	-	TR580	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR581	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR582	-	-	LW: See main course list for Law and Language courses
ME	TR547	-	-	TR548	TR233	-	TR566	-	TR546	-	-	TR554	TR587	-	-	TR563	-	TR564	-	-	TR565	TR592	-	ME: Early Irish, French*, Italian, Irish*, Spanish
ML^	TR114	TR455	-	TR177	TR239	-	TR323	TR208	TR277	TR324	TR326	TR447	TR588	-	TR563	-	TR597	TR636	TR639	-	TR666	TR756	TR757	^See separate table for details of Language and Modern language combinations
MT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR207	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR597	-	TR598	TR599	-	-	-	-	MT: Early Irish, Irish*, Italian, Spanish
MU	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR635	-	-	TR320	-	-	-	-	TR564	TR636	TR598	-	TR629	-	TR638	-	-	MU: Early Irish, French*, German, Irish*, Russian, Spanish
PH	-	TR479	-	TR179	-	-	-	TR209	TR269	-	-	TR449	TR589	-	-	TR639	TR599	TR629	-	-	-	-	-	PH: French*, German, Italian, Russian
PO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR328	TR457	-	TR582	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR758	
RL	TR117	TR665	-	TR663	-	-	-	-	TR664	-	-	TR454	-	-	TR565	TR666	-	TR638	-	-	-	-	-	RE: French*, German, Italian, Russian
SC	-	TR482	-	-	-	-	-	TR212	TR272	-	TR332	-	-	-	TR592	TR756	-	-	TR662	-	-	-	TR759	SC: Early Irish, German, Irish*, Italian, Russian, Spanish
SO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR214	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TR757	-	-	-	-	TR758	-	TR759	SO: French*, Italian, German, Russian

\* French and Irish are not available at beginner's level \*\* Drama Studies- Restricted – apply by 1 Feb.

AH Ancient History & Archaeology AR History of Art & Architecture BU Business Studies CC Classical Civilisation CL Classical Languages	CS Computer Science DR Drama Studies EC Economics EN English Studies FS Film	GG Geography HS History LS Linguistics LW Law ME Middle Eastern, Jewish & Islamic Civilisations	ML Modern Language MT Mathematics MU Music PH Philosophy	PO Political Science RL Religion SC Sociology SO Social Policy
--	--	---	---	---

**Choices & Options**

**Level 8**

Level	Code	Title
8	DN100	Architecture (Level 9 progression option)
8	DN120	Landscape Architecture
8	DN130	City Planning and Environmental Policy
8	DN150	Engineering Degree options in: Biomedical Engineering   Biosystems & Food Engineering   Chemical & Bioprocess Engineering   Civil Engineering   Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering   Electrical Engineering   Electrical Power Engineering   Electronic & Computer Engineering   Electronic Engineering   Energy Systems Engineering   Engineering with Business   Materials Science & Engineering   Mechanical Engineering   Structural Engineering with Architecture   Sustainable Systems Engineering
8	DN200	Science Subject options on application: Stream 1: Explore Multiple Streams   Stream 2: Biological, Biomedical & Biomolecular Sciences   Stream 3: Earth & Environmental Sciences   Stream 4: Chemistry (includes Medicinal/Sustainable)   Stream 5: Mathematics (includes Applied/Financial/Statistics)   Stream 6: Physics (includes Theoretical/Astronomy & Space Science)   Stream 7: Science, Mathematics & Education  Degree options: 1 Sample subjects from a number of streams in First Year 2 Biochemistry & Molecular Biology   Cell & Molecular Biology   Environmental Biology   Genetics   Microbiology   Neuroscience   Pharmacology   Physiology   Plant Biology   Zoology 3 Earth Sciences   Environmental Biology 4 Chemistry   Chemistry with Environmental & Sustainable Chemistry   Medicinal Chemistry & Chemical Biology 5 Applied & Computational Mathematics   Mathematics   Financial Mathematics   Statistics 6 Physics   Physics with Astronomy & Space Science   Theoretical Physics 7 Applied Mathematics, Mathematics & Education   Biology, Mathematics & Education   Chemistry, Mathematics & Education   Computer Science, Mathematics & Education   Physics, Mathematics & Education
8	DN201	Computer Science Degree options in: Computer Science   Computer Science with Data Science
8	DN230	Actuarial & Financial Studies



[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](#)

## 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](#)[Alert Lists](#)[Applicant Checklist](#)[Application Demo](#)[Applicant Scoring](#)[CAO Handbook](#)[CAO Video Guides](#)[Common Points Scale](#)[Courses Change of Mind](#)[Entry to Medicine](#)[Exemptions](#)[Further Education and Training & Apprenticeship](#)[GCE A/AS/GCSE Applicant Information](#)[Other School Leaving Applicants](#)[Mature Applicants](#)[Points by Year](#)[Points Calculator](#)[QQI FET/FETAC Applicant Information](#)[Restrictions](#)[Supporting Documents FAQ](#)

## 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.

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.

Home address

Rep. of Ireland

Other Country

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Address Line 4

Select City or County...

Postal Code

(e.g. H91 X25V)

So, what does the form look like?



