



SUSI, HEAR & DARE

INFORMATION SESSION FOR
PARENTS/GUARDIANS 2024

SUSI

▶ **About SUSI**

- ▶ Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) is Ireland's national awarding authority for further and higher education grants. SUSI offers funding to eligible students in approved courses at PLC, undergraduate and postgraduate levels in Ireland and in some cases, to students studying in the UK or EU. All types of students, from school leavers to mature students returning to education can apply for funding.
- ▶ Established in 2012, SUSI is a business unit of City of Dublin ETB and administers funding in line with the legislation as set out in the [Student Support Act 2011](#) and the annual [Student Grant Scheme](#) and [Student Support Regulations](#).

SUSI – What funding is available?

Course Type	Maintenance Grant	Student Contribution and/or Fees
PLC Course	✓	
Full-Time Undergraduate Course	✓	✓
Part-Time Undergraduate Course		✓
Undergraduate Course in the EU or UK	✓	

SUSI – Eligible?

To be eligible for a grant, students must meet the following criteria:

▶ **Nationality and Residency**

- ▶ You must be an Irish, EU, EEA, UK or Swiss National, or have specific leave to remain in the State as granted by the Department of Justice.
- ▶ You must also be ordinarily resident in Ireland, the EU, EEA, UK or Switzerland for three of the last five years.

Course

- ▶ You must be attending an approved course in an approved institution.
- ▶ You must be progressing in your education and increasing your National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) level.

Income

- ▶ Your reckonable income, calculated for grant purposes, must fall under specific thresholds.
- ▶ Applications are assessed with regard to gross household income from the previous year.
- ▶ Check out SUSI's [Eligibility Indicator](#) to see if you might be eligible for funding.

SUSI – More info. on income levels, thresholds etc.

- ▶ <https://www.susi.ie/eligibility-criteria/income/full-time-undergraduate-income-thresholds-and-grant-award-rates/>

HEAR Scheme

What is HEAR?

- ▶ The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a higher education admissions scheme for Leaving Certificate students (under 23) whose economic or social background are underrepresented in higher education.

HEAR Scheme – Benefits

Reduced Points

- ▶ If you apply to HEAR and meet the application criteria (that is, are deemed eligible for HEAR) you may be offered a place even if you do not have enough Leaving Certificate points for your preferred course. Each participating college and university has a reserved number of places to offer eligible HEAR applicants at lower or reduced Leaving Certificate points. An example of a reduced points offer is that the Leaving Certificate points for a particular course is 366 points. An eligible HEAR applicant could be offered a place with a lower points score, e.g. 356 points. This applicant would also, like all other applicants applying to college, need to meet the minimum entry requirements and any specific programme requirements before being considered for a HEAR reduced points offer. The reduction in points for HEAR places can vary every year. The number of points a particular course is reduced by is dependent on a number of factors, such as:
 - ▶ The overall number of places on the course.
 - ▶ The number of reserved HEAR places on the course.
 - ▶ The number of HEAR eligible applicants competing for these reserved places.
- ▶ Information on the number of reduced points places available per course and the method used by colleges for selecting eligible HEAR students for those places is available on some HEI websites and on the page of each of the participating colleges on this website.

College Supports

- ▶ College Supports If you get a place through HEAR, you will receive a variety of academic, personal and social supports while at college. College supports may include:
 - ▶ An Orientation Programme to introduce you to university/college.
 - ▶ Extra tuition if required, study skills and exam preparation.
 - ▶ One-to-one meetings with student advisers.
 - ▶ Social gatherings/mentoring.
 - ▶ Extra financial assistance when available/ advice regarding grants and scholarships.
 - ▶ Prioritisation of Applicants Eligible for both DARE & HEAR.
- ▶ For more information, contact the Access Office in one of the participating colleges

