

## **1. CAO:**

- Apply through - [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)
- [https://careersportal.ie/school/cao\\_courses.php](https://careersportal.ie/school/cao_courses.php) - Good source of information
- Open from 05/11/2024 – 20/01/2025 @ €30, 20/01/2023 – 01/02/2024 @ €45.
- Opening application = Personal Details, create account, Pay Fee. Use a personal email & keep password safe.
- Make sure you tick relevant boxes i.e. SUSI/DARE/HEAR/NUI EXEMPTION – whatever relates to you.
- Course Choices = 10 Level 8s & 10 Level 6/7s should be listed
- Apply for as many courses as possible – keep all your options open
- ORDER OF PREFERENCE! Number 1 on each list should be what you really want to do & where you really want to go
- Visit colleges on your lists
- Complete a course Investigation for each course on CAO Application
- Change of Mind: 01/05/2025 – 01/07/2025

## **2. DARE Application:**

- More information can be found at: <https://accesscollege.ie/dare/>
- **YOU MUST TICK THE BOX ON YOUR CAO APPLICATION TO SAY YOU ARE APPLYING FOR DARE!! (01/02/2025 deadline)**
- Section A = Personal Statement (1,500 words) YOU MUST FILL OUT ONLINE THROUGH YOUR CAO BEFORE 01/03/2024 – this is a piece about how you feel your condition affected you in secondary school
- Section B = Education Impact Statement (EIS) will be filled out by school in January and a copy will be sent home with you to SEND TO CAO BEFORE 15/03/2025
- Section C = Evidence of Disability (this is the report that you received diagnosing your condition/if diagnosed by consultant/psychiatrist) SECTION C form must be completed and SENT TO CAO BEFORE 15/03/2025

## **3. HEAR APPLICATION:**

- More information can be found at: <https://accesscollege.ie/hear/>
- HEAR is you/your guardians responsibility – school plays no part!
- **YOU MUST TICK THE BOX ON YOUR CAO APPLICATION TO SAY YOU ARE APPLYING FOR HEAR!! (Deadline 01/02/2025)**
- All sections for HEAR should be filled in online before the 01/03/2025.
- Information is based on 2023 financial records of your parents/guardians only
- If your parents/guardians were on social welfare in 2023 then you will need to get the social welfare to fill out a form also
- Any supporting documentation should be sent to the CAO before the 15/03/2024

## **4. Irish/Third Language Exemption:**

- <https://www.cao.ie/?page=exemptions&bb=studentresources> – Information can be found here
- If you have an exemption in Irish and/or a third language and are applying to one of the national universities i.e. UCD, UCC, Maynooth, NUIG, amongst others which can be found here [https://www.nui.ie/college/admissions.asp#const\\_Unis](https://www.nui.ie/college/admissions.asp#const_Unis) then you must fill out an NUI Exemption form to inform the CAO that you have an exemption. This can be filled in at home with your parents/guardians but there is also a section that Mr Mc Mahon must sign.
- The exemption form can be found at this link; <https://www.nui.ie/college/docs/exemption.pdf>
- The NUI exemption is the responsibility of the student to download, print and send to the NUI exemption office. The school takes no responsibility in processing this.
- You will also be required to send a copy of your psychological report, stating your exemption, along with this form.

## **5. SUSI (Grant):**

- Apply through [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie)
- Based on 2024 financial information of you and your parents/guardians
- First come, first served i.e. the quicker you get your application in, the quicker you get your money!
- Everyone should apply – you might get something. Rate varies for each person based on circumstances.

## **6. Student Accommodation:**

- Apply directly through the college website e.g. [www.ucd.ie](http://www.ucd.ie)
- Colleges give preference to 1<sup>st</sup> year students
- Lottery basis – you could be lucky enough to be pulled out. If you are not in, you can't win!
- Pay a small deposit to hold your place
- Or be placed on a waiting list

## **7. Scholarships:**

- Full list available here: <https://careersportal.ie/scholarships/index.php>
- Normally open around February
- Check the college website to see their list of available scholarships/Instagram & other socials too.
- Apply directly through the college website
- If you think you might be eligible at all – you should apply
- Scholarships help in terms of points and also additional benefits

## **8. PLC Courses:**

- [https://careersportal.ie/school/plc\\_courses.php](https://careersportal.ie/school/plc_courses.php)
- Applications open in January
- Always an option
- Apply directly to the college of further education
- Register through the FETCH website: <https://www.fetchcourses.ie/account/signin>
- Once you submit application, you will be contacted to attend for an interview

## 9. **APPRENTICESHIPS:**

- Lots of information available through - <https://careersportal.ie/apprenticeships/index.php>
- Sign up to [www.indeed.ie](http://www.indeed.ie) to find vacancies
- Check out – [www.apprenticeships.ie](http://www.apprenticeships.ie) for current vacancies also (Select Career Seekers/Find Apprenticeship Jobs/Select the specific location/Select the specific Apprenticeship)
- You must have a very good, up to date Cover Letter & CV when applying for an apprenticeship.
- See link for more information on developing a CV/Cover Letter - [https://careersportal.ie/work\\_employment/job\\_applications.php](https://careersportal.ie/work_employment/job_applications.php)
- You can apply directly to some larger companies through their websites by filling in an application form online i.e. SUIR Engineering for example/ESB
- If you know someone who will give you an apprenticeship make sure they are registered to do so, then you will receive proper training. Contact WWETB for more information on this or see <https://www.apprenticeship.ie/employers/how-to-apply/find>