**Postal Address:** (created from name and address entered above)

Tick the following box if the postal address looks correct.  
Otherwise, change your name and address above.

**The postal address is correct.**

**e-mail address**

**Confirm e-mail**

**Contact Telephone**

**Do you wish to receive sms text messages from CAO?**

Yes

No

**Do you wish to receive sms text messages from the HEIs you apply to?**

Yes

No

**Country of Birth**

**Nationality**

**HEI's may look  
for evidence  
of EU  
Nationality**

### Qualifications & Assessment Summary :

Please tick the qualification/assessment categories that are relevant to you.  
You may tick more than one box, if necessary.

Majority of  
students only have  
to tick this box

1.  Irish Leaving Certificate Exams (1985-2024) [Help?](#)
2.  QQI FET/FETAC Level 5/6 Exams (2002-2024) [Help?](#)  
(Including Post-Leaving Certificate Courses leading to QQI FET/FETAC level 5 or 6 awards)
3.  GCE A/AS Levels/GCSE (2006-2024) [Help?](#)  
(England, Wales, Northern Ireland Exams, and International GCE/GCSE Exams under CAIE, PEARSON, AQA, OCR Boards)
4.  Other School Leaving Exams [Help?](#)  
(e.g. School Leaving Exams outside of UK & Ireland, Baccalaureate, Scottish Exams, pre-1985 Irish & UK exams, Leaving Cert Applied, Level 3 BTEC, GNVQs, VCEs, Irish Matric Exams, GCE/GCSE pre-2006, etc. - see 'Help?' link for further information)
5.  Other Further Education [Help?](#)  
(Any other Further Education courses that you have undertaken that do not fall into one of the other categories on this application form. See 'Help?' link for further information.)
6.  Third-Level Higher Education [Help?](#)  
(required regardless of whether you passed, failed, or did not take examinations)
7.  Mature Applicants [Help?](#)  
(those 23 years of age on or before the 1st of January 2024)

**Please note:** You must supply additional information about your upcoming examinations or existing qualifications when you log in to your CAO Account. In May, you will be instructed by email to verify that all of your examination and account information is correct. Ignoring the email in May could have very serious consequences for your application.

**Course Choices** (stored on the CAO computer)

**Entry to 1st Year**

**N.B.** An application should not be made for any course without first consulting the information literature of the institution offering that course.

**Level 8 Course Choices:**

None Selected.

[Add Level 8 Course Choices »](#)

**Level 7/6 Course Choices:**

None Selected.

[Add Level 7/6 Course Choices »](#)

## Payment Details

Secured By 256bit SSL

### Central Applications Office

DEMO - No charge

Do not enter details. Simply click on image to continue.

#### Card Number



#### Expiry(mm/yy)

 / 

#### Security Code <sup>3</sup>

#### Cardholder Name

Pay Now

Secured by:

globalpayments

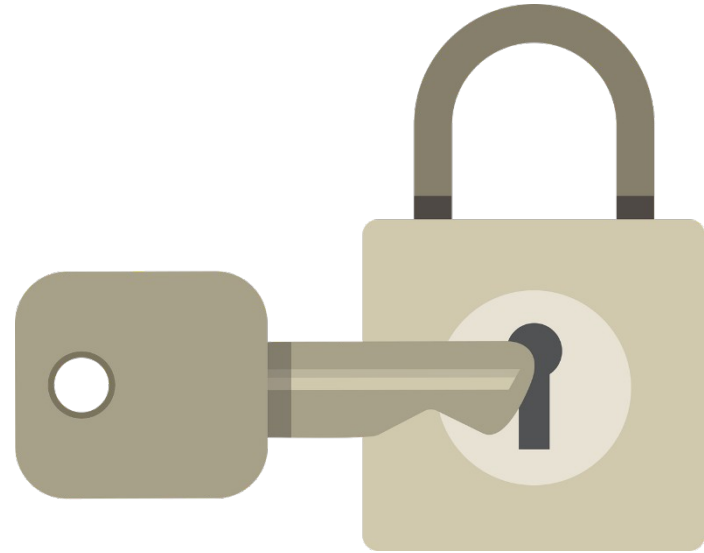
## APPLICATION DATES AND FEES

Table 1.1 Application dates and fees

APPLICATION TYPE	FEE	CLOSING DATE
Early online application (discounted)	€30	20 January 2025 at 5pm
Normal online application	€45	1 February 2025 at 5pm
Late online application – restrictions apply (see page 3)	€60	1 May 2025 at 5pm
Change of Mind – restrictions apply (see page 3)	Nil	1 July 2025 at 5pm

Be sure to complete any action well in advance of closing dates. You should avoid making an application close to a closing date. No extensions to closing dates will be allowed and all application fees are non-refundable.

# It's Good Advice to Password Protect Your Account



I understand this form is for practice only and that no details will be sent to CAO.

**Create Account Password :**

**Account Password**

.....

**Confirm Password**

.....

Your Account Password must be at least eight characters long.  
Please choose a password that you will remember easily.

After clicking 'Proceed with Application' please be patient, as the payment request may take some time.