HEAR – Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ HEAR applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural criteria to be considered for a reduced points place and extra college support.
- ▶ If your family income is less than the HEAR Income Limit and you think you may meet a correct combination of the other HEAR indicators, you should consider applying to HEAR. You can find more information about the HEAR Income Limit and the other HEAR indicators below. Here is a list of all the HEAR criteria. Combinations that allow you to take part in the HEAR Scheme are:
 - ▶ Criteria 1 and 2, plus one of criteria 4, 5 or 6
 - ▶ Criteria 1 and 3, plus one of criteria 4, 5 or 6
 - ▶ Criteria 1 and 4, plus one of criteria 5 or 6
 - ▶ Criteria 1, 5 and 6

HEAR – Eligibility Criteria

1. On or below income level (On next slide)
2. Medical card
3. Means tested social welfare payment
4. Socio Economic Group
5. DEIS School (CBS is not)
6. Disadvantaged Area (Census/Contact HEI)

IMPORTANT

- ▶ Please note that SUSI & HEAR are your responsibility to apply to as is Dare.
- ▶ However, with DARE, the school completes section B and returns it to your son to be posted with other documents.
- ▶ ALWAYS USE REGISTERED POST TO CAO!

HEAR – Income Levels

Number of dependent* children in your family	HEAR Income Limit
Fewer than 4	€46,790
4 to 7	€51,325
More than 8	€55,630

*A dependent includes:

- A sibling under the age of 16 years on 1 October 2024.
- A sibling over the age of 16 years on 1 October 2024 who is either: attending post primary education.
- Attending a full-time course in FET or higher education.
- Medically certified as permanently unfit for work.
- A parent attending a full-time course in FET or higher education

HEAR – How to apply?

- ▶ From 6 November 2024 – 1 March 2025 Complete the online application form through www.cao.ie.
- ▶ The online application process will generate a Supporting Document Checklist based on your answers. Ensure that you have copies of all [supporting documents needed](#).
- ▶ By 15 March 2025: Submit copies of supporting documents to CAO by [post](#).
- ▶ Please note, when completing your HEAR application from through cao.ie. we recommend doing so by using a desktop or laptop rather than using a smartphone

DARE – What is it?

- ▶ DARE is a third level alternative admissions scheme for school-leavers under the age of 23 as of 1 January 2025 whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education.
- ▶ Applicants to DARE can present with an Irish Leaving Certificate, A-Levels and/or other EU qualifications.
- ▶ 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.

DARE – Is your child eligible?

What types of disabilities does DARE consider?

- ▶ Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- ▶ Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Asperger's Syndrome)
- ▶ Blind/Vision Impaired
- ▶ Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- ▶ Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) – Dyspraxia
- ▶ Dyscalculia/ Significant Numeracy Difficulties
- ▶ Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties
- ▶ Mental Health Condition
- ▶ Neurological Condition (including Brain Injury and Epilepsy)
- ▶ Physical Disability
- ▶ Significant Ongoing Illness
- ▶ Speech and Language Communication Disorder
- ▶ Research has identified that students with Physical, Blind/Vision Impaired or Deaf/Hard of Hearing disabilities are particularly under-represented in higher education in Ireland relative to all students with disabilities. In order to increase the numbers of DARE students with Physical, Blind/Vision Impaired or Deaf/Hard of Hearing disabilities being admitted to higher education, the DARE colleges have agreed to prioritise these two groups when allocating reduced points places.
- ▶ If you apply to DARE and meet the application criteria (that is, are deemed eligible for DARE) you may be offered a place even if you do not have enough Leaving Certificate points for your preferred course. Each participating college and university has a reserved number of places to offer eligible DARE applicants at lower Leaving Certificate points.

DARE – Application process

- ▶ By 1 March 2025 Complete the online application form through www.cao.ie .
- ▶ Gather together your completed [Educational Impact Statement](#) AND the relevant [Evidence of Disability](#).
- ▶ By 15 March 2025: Submit copies of supporting documents to CAO by [post](#).
- ▶ Please note, when completing your DARE application form through cao.ie. we recommend doing so by using a desktop or laptop rather than using a smartphone.