



LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2024/2025 FUTURE OPTIONS Wednesday Oct 9th

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT:

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POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Options for life after school
- Ways of Applying to Courses
- National Framework of Qualifications
- Apprenticeships
- Colleges of Further Education
- Tertiary Degree Pathways
- Studying Abroad: UCAS and EUNICAS
- CAO Application Procedure & Dates
- Restricted Entry Courses
- CAO Offers
- Access Routes: HEAR and DARE
- Grants: SUSI
- Scholarships
- Accommodation
- Pres Guidance Supports

OPTIONS FOR LIFE AFTER SCHOOL

7 Universities	<i>Trinity, UCD, University of Galway, UCC, Maynooth University, UL, DCU</i>
5 Technological Universities (formerly ITs)	<i>SETU (Carlow & Waterford), MTU (Cork & Tralee), ATU (Galway-Mayo, Sligo, St. Angela's, Letterkenny & Dundalk), TUD (Tallaght, Blanchardstown, DIT), TUS (Athlone & Limerick)</i>
Other Higher Education Institutes (HEIs)	<i>Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI), National College of Art and Design (NCAD), Mary Immaculate College, etc.</i>
Colleges of Further Education (Level 5&6 courses)	<i>Local: Ormonde College of Further Education (Kilkenny). Carlow Institute of Further Education, Waterford College of Further Education, etc.</i>
Apprenticeships	apprenticeship.ie
Tertiary Education Programmes	nto.ie
Workplace/Gap Year/UCAS/Eunicas	Indeed.com , UCAS.com , Eunicas.com , Gardai, Defence Forces

WAYS OF APPLYING TO COURSES

Ireland:

CAO

- Universities
- Technological Universities
- Other HEIs
- Private colleges

Colleges of Further Education

- Apply directly to colleges or through FETCH
- QQI FET awards (PLC)
- Progression to Third Level

Abroad:

UCAS

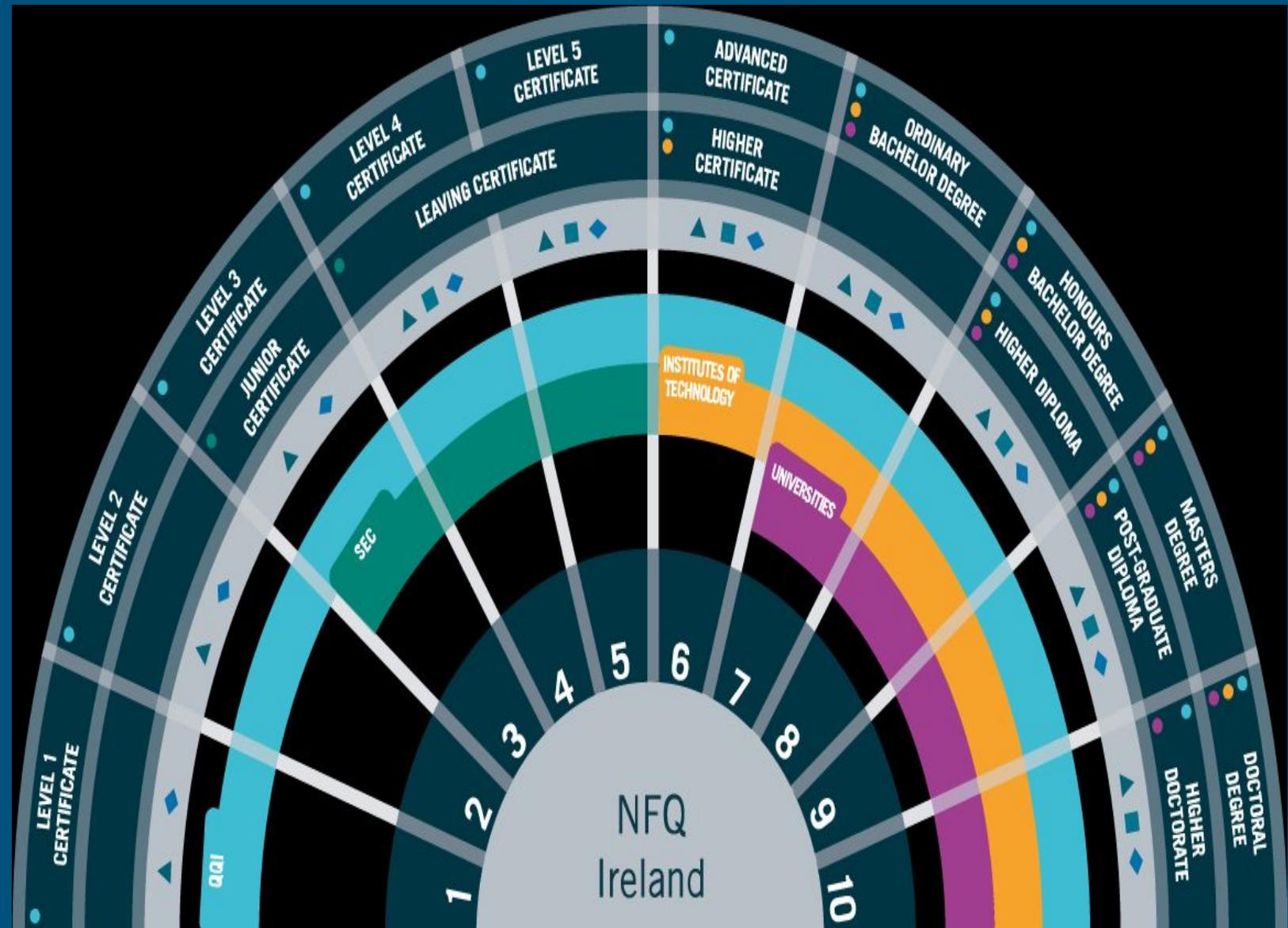
- Universities/colleges in the U.K (deadlines Oct 15th/Jan 25th)

EUNICAS

- Universities/colleges in Europe
- Sign up to Eunicas - expert advice & information €38

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS

- School leavers may decide to do a Level 5/ 6/ 7 or 8 course.
- Level 5 – FE QQI (CFE) - 1 year.
- Level 6 – FE QQI Higher Certificate (CFE and CAO) - 2 years
- Level 7 – Ordinary Bachelor Degree (CAO) - 3 years
- Level 8 – Honours Bachelor Degree (CAO) - 4 years



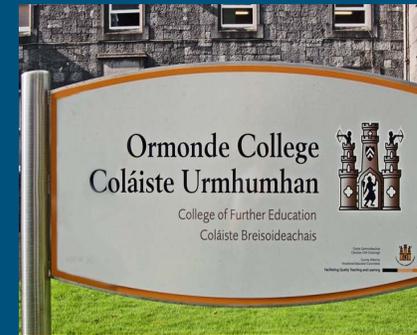
APPRENTICESHIPS - 'Earning while learning'

- Combines learning in the workplace with learning in an education or training centre.
- Apprenticeships **currently available** include those in Construction, Electrical (ESB), Engineering, Finance, Hospitality, Computer and ICT, MedTech, Insurance, Accountancy and Motor.
- Many more apprenticeships are in the process of development at the moment.
- **Apply directly to employer - competitive!**
- Deadlines can vary so it's important to research when they are.
- Full list of apprenticeships can be found on www.apprenticeship.ie



COLLEGES OF FURTHER EDUCATION - PLC

- PLC - Post Leaving Certificate Course
- Level 5 & Level 6
- Full time (SUSI funded) or part time
- Broad range of subject areas
- Apply directly to the college or online through FETCH
- Suits students who are not sure of what career they want to pursue or are not ready to attend third level college.
- Back up option for students also applying through the CAO as most Colleges of Further Ed have progression links with TUs and Universities



Tertiary Degrees

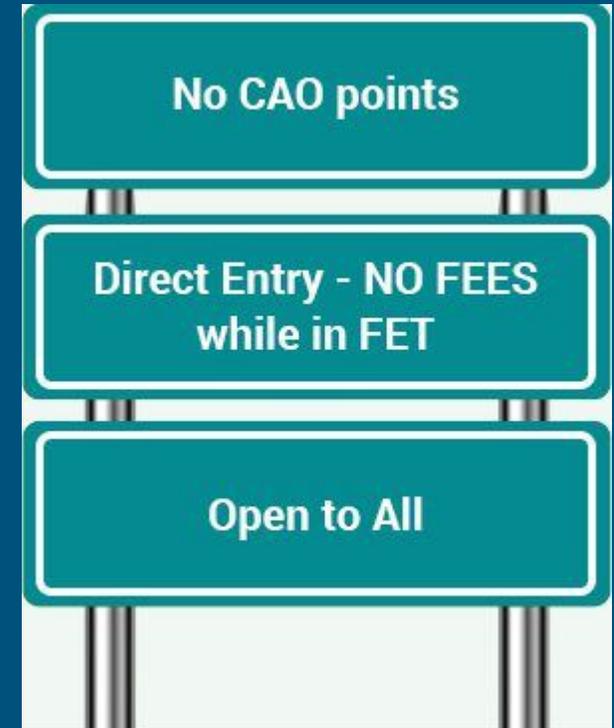
National Tertiary Office

- A tertiary degree programme allows you to start your degree in a smaller campus closer to home.
- This means reduced accommodation and travel expenses, greater study/life balance, and a smoother transition to higher education.

Available programme locally:

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in IT Management: Year 1 the College of FET Kilkenny and Years 2, 3 & 4 SETU Carlow

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Public Health and Health Promotion: Year 1 the College of FET Kilkenny and Years 2, 3 & 4 SETU Waterford



STUDYING ABROAD: UCAS

- UCAS - UK Colleges and Universities: Northern Ireland, England, Scotland & Wales.
- Deadlines: **15th October 2024** (*medicine, veterinary medicine/science & dentistry, Cambridge and Oxford*) and **29th January 2025** (*for all other undergraduate courses*).

Reasons for applying to universities in the UK:

- **Financial incentives** - Northern Ireland free fees for allied health courses (OT, SLT, Physio & nursing)
- **Ease of Access** - travel distance, flights, ferries, etc.
- **Cost of living** may be cheaper than Ireland



STUDYING ABROAD: EUNICAS

- EUNICAS is an independent application support service.
- Students can apply to up to 8 degree programmes that are taught through English, in universities across Europe.
- Medicine and Veterinary, Arts & Humanities, Life Sciences, Social Sciences, Engineering & IT and Business.
- Entry requirements are often significantly lower than Irish universities.



CAO - Important Dates

- **6th November 2024** - Online application opens & HPAT applications open - discount fee of €30
- **1st February 2025 (5pm)** – CAO Normal closing date for application (Final date for all RESTRICTED COURSES e.g. art, drama, music and medicine, etc)
- **7th May 2025** – CAO online change of mind facility becomes available (free)
- **1st July 2025** – CAO change of mind closes - courses locked in!



CAO - Level 8 & 7/6 Lists - 2 APPLICATIONS IN 1

- 2 lists - Level 8 and Level 7/6 and applicants may make up to 10 course choices on each list - total 20 courses
- Choices on one list do not in any way affect choices on the other list. They may be considered two separate applications on one form.
- Possible to receive an offer on both lists & decide to accept either the Level 7/6 or Level 8 offer.



APPLICATION

Form 1: A stylized representation of an application form with a large red circle containing the number 1 in the center. The form includes a header, a grid of input fields, and a footer.



APPLICATION

Form 2: A stylized representation of an application form with a large red circle containing the number 2 in the center. The form includes a header, a grid of input fields, and a footer.

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

Use the Demo Application facility in the Student Resources section of the CAO website to become more familiar with the process before starting an application.

- Apply online - www.cao.ie
- Enter personal details carefully, particularly **date of birth** and **email address** (email that is checked regularly)
- Applicants will receive an application number which must be kept safe - needed for all correspondence with CAO
- Applicants must remember to place course choices **in genuine order of preference.**



GENUINE ORDER OF PREFERENCE

- Ensure that your daughter is putting down their genuine course preference as no. 1 on their list!
- You do not need to guess what the points are going to be as points can go higher or lower than last year.
- Simply list your courses in genuine order of preference from the highest preference at no. 1 to the lowest preference at no. 10
- Be conscious of points further down. If aiming for points over 500, ensure they also have courses with lower points as a safety net lower down on their order of preference.
- Take a realistic look at your daughter's CAO form again after her mocks



The best way to fill in your course choices

Order of preference

Dream Courses

Realistic Courses

Banker Courses



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



Restricted Entry Courses

- These are courses that require early assessment procedures such as interviews, auditions, portfolios and aptitude tests (eg. HPAT - Medicine)
- Such courses cannot be included for the first time on a Change of Mind form, ie. they must be included before **February 1st 2025**
- Can be added using Change of Course Facility up to March 1st (Extra Cost)*

CHANGE OF MIND FACILITY



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.

The Change of Mind opens in early May and closes on the 1st of July at 5:15pm.

THE OFFERS STAGE (ROUND 1)

- One offer for Level 8. One offer for Level 6/7
 - Applicants will be offered a place in the highest of their course preferences to which they are entitled
 - Offer will be made if **three criteria** are met:
 1. College requirements (matriculation)- 2 H5s & 4O6s, Irish, Eng, Maths, 3rd Lang (NUIs)
 2. Course requirements - H4 Irish Primary Teaching etc.
 3. Points
- Accepting Round 1 offers does not mean that your child will be prevented from receiving an offer of a higher preference course in subsequent offer rounds
 - Should a place become available in a later round, and if your child is entitled to this place, they may receive an offer which they can choose to accept or ignore
 - Accepting the new offer will automatically cancel the previous acceptance.

ACCEPTING AN OFFER

There can be no delays at the offer/acceptance stage

- Any offer not accepted by the closing date for receipt of acceptance of offers in CAO will be offered to another applicant in the next round of offers.
- You will receive an email acknowledging your acceptance if you accept online.



ROUND 2, 3 & so on.....

- After the first round of offers is made, further offers may subsequently be made in later rounds
- You may be offered a place further up on your order of preference
- You will never be offered a place further down
- Check CAO for dates for offer rounds - TBC

DARE | DISABILITY
ACCESS
ROUTE TO
EDUCATION

DARE

(Disability Access Route to Education)

A third level admissions scheme for school leavers whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education

HEAR | HIGHER
EDUCATION
ACCESS
ROUTE

HEAR

A third level admissions scheme for school leavers from long-term socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds

Why apply to HEAR or DARE?

1. Reduced Points for CAO offers in the participating colleges, provided you meet the minimum entry requirements.

2. Post-entry supports - Academic, social and personal.

Applying for HEAR and DARE

- **Feb 1st:** Apply through the CAO
- **1st March:** Supplementary information to be filled out on CAO application
- **15th March:** Documentation must be posted to CAO
- Please see www.accesscollege.ie for further information.

SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland)

- Maintenance Grant and Fee Grant funding available to undergraduate students pursuing approved courses within the State
- Paid as a 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% maintenance grant depending on your household income
- The maintenance grant comes in 9 monthly instalments - paid into student bank acc.
- The fee grant is paid directly to the college/institution on your behalf

SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland)

- Applications open in April - Apply early as possible after the opening date & collect relevant paperwork
- The 'Eligibility Reckoner' on www.susi.ie - an indication as to whether you meet the criteria & will inform you of relevant paperwork needed
- The undergraduate income thresholds and grant award rates available on the SUSI website

Budget 2025: changes to student contribution and grant thresholds

- Student Contribution fee reduced by €1,000 for students to €2,000
- Standard Rate Maintenance Grant income thresholds & Student Contribution Grant income thresholds for the Student Grant will increase by 15% (September 2025)
- Income threshold for the special rate of maintenance grant will increase from €26,200 to €27,400 (September 2025)

Scholarships

- There are a broad range of bursary and scholarship schemes in operation.
- www.heai.ie contains many of the schemes currently available in Ireland. In addition, many higher education institutions offer their own scholarships or bursary schemes for academic, sporting or other achievements. Check with each HEI for Application Dates
- Go to 'Careers Portal' → 'Tools' → 'Education' → 'Scholarships'

Student Accommodation Options - On Campus/Private Rental

DCU, UL, UCC & UCG	Online Application opens Feb & closes in March , random selection lottery in April & booking deposit required if successful
UCD	Opens from April & lottery in August, if successful booking deposit payable
NUIM & TCD	Opens September 1st once CAO round 1 offers are made
SETU Waterford	Opens <i>from</i> March lottery in April & booking deposit required if successful

- *This list is subject to change & is only a selection of campus accommodation*
- *It is the students responsibility to check with each college for **2025 application opening dates***
- *Check with college student accommodation offices for accommodation lists for private rental or digs*
- *Start researching accommodation in Feb once CAO lists are completed*

YOUR ROLE AS A PARENT/ GUARDIAN

Help your child to research their courses



Encourage your child to apply early



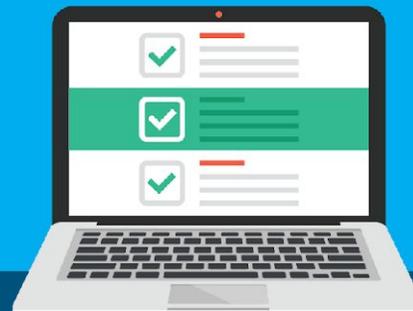
Make sure your child lists their courses in Genuine order of preference



Watch out for important deadlines



Remind your child to review all CAO correspondence carefully



Return offer acceptance notices on time



Pres Guidance Supports

- Weekly Careers Classes with Guidance Counsellor
- At least 2 individual meetings with guidance counsellor (some students may need more support)
- Careers Interest, Personality & Aptitudes testing carried out - revisit these!!
- Google Classroom & emails sent to students of relevant careers information
- Campus & Open Day visits - UL/MI/TUS - Oct 17th, 5th Yr - UCC, SETU Waterford & TY - SETU Carlow
- Pres Careers Fair - every Feb, parents/guardians welcome to attend
- Weekly Lunchtime Career Series - guest speakers & career webinars
- Students can arrange a meeting at any stage - personal & career support

Final Thoughts...

- Research - in all forms
- Engagement with process
- Options & Pathways



The best way to fill in your course choices

Order of preference

	Course Code	Courses
Dream Courses	1	
	2	
	3	
Realistic Courses	4	
	5	
	6	
Banker Courses	7	
	8	
	9	
	10	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- CAO handbook
- www.cao.ie
- www.qualifax.ie
- www.careersportal.ie
- www.accesscollege.ie
- www.studentfinance.ie
- www.susi.ie
- www.apprenticeship.ie
- Prospectuses available in school
- Individual college websites - check student accommodation page

Thank you for your attention this evening

Contact Details:

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