# Demo Application

## Level 8 Course Choices

Courses

No courses selected.

Please enter all your course choices below, in order of preference.

You may type the course codes directly into the boxes below or click on the 'Courses' button to select course codes.

**N.B.** Enter all courses for which you wish to apply.

### New Choices

Enter your new list below

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Courses in order of  
Genuine Preference

Nothing goes on this  
form that you wouldn't  
be happy to accept, if  
offered

If you are a **Deferred Applicant** from last year, tick the following box:

You will breach the conditions of your deferred place if you enter more than the single deferred course code on your application. In that event, you will forfeit the guaranteed place and enter the 2020 competition for places in the normal way.

Cancel

Continue with Course Choices (no details sent) »





---

## SUSI - Maintenance/Fee Grant Application ([Further Information](#))

All new student Maintenance/Fee Grant applications will be made online to SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) through their website at [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie) (see also [www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie)).

Please refer to the [SUSI web site](#) for details of courses that may be eligible for student grant funding from SUSI.

If you wish to apply for a grant, you may indicate this on your CAO online application. CAO will then provide your Identification, Contact and Offer/Acceptance details to the grant authority (SUSI).

**This is NOT your  
SUSI application**

[Modify Maintenance/Fee Grant Application Status »](#)

---

## Exemptions from Minimum Entry Requirements

If you are seeking exemption from minimum entry requirements, such as Irish or a third or modern language, you must contact the Admissions Office of the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) you are applying to (in the case of NUI institutions contact the NUI, see [www.nui.ie](http://www.nui.ie) for details).

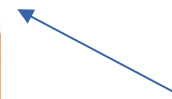
If you wish to apply for an NUI exemption, you must also indicate this on your CAO online application. To indicate this on your CAO application, click the "Modify NUI Exemption Status" button below and follow the instructions. Please note: CAO plays no role in processing exemption applications.

**Have you applied for  
your language  
exemption?**

[Modify NUI Exemption Status »](#)

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

**Disability**



**Socio-Economic**

# DARE and HEAR Timelines

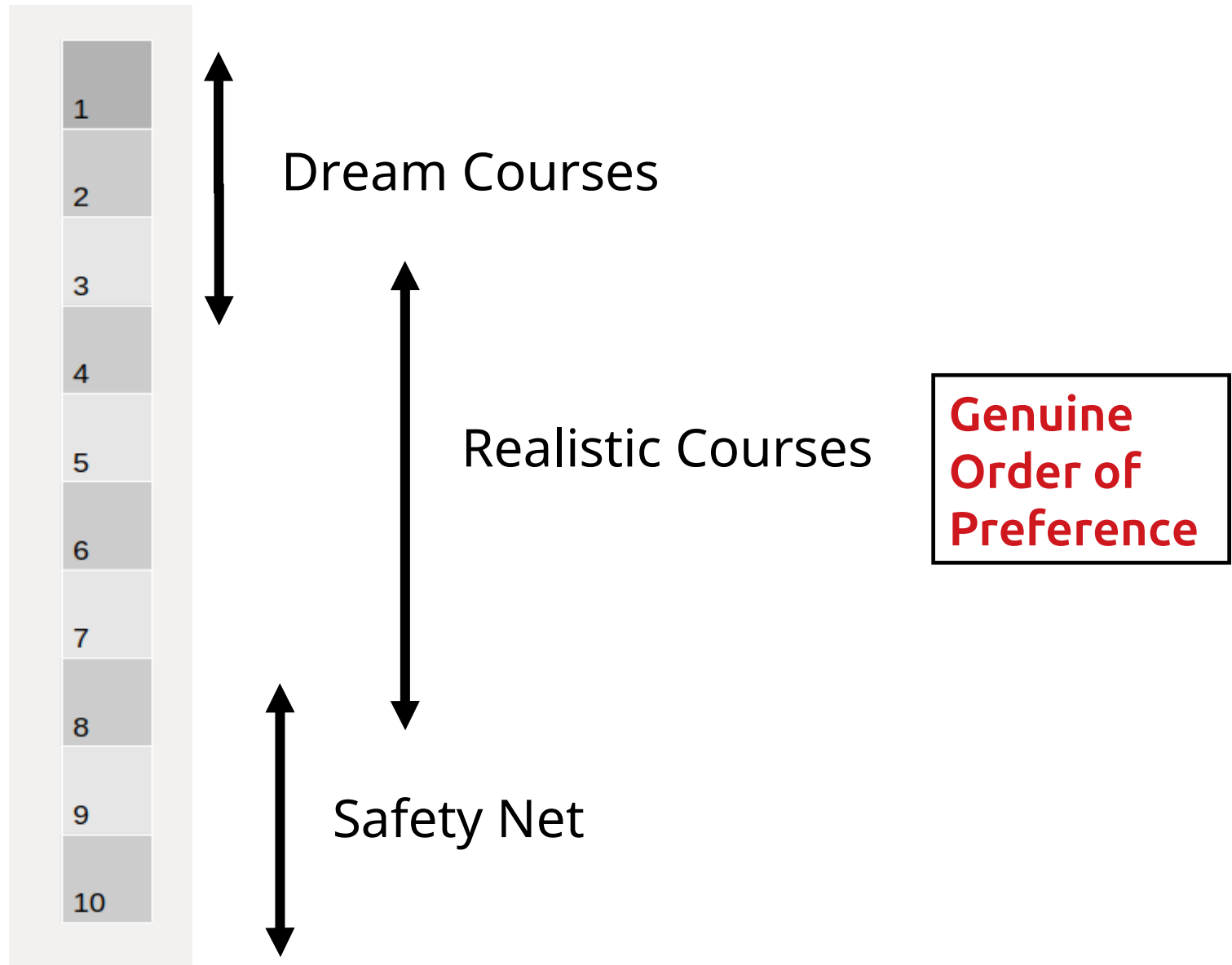
<b>DARE &amp; HEAR closing date:</b>	1 March 2025 at 17:00
<b>Supporting documents closing date:</b>	15 March 2025
<b>Notification of eligibility:</b>	Late June 2025
<b>Review and Appeals Application:</b>	Early July 2025
<b>HEAR/DARE offers:</b>	August 2025
<b>College Orientation:</b>	Late Aug /Early Sept 2025

# ALLOCATION OF HEAR / DARE PLACES



CAO Code	Title	Target Places 2024	Average Lowest Offer 2021-23
DN100	Architecture	3	487
DN120	Landscape Architecture	2	399
DN130	City Planning and Environmental Policy	2	428
DN150	Engineering	25	472
DN200	Science	30	454
DN201	Computer Science	6	481
DN230	Actuarial and Financial Studies	3	532
DN240	Sustainability	5	482
DN250	Agricultural Science	19	368
DN261	Food Science	3	434
DN262	Human Nutrition	3	468
DN300	Veterinary Medicine (Undergraduate Entry)	4	529
DN301	Veterinary Medicine ( <b>Graduate Entry</b> )	N/A graduate entry route	
DN310	Veterinary Nursing	3	478
DN400	Medicine (Undergraduate Entry)	12	692

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



# After Completing the Application

- Receive CAO number and Statement of Course Choices.
- Receive Statement of Application Record.
- Some students may be asked to attend extra assessments.
- Change of Mind facility becomes available. (**FREE**)
- Leaving Cert. Results are sent to CAO
- Places are allocated and offered online.
- Students accept, reject or defer offered places. (**NEVER REJECT**)
- Further rounds of offers are made until all course places are filled.

# *CAO Offer Timetable*

- Mature/ deferrals in July / early Aug
- Leaving Certificate results – August , 2025??
- Round One Offers – (3 Days Later) August 2025??
- Each list separate. (Can accept on-line.)
- Offers each week thereafter
- Can only move up list, never down
- Can accept or ignore subsequent offers
- Available Place application ([www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie))
- Random Selection

# CAO Class 2024

**84,537**

Total No. of  
Persons Applying

**62,700**

Leaving Certificate  
Candidates

**45,187**

Level 8  
Acceptances

Leaving Certificate Applied Candidates: **4,730**

Further Education (PLC) Applicants: **10,998**

Repeat Leaving Certificate Applicants: **744**



**Table A2 Number of Level 8 Mentions and First Preferences by Course Clas**

Category	2024		1
	Total Mentions	First Preferences	
<b>Isced Narrow Field</b>			
(011) Education	21,565	4,664	
(021) Arts	41,877	7,169	
(022) Humanities (except languages)	14,803	2,652	
(023) Languages	3,974	719	
(028) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving arts and humanities	341	53	
(031) Social and behavioural sciences	30,805	5,041	
(032) Journalism and information	2,354	289	
(041) Business and administration	52,762	8,850	
(042) Law	16,733	2,696	
(051) Biological and related sciences	22,852	3,267	
(052) Environment	3,374	374	
(053) Physical sciences	9,359	1,134	
(054) Mathematics and statistics	3,506	540	
(058) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving natural sciences, Mathematics and statistics	5,016	840	
(061) Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	22,924	3,833	
(071) Engineering and engineering trades	23,473	4,195	
(072) Manufacturing and processing	1,886	236	
(073) Architecture and construction	13,993	2,700	
(081) Agriculture	1,595	321	
(084) Veterinary	1,729	885	
(088) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving agriculture, forestry and veterinary	1,878	443	
(091) Health	63,084	12,132	
(092) Welfare	7,678	1,585	
(101) Personal services	9,374	1,658	
(102) Hygiene and occupational health services	358	62	

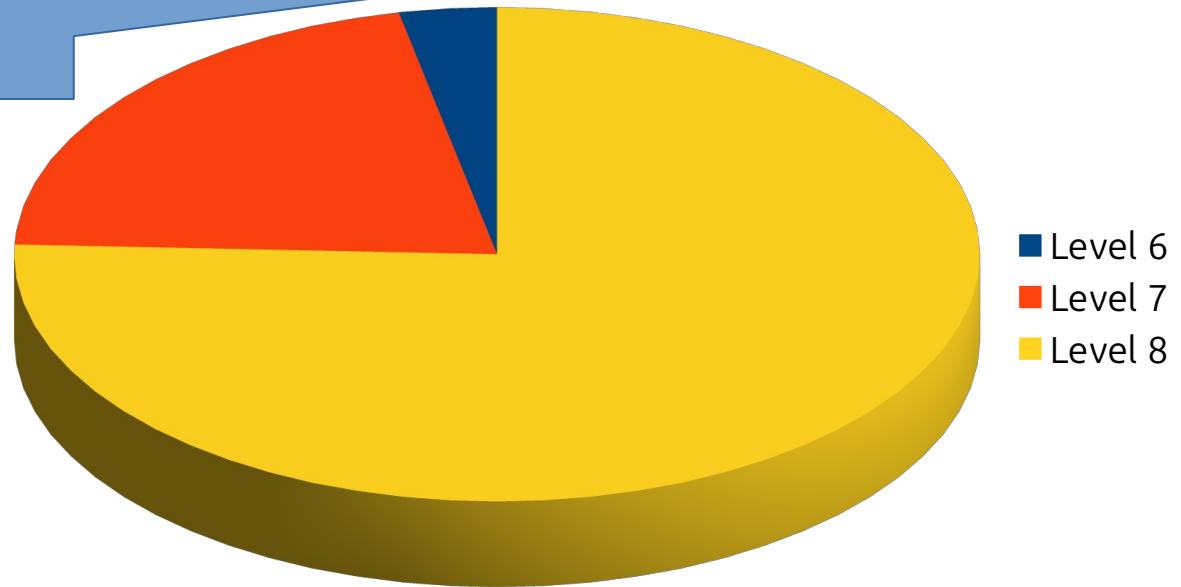
**Most Popular Courses are:  
Arts**

**Business**

**Health**

## Programme Offering by NFQ Level

There are still a number of level 6 / 7 courses available. Remember the ladder of progression.



# Our Students and the CAO 2023

## 2023 Summary Records for 91456J

Total Number of Applicants	77
Total Number Receiving No Offer	13
Total Number of Level 8 Offers	59
Total Number with Acceptances of Level 8 Offer	43
Total Number of Level 7/6 Offer	44
Total Number with Acceptances of Level 7/6 Offer	9
Total Number of Students who sat the Leaving Certificate	90
Percentage of students going to a H.E.I. through the C.A.O.	58%

## Level 8

### 2023 Level 8 Acceptances

AD101 First Year Art & Design (Portfolio,Common Entry)	1
AU680 Education (Design, Graphics and Construction)	2
CK202 Accounting	1
DC011 Post Primary Teacher Education - Religious Education and History	1
DC013 Post Primary Teacher Education - Gaeilge and French, German or Spanish	1
DC120 Computing for Business	1
DC132 Journalism	1
DC180 Biological Sciences General Entry	1
DC181 Biotechnology	1
DC195 Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering	1
DC200 Common Entry into Engineering (Undenominated Entry)	2
DC208 Psychology	2
DK802 Business with Management	1
DK821 Computing in Software Development	1
DN130 City Planning and Environmental Policy	1
DN150 Engineering	1
DN250 Agricultural Science (options)	1
DN660 Commerce International (options)	1
GY401 Engineering (Undenominated)	1
LM089 Sport and Exercise Sciences	1
MH101 Arts	3
MH201 Science	2
MH209 Psychology (through Science)	1
MH403 Accounting and Finance	1
MH601 Computer Science through Arts (options)	1
SE602 Computer Forensics and Security	1
TR004 Law	1
TU805 Engineering (General Entry)	1
TU814 Sustainable Transport Management	1
TU835 Planning and Environmental Management	2
TU856 Computer Science	1
TU859 Computing (General Entry)	1
TU863 Digital Forensics and Cyber Security	2
TU918 Law (LL.B.)	1
TU989 Early Childhood Education and Care (campus options)	1

## Level 6/7

### 2023 Level 7/6 Acceptances

DK711 Business and Technology	1
GC490 Interior Design	1
SE722 Electronic Engineering	1
TU704 Civil Engineering	1
TU709 Engineering (General Entry)	2
TU745 Hospitality Management	1
TU751 Biosciences	1
TU761 Ophthalmic Dispensing	1

# Are there Non- CAO Options?

- Apprenticeships (SOLAS)
- Defence Forces
- Gardaí
- Fáilte Ireland
- Teagasc
- Direct to Employment
- Post Leaving Certificate Courses
- Repeat Leaving Certificate
- Clearing House through UCAS
- EUNICAS



# BREADTH OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Anything you can do in the private sector you can do in the public sector



