

# DISABILITY ACCESS ROUTE TO EDUCATION

Loreto College, Swords, Co Dublin



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



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# What is DARE?

The **Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)** third level alternative admissions scheme is for school-leavers whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level 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.

# Disabilities eligible for consideration

- Autistic Spectrum Disorders (including Asperger's Syndrome)
- ADD / ADHD
- Blind / Vision Impaired
- Deaf / Hard of Hearing
- DCD – Dyspraxia/Dysgraphia
- Mental Health Conditions
- Neurological Conditions (incl. Brain Injury & Epilepsy)
- Speech & Language Communication Disorder
- Significant Ongoing Illness
- Physical Disability
- Specific Learning Difficulty (Dyslexia & Dyscalculia)

# DARE Eligibility Criteria?

Meeting  
Evidence of  
Disability  
Criteria

+

Meeting  
Educational  
Impact  
Criteria

=

DARE  
Eligibility

- To be eligible for DARE an applicant must meet both the DARE evidence of disability criteria and DARE educational impact criteria.

- **Applicants must provide the required evidence of their disability and provide an Educational Impact Statement from their school to be considered for DARE.**

# Applicant Statement

## What we require:

- Applicant answers 'yes or no' to the five statements.
- Applicant writes no more than 200 words, expanding on the above five statements or covering other ways their disability has affected their post primary education.
- Applicant can use bullet points.

## Role in Assessment:

- If an applicant does not complete the applicant statement they may still be eligible.
- However, important to complete as used in assessment to compliment or clarify information provided in the School Statement.

# Section B: Educational Impact Statement

## School Statement

- This section needs to be completed by either:
  - Guidance Counsellor
  - Learning Support Teacher
  - Year Head **or**
  - Visiting Teacher
- The form **MUST BE** signed and stamped by school principal/deputy principal.
- Applicant must return to the CAO – confirm deadline with Guidance Counsellor.
- It is also advisable to ask the applicant (or their parent/guardian if they are under 18) to sign the EIS.
- EIS must cover at least **final three years** of post primary.

## Section C: Evidence of Disability

**Provides verification of disability and helps to determine 3rd level supports.**

- Applicant can provide an **existing report** **OR**
- Complete Section C **Evidence of Disability**.

Get form **completed, signed and stamped** by the **appropriate professional** or accompanied by their **business card or headed paper**.

### **GP Verification**

Your GP may be in a position to complete Section C Evidence of disability, if they have the appropriate information on file from the consultant/specialist.

## Section C: Evidence of Disability

### **General Practitioner (GP) Verification:**

- ✓ Applies to all applicants except where a psycho-educational assessment is required.
- ✓ GP must have the information on file from the DARE listed Consultant/Specialist.
- ✓ Diagnosis or re-confirmation of diagnosis must be within the given timeframe if one applies.
- ✓ If GP does not have appropriate info on file, they should refer applicant to consultant/specialist.
- ✓ GP diagnosis not acceptable in any circumstances.

# Section C: Evidence of Disability

## Age of Reports

It is important to note that applicants applying under the following disability categories must **provide a report that is less than 3 years old** i.e. dated after **1 February 2013**.

- ADD / ADHD
- Mental Health Condition
- Significant Ongoing Illness
- Specific Learning Difficulty (including Dyslexia and Dyscalculia)
- DCD - Dyspraxia/ Dysgraphia.

# Section C: Evidence of Disability

## Psycho Educational Assessment

**Applicants with a**

- **Specific Learning Difficulty** (including dyslexia and dyscalculia) must provide a full **psycho-educational assessment** dated after **1 February 2013**.

**Applicants with**

- **DCD - Dyspraxia/Dysgraphia**. must provide a full **psycho-educational assessment** dated after **1 February 2013**

**AND**

Evidence of Disability Form 2016

**OR**

Existing report completed by Occupational Therapist or Neurologist or Chartered Physiotherapist

**(No age limit)**

# Benefits of DARE

## Reduced Points (as before)

- An example: If the Leaving Certificate points for a course is 360 points, an eligible DARE applicant could be offered a place with a lower points score e.g. 350 points.
- Applicants need to meet entry and programme requirements to be considered for a DARE reduced points offer.
- The amount of points a particular course is reduced by is dependent on:
  - The overall number of places on the course
  - The number of reserved DARE places on the course
  - The number of DARE eligible applicants competing for these reserved places.
  - The reduction in points for DARE places can vary every year.

However, the following groups will be **prioritised by participating colleges when allocating reduced points places** :

- Applicants eligible for both **DARE and HEAR**
- Applicants with a **physical or sensory** disability

# Benefits of DARE

- **College supports may include:**

- **Orientation Programmes**
- **Learning Support**
- **Assistive Technology**
- **Library Support**
- **Exam Accommodations**
- **Educational Support Worker**
- **Academic Tuition**

- **You don't have to be eligible for DARE to get support in college.**
- **A needs assessment is conducted to identify specific support requirements.**



# HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS ROUTE

An admissions scheme for school leavers facing economic and social challenges in accessing college.