**Educational Psychologist**

An Roinn Oideachais  
Department of Education

Applications Opening  
Friday, 25th November

publicjobs.ie | Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



**Control Room Operatives**

Closing Date  
3pm, 1st December

publicjobs.ie | Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



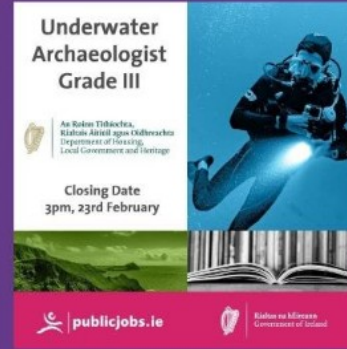
**Watch Officer**

Air Roinn Seaport  
Department of Transport

Irish Coast Guard

Closing Date  
3pm, 24th November

publicjobs.ie | Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

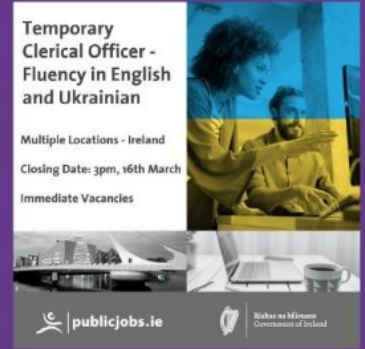


**Underwater Archaeologist Grade III**

An Roinn Tibhóitea, Rialaithe Áiteil agus Chultúracha  
Department of Tourism, Local Government and Heritage

Closing Date  
3pm, 23rd February

publicjobs.ie | Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



**Temporary Clerical Officer - Fluency in English and Ukrainian**

Multiple Locations - Ireland

Closing Date: 3pm, 16th March

Immediate Vacancies

publicjobs.ie | Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

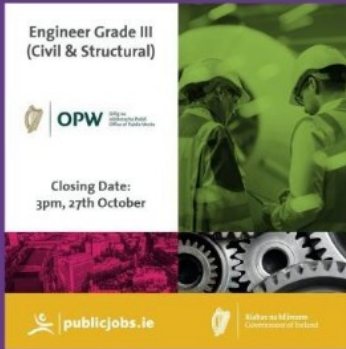


**Forensic Scientist Grade III - Chemical/Physical Analysis**

fsi

Closing Date  
3pm, 22nd September

publicjobs.ie | Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

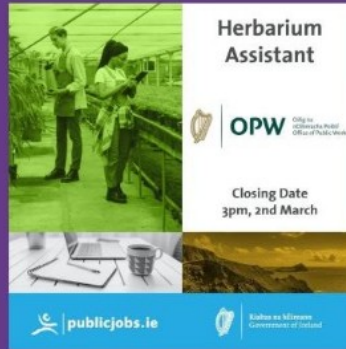


**Engineer Grade III (Civil & Structural)**

OPW

Closing Date:  
3pm, 27th October

publicjobs.ie | Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



**Herbarium Assistant**

OPW

Closing Date  
3pm, 2nd March

publicjobs.ie | Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



**Naval Architect (Ship Surveyor) in the Marine Survey Office**

Air Roinn Seaport  
Department of Transport

Closing Date  
3pm, 12th January

publicjobs.ie | Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



**Energy, Environment and Climate Graduate Opportunities**

Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Closing Date  
3pm, 9th February