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



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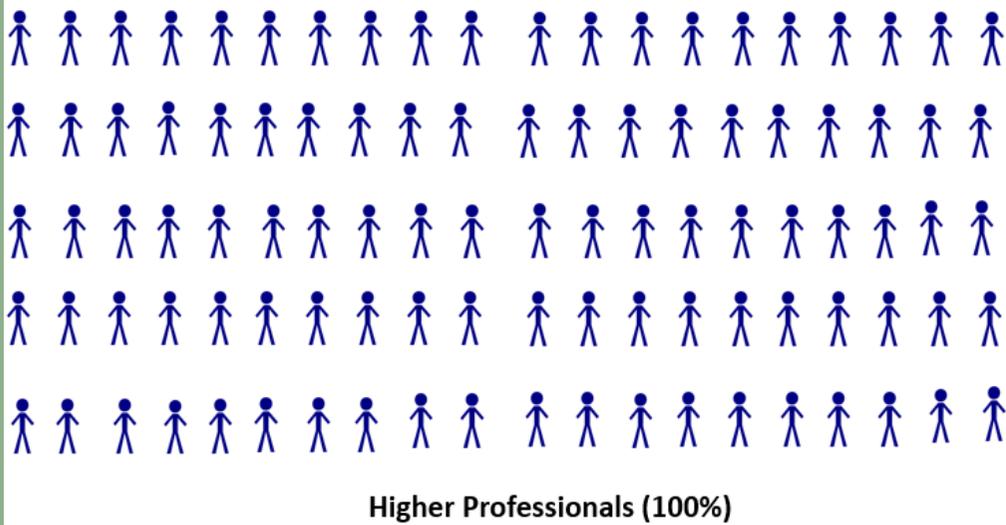
# WHAT IS HEAR

**Higher Education Access Route** is an admissions route for school leavers who for social, financial or cultural reasons are under-represented at third level education.

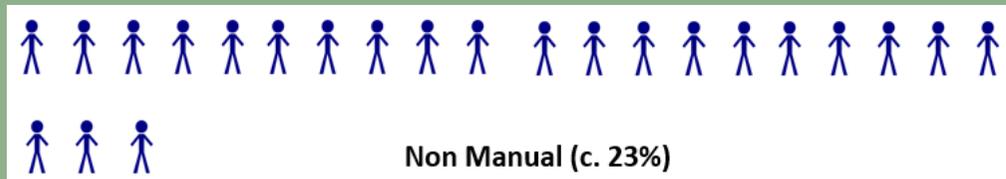
It was set up to ensure that all Leaving Certificate students have a fair and equal opportunity to progress to third level education.

# Understanding Socio Economic Group (SEG)

In a typical Leaving Cert Class, the children of Higher Professions are significantly more likely to go to college than other socio economic groups.



**Higher Professionals (100%)**



**Non Manual Workers (c. 23%)**

# Understanding Area Profile



**Dublin 6 (99%)**



**Dublin 17 (15%)**

**99%** of Students in **Dublin 6**  
go to College compared to  
**15%** in **Dublin 17**

# Applying for a grant.

HEAR is **NOT**  
the SUSI grant.

If you apply to HEAR,  
you should also apply to SUSI if you think  
you may be eligible.

# SUSI: Key Eligibility Criteria



- **Nationality:** Irish, EU, Swiss nationals or have specific leave to remain in the State.
- **Residency:** 3 of last 5 years in Ireland, EU or Switzerland.
- **Progression** in education – NFQ levels 5-10.
- **Approved College/Course**
- **‘Reckonable’ Income** (Class - Dependent/Independent)
  - less than €54,240/ €59,595/ €64,700
  - less than €39,875/ €43,810/ €47,575

# Why apply to HEAR?

- **Reduced points CAO offers** in the participating colleges provided you meet the minimum entry requirements.

- **Post-entry supports** such as financial, academic, social and personal.

# Should I apply?

1. Was your household income on or below €45,790 in 2014?
2. Do you or your family have a Medical Card/GP Visit Card?
3. Did your parents/guardians receive a means-tested social welfare payment for at least 26 weeks in 2014?
4. Is your parents' or guardians' employment status under-represented in Higher Education?
5. Have you attended a DEIS second level school for five years?
6. Do you live in an area of concentrated disadvantage?

You must meet the **HEAR income limit**  
plus the right combination of **2 other indicators to be eligible**

# How do I apply?

1. Apply to CAO at [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) by **1 February 2016**
2. Review your HEAR Application Guide with parents or guardians and fill in Sections 1-8.
3. Complete all elements of the online HEAR application form by **1 March 2016**
4. Submit clear copies of supporting documents requested on your checklist to CAO by **1 April 2016**

**You can apply to  
both**

**DARE & HEAR**

**Applicants who are both  
DARE and HEAR eligible** will be prioritised by colleges when allocating reduced points places.