publicjobs.ie | Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

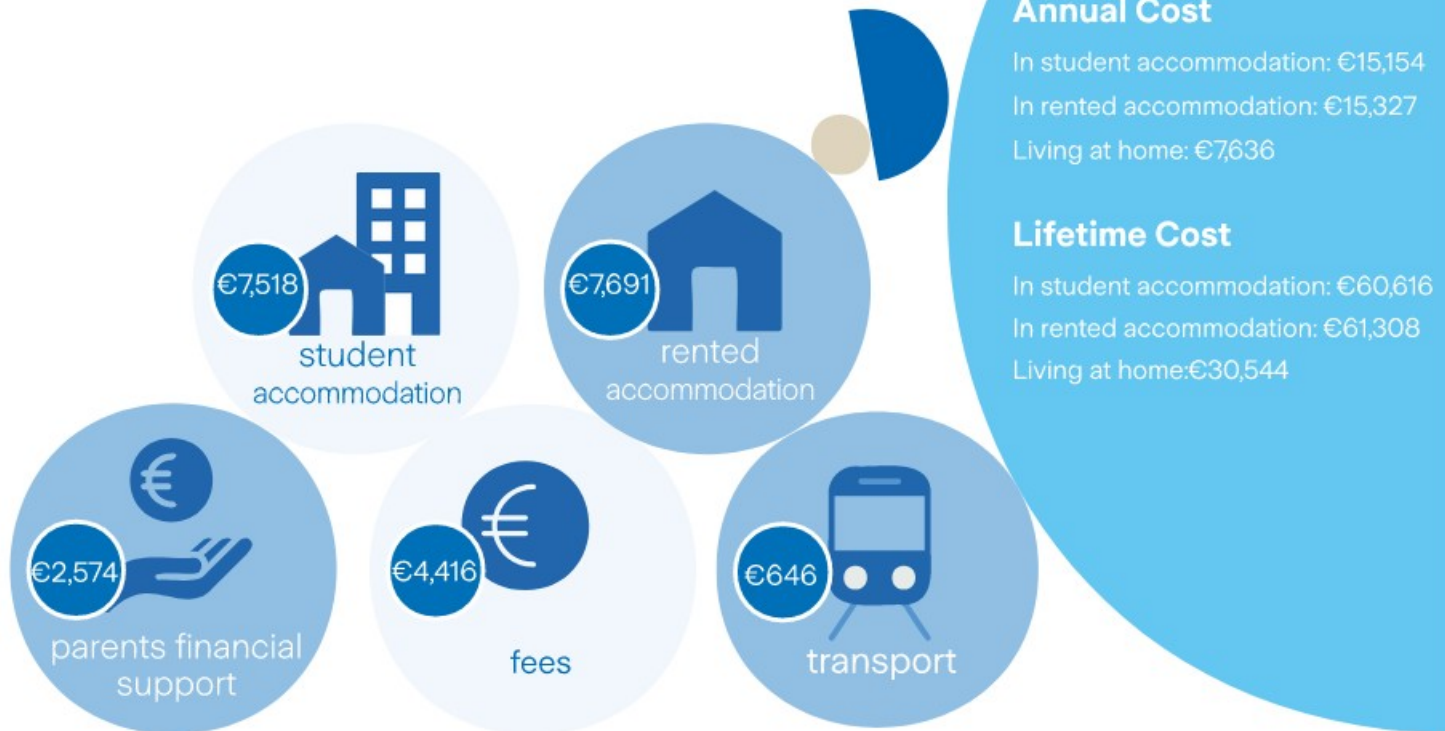
# Our Most Popular PLC Options





# Costs of College

## Third Level



# Comparative Costs of College

Shop  
Around

COST (Per month €)	DUBLIN*	GALWAY**	SLIGO***
Accommodation	575	420	320
Travel (city)	113	42.50	17.50
Food	214	260	175
Electricity/Heat/Power	56.75	80	39.50
TV and Internet	30	20	15
Photocopy/Printing	25	25	15
Recreation/Socialising/ outdoor activities	220	180	180
Mobile	20	20	20
Medical	23	20	12
Clothes Laundry	20	60	12
Pint of beer	5.25	5	4.20

\* Averages of cost of living figures – Source: University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin Institute of Technology and Dublin City University

\*\* Averages of cost of living figures – Source: National University College Galway and Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology

\*\*\* Figures provided by IT Sligo



SUSI is now accepting applications for 62 [approved part-time undergraduate courses](#)



[Forms](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Gaeilge](#)



[Apply/Login](#)

[About Student Grants](#) ▾

[Existing Applications](#) ▾

[Part-Time Funding](#)

[News](#)

# Supporting You All The Way


SUSI is Ireland's national awarding authority for further and higher education grants. We offer support to eligible students in approved courses at PLC, undergraduate and postgraduate levels and in some cases, to students studying outside Ireland.

**Opens April 2025**

# A word about Transition to Third Level


- *Size of College (800 to 38,417)*
- *Size of Class (6 to 500)*
- *Class contact hours / schedule*
- *Choosing subjects*
- *Attendance Monitoring*
- *Budgeting / Part-time work*
- *Reduced Parental Involvement*
- *Change in Learning Style*
- *Shift in who takes responsibility*

# In Difficulty - ASK



Counselling

A photograph of a building with a blue sky and some bare tree branches in the foreground, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.




Health Centre

A photograph of a modern building with a teal sky and some green branches in the foreground, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal filter.



Student Helpdesk

A photograph of a building with a red sky, overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter.



Crèche

A photograph of a brick wall with a yellow sky and some yellow flowers in the foreground, overlaid with a semi-transparent yellow filter.




Student Support Hub

A photograph of a building with a blue sky and some white flowers in the foreground, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.



Budgeting

A photograph of a building with a teal sky and some white flowers in the foreground, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal filter.



Chaplaincy

A photograph of a brick wall with a red sky and some pink flowers in the foreground, overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter.



Student Support Officer

A photograph of a building with a yellow sky and some yellow flowers in the foreground, overlaid with a semi-transparent yellow filter. The text "Seirbhísí na Student" is visible in the background.



Mac Léinn  
ervices  
Homefinder

A photograph of a building with a dark blue sky and some white flowers in the foreground, overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue filter. The text "Mac Léinn ervices" is visible in the background.

# *Sources of Information*

- CAO Handbook & its warning
- Publications
- Guidance Counsellor / teachers
- Current students / graduates / people in that career
- Open Days - College visits
- Visitors to School
- Parents / older siblings
- YouTube and Social Media

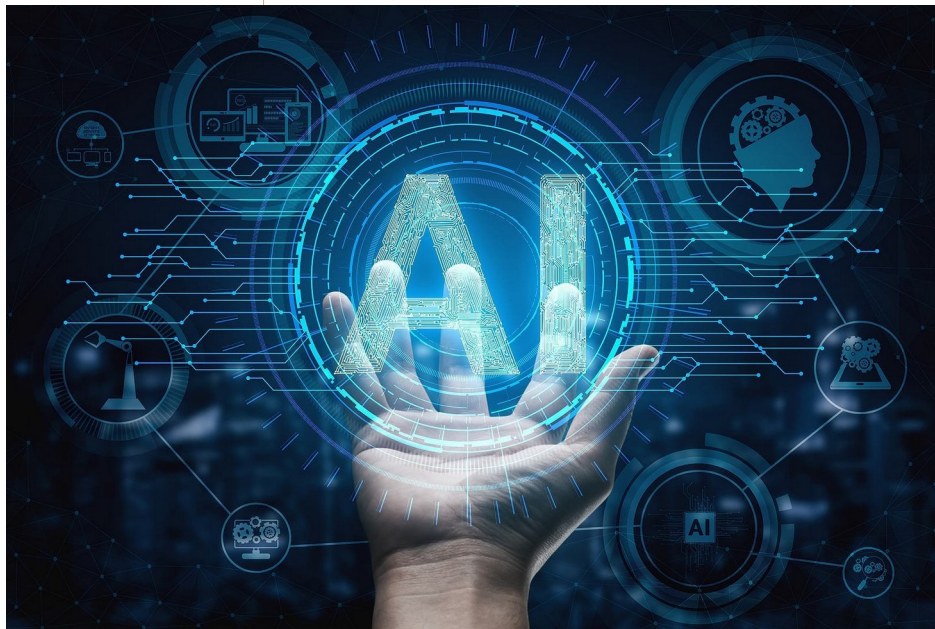
# Websites

- [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
- [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
- [www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie)
- [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)
- [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)
- [www.guidanceoffice.info](http://www.guidanceoffice.info)



# Why is the CAO important?

## Digital Transformation



- 1/3 jobs at high risk of disruption
- Majority of sectors growing over next five years but 46,000 less jobs available
- Sectors at risk are those with repetitive manual tasks: Agriculture, Retail/Transport/Hospitality, Manufacturing
- Mainly elementary low-skilled occupations
- Impact greatest on those with lower education levels
- Upskilling and lifelong learning are an imperative



So,  
where  
are the  
jobs?

## Shortages identified in:

### Science & Engineering

- Analytical/process & medical scientists
- Quality control/assurance, process & design engineers
- Mechanical, electrical & automation engineers
- Maintenance/lab technicians

### Construction

- Quantity surveyors
- Civil engineers & construction project managers
- Plumbers
- Carpenters

### Health & Social Care

- Medical practitioners
- Nurses
- Healthcare assistants
- Care workers (labour shortage)

### ICT

- IT project managers
- Software developers/engineers
- IT analysts/engineers

### Other Craft

- CNC programmers
- Welders/fabricators

### Transport & Logistics

- HGV drivers
- Bus & coach drivers

### Hospitality

- Chefs

\*skills shortages unless otherwise stated

## Recruitment issues are also occurring in occupations including:



Primary/secondary school teachers



Project/operations managers



Production managers in manufacturing



Social workers



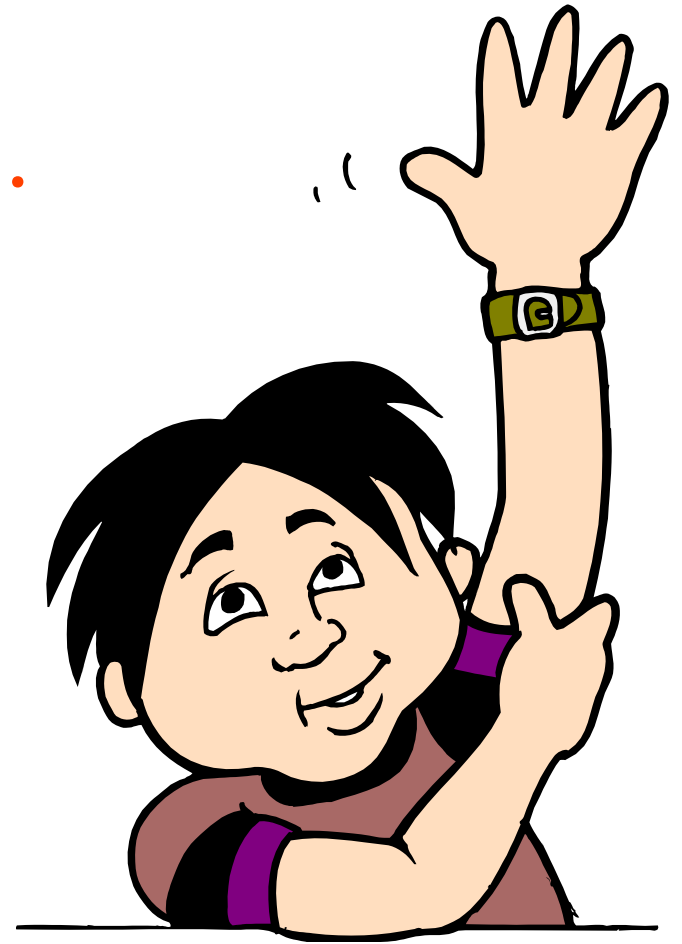
Construction occupations  
(e.g. bricklayers/plasterers, painters)

### Outlook:

Retention of existing staff and upskilling/reskilling of the current workforce (e.g. as a result of digitalisation and/or climate-related activities) will be key concerns for employers as demand for skills outstrips supply across many occupations.

And Finally...

Any  
Questions?



[DOates@stciaranscs.ie](mailto:DOates@stciaranscs.ie)