# Further Information



## ACCESS COLLEGE

Equality of Access to Higher Education in Ireland



The Higher Education Access Route

(HEAR) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places at reduced points to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.



The Disability Access Route to Education

(DARE) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places at reduced points to school leavers with disabilities.

You can apply to both the HEAR and the DARE schemes if they are relevant to you.

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

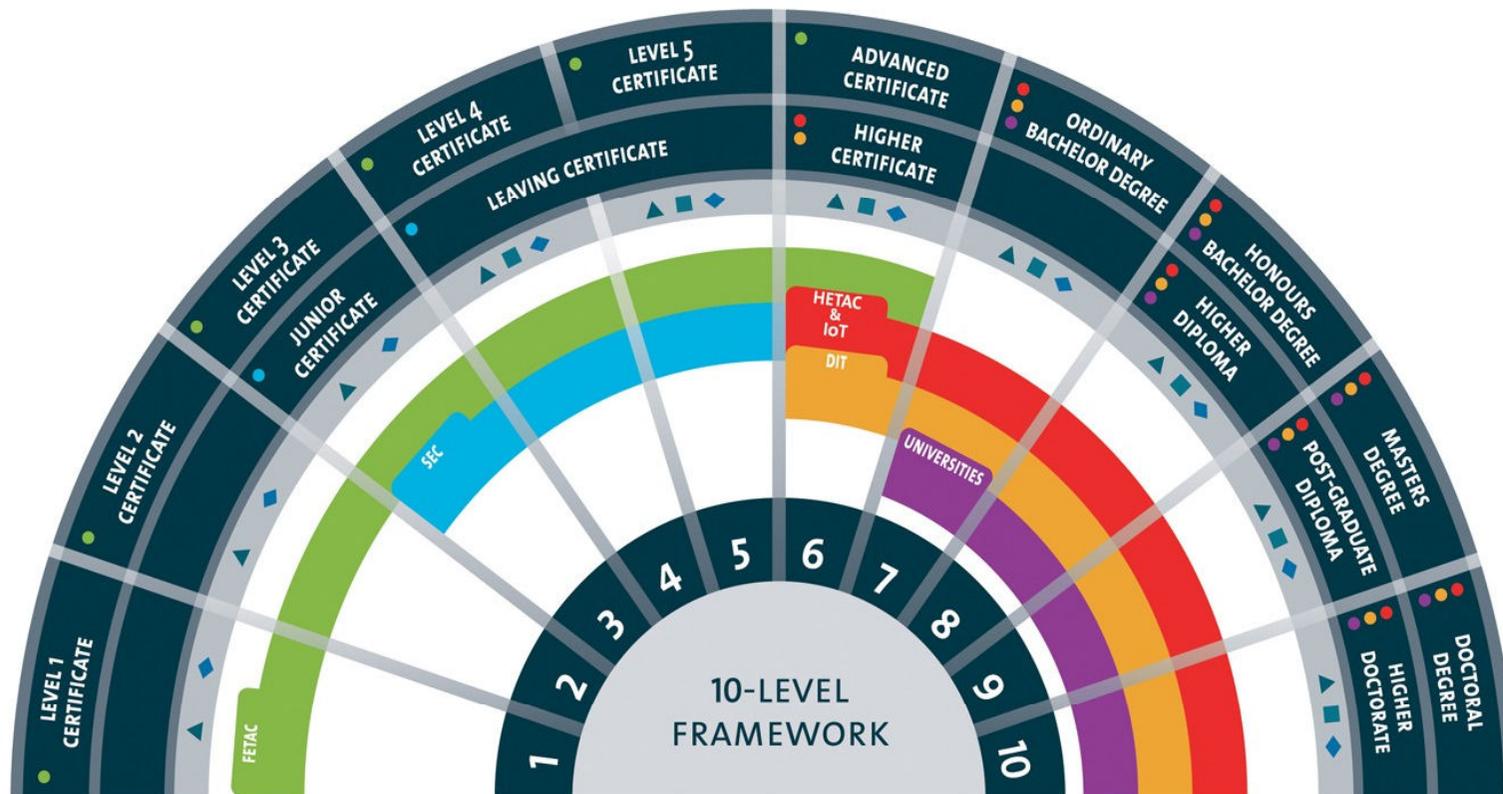
[www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie)

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

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

# NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS

Údarás Náisiúnta  
Cáilíochtaí na hÉireann  
National Qualifications  
Authority of Ireland



## AWARDING BODIES

- FETAC - Further Education and Training Awards Council
- SEC - State Examinations Commission (*Department of Education & Science*)
- HETAC - Higher Education and Training Awards Council
- IoT - Institutes of Technology (*make their own awards at specified levels, under Delegated Authority from HETAC*)
- DIT - Dublin Institute of Technology
- Universities

## AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK

There are four types of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:

- Major Awards: are the principal class of awards made at a level
- ▲ Minor Awards: are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- ◆ Supplemental Awards: are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- ◆ Special Purpose Awards: are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement