

CAO

CENTRAL APPLICATIONS OFFICE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT 2019

Central Applications Office,
Tower House, Eglinton Street,
Galway, Ireland

Phone: 091 509 800
Fax: 091 562 344

www.cao.ie

Description and Purpose of the Central Applications Office

The Central Applications Office (Universities and other Higher Education Institutions) is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. It was incorporated on 23 January 1976 and is commonly known under the short title ‘CAO’. Its membership is representative of the higher education sector and it is governed by a board of directors drawn from the membership. The application service is financed entirely by application fees and does not enjoy any state support.

The CAO facilitates application for first-year admission to almost the full range of statutorily-recognised undergraduate higher education in the Republic of Ireland. It offers a high degree of convenience to applicants and their advisors. It also offers considerable economies and efficiencies to higher education institutions in filling their course places. Fairness and transparency are the foundations of the system as well as equality of treatment for both applicants and participating higher education institutions.

Higher education institutions participating in the CAO system retain full control over their admission policies and admission decisions. If they wish, they may delegate certain routine assessment functions to CAO under instruction. Over the years since CAO’s establishment, a voluntary code of admission practice has grown up which has greatly enhanced the value and reputation of the entire system. Higher education institutions, without exception, publish their admission policies in advance and specify the means by which entrants will be chosen. It is a fundamental principle of the central application service that the position of a particular course in an applicant’s order of preference should have no bearing on assessment for admission to that course. These practices have helped to earn a well-deserved reputation for fairness and transparency in the conduct of admission to Irish higher education.

Brief History of the Organisation

CAO owes its origins to the increased participation in higher education which resulted from the free secondary education policy of the 1960s together with the greater availability of student support grants. By 1970 significant difficulties were arising because of multiple applications for admission and the introduction of *numerus clausus* in certain professional courses.

A meeting of university representatives was held in Trinity College, Dublin, in 1971 to explore ‘the desirability of establishing an Irish Clearing House’. A report was forwarded to the heads of the (five) university colleges who accepted the principle of the establishment of a clearing house for the universities and were “... prepared to envisage the extension of the system to cover admission to all third-level institutions”. A working party was established which drew up proposals for a central applications service.

The project gained momentum in the summer of 1975 with a declaration of support by the Higher Education Authority. Final agreement to the establishment of a central applications service was reached in 1975 at a meeting between the university heads and the HEA. Representatives were appointed to finalise the Memorandum and Articles of Association which were signed on 19/12/1975.

Professional services 2019:

Auditors: Mazars, Galway.
Solicitors: Matheson, Dublin.
Bankers: Bank of Ireland, Eyre Sq., Galway.

The central applications service was first offered for the autumn 1977 intake. The Office was based in temporary premises at 7 Clare Street, Dublin 2, until the end of 1977 when it moved to Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway, where it has remained since. The service began with 5 participant higher education institutions – the five university colleges of that time. Major additions to CAO participation took place in 1991 (the Regional Technical Colleges – subsequently renamed Institutes of Technology), 1992 (the Colleges of Education), 1998-99 (NCEA, now QQI, recognised courses in private colleges) and 2001 (nursing courses).

The clearly-expressed intention of the university founders of the CAO was that it should expand in time to cover all institutions of higher education. In furtherance of this aim, the CAO Board of Directors has shown a consistently-welcoming attitude towards the participation of additional institutions in the central scheme. The Board requires that courses for inclusion in the CAO Handbook should have statutory recognition in Ireland. In general, this has meant that terminal awards are made either by Irish Universities, Institutes of Technology or by Qualifications and Quality Ireland (QQI).

CAO has seized every opportunity to increase operational productivity in order to maintain a high standard of service while controlling costs to applicants. The growth in applicant numbers has helped by enabling economies of scale. There were also highly-significant operational developments – the computerisation of Leaving Certificate Examination procedures by the Dept. of Education in 1989, the development of a computer network in 1995 connecting all CAO-participant institutions, the introduction of a comprehensive website facility in 2000 and the provision of full electronic document transfer capability in 2003. While affordable computer capacity used to be a constraint on productivity, this is no longer an issue due to developments which saw ever-greater power available at a steadily-declining cost. In regard to staffing, the policy has been one of maintaining a small core of well-skilled permanent staff augmented as necessary by seasonal staff.

The growth of the CAO system over the 41 seasons 1977 – 2019 is illustrated in Table One. Tables Two, Three, Four and Five illustrate some of the main parameters of the 2019 season. Additional Tables at the end of the Report show comparisons over time. The term ‘Degrees’ implies direct entry to degree courses (NQAI Level 8 from 2005), ‘Dip/Cert’ refers to direct entry to diploma or

certificate courses (NQAI Level 7/6 from 2005), many of the latter having subsequent transfer routes to Level 8 awards. ‘Nett Acceptances’ refers to final acceptances – relevant where applicants have two or more successive acceptances.

CAO Strategic Plan 2018 - 2023

Strategic Priorities

The *Central Applications Office Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023* was launched in October 2018.

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to guide the Central Applications Office (CAO) through the major developments in the changing higher education landscape to 2023.

This plan explores the challenges and opportunities facing the company. It also sets out the organisation’s strategic priorities to ensure continued success as a shared service provider for the Irish higher education sector.

The full plan is available at www.cao.ie.

Lead the development of centralised applications systems

Build on the existing strengths of CAO in delivering successful shared services to the sector; support HEIs in the promotion of education in Ireland and overseas; and, proactively provide application processing services for categories of application that are currently un-served and/or under-served.



Enable greater access to and use of data to support HEIs

Continue to build on the accessibility of data through enhancements to the CAO Connect interface for HEIs. Make self-service reporting tools available to HEIs to allow for data interrogation in a user-friendly manner.



Enable the CAO to be the portal of choice for all applications and all HEIs for all entrant access points

Explore how to channel diverse applicant types through the CAO application system, reducing the need for local application processing by HEIs.



Build mechanisms for more systematic and strategic consultation and engagement with HEIs

Streamline processes and reduce duplication of effort through a combination of knowledge sharing and cooperation e.g. HEI visits and group sessions with HEIs to define common goals.



Advance ICT and system usability

Enhance interaction between CAO and applicants, and CAO and admissions officers, exploiting technology to improve the service.



Development and training

Enhance opportunities for staff development and training; build on the existing cohesion of the staff and management team; create opportunities for staff to grow their involvement in achieving the strategic objectives of CAO.



Maintenance of self-funding model

Continue to maintain a self-funded model and ensure that all monies are expended with consideration of value for money, regularity, and propriety. Perform a cost benefit analysis and financial impact assessment prior to engaging in any new activity.



Mechanisms of handling emerging issues

CAO will monitor the environment it operates in and prepare for changes that might impact on the activities of the Company, e.g. regulatory change, changes to the education environment, etc.

TABLE ONE: THE GROWTH OF THE CAO SYSTEM 1977-2019

Year	Applicants	Deg Net Acceptances	Dip/Cert Net Acceptances	Total Net Acceptances	HEIs	Level 8 Courses	Level 7/6 Courses
1977	14,845	(not avail)	-	(not avail)	5	69	-
1978	15,401	"	-	"	7	82	-
1979	16,955	6,709	-	6,709	7	75	-
1980	17,165	7,714	-	7,714	7	71	-
1981	19,130	7,380	-	7,380	8	76	-
1982	20,339	8,443	-	8,443	9	95	-
1983	21,799	9,349	-	9,349	9	97	-
1984	21,949	9,495	-	9,495	9	99	-
1985	22,851	9,872	-	9,872	9	102	-
1986	24,421	9,838	-	9,838	9	104	-
1987	25,229	9,496	-	9,496	9	104	-
1988	25,464	10,076	-	10,076	9	107	-
1989	26,806	10,367	-	10,367	10	109	-
1990	27,259	11,540	-	11,540	10	117	-
1991	52,212	12,341	11,594	23,935	23	152	233
1992	54,877	14,488	12,274	26,762	31	176	244
1993	57,465	14,506	13,061	27,567	31	188	258
1994	60,548	14,900	13,559	28,459	31	203	270
1995	62,913	15,923	16,268	32,191	34	225	285
1996	59,778	16,667	17,644	34,311	34	246	297
1997	63,677	17,021	15,655	32,676	35	261	337
1998	66,012	18,872	16,189	35,061	38	325	338
1999	65,253	20,179	16,663	36,842	41	365	352
2000	63,451	20,786	16,739	37,525	44	387	374
2001	63,810	20,934	15,691	36,625	43	416	343
2002	63,886	21,101	15,526	36,627	44	458	328
2003	66,222	23,935	14,398	38,333	43	542	316
2004	63,696	25,275	12,521	37,796	43	583	312
2005	63,716	24,982	13,193	38,175	43	581	350
2006	63,634	26,489	12,478	38,967	42	664	378
2007	65,883	27,853	12,062	39,915	43	723	386
2008	68,809	29,704	12,413	42,117	44	778	407
2009	74,621	31,424	14,162	45,586	44	825	410
2010	78,199	31,732	13,891	45,623	44	851	428
2011	76,749	32,367	13,399	45,766	43	843	443
2012	76,900	33,217	13,066	46,283	43	877	448
2013	76,949	33,968	12,201	46,169	45	919	456
2014	78,402	35,248	11,754	47,002	45	943	472
2015	80,010	36,757	11,458	48,215	44	925	472
2016	81,276	37,200	10,436	47,636	41	934	464
2017	81,091	38,587	9,410	47,997	39	866	457
2018	77,785	38,157	8,467	46,624	39	904	471
2019	78,020	39,681	7,742	47,423	38	998	461

NOTES:

- (i) HEIs = no. of higher education institutions participating.
- (ii) Courses = no. of course choices available; after 1990 = Degrees/Dip Certs.
- (iii) Figures for 1996 and 2015 perturbed by introduction of L.C. transition year and advanced entry respectively.
- (iv) Of the 94 increase in Level 8 courses between 2018 and 2019, 67 are solely due to the changes in the coding of courses within Trinity Joint Honors/Modern Language.

TABLE TWO: LEVEL 8 LIST 2019

ISCEDf Broad Field	A	B	C	D	E	F
(01) Education	22,923	5,285	2,968	2,452	83%	65%
(02) Arts and humanities	67,732	11,673	12,236	9,006	74%	63%
(03) Social sciences, journalism and information	34,495	5,445	3,960	2,835	72%	53%
(04) Business, administration and law	74,935	12,450	9,738	7,278	75%	59%
(05) Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	43,835	5,920	5,916	4,362	74%	55%
(06) Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	23,275	3,967	3,248	2,390	74%	63%
(07) Engineering, manufacturing and construction	36,326	6,678	5,411	3,767	70%	69%
(08) Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	6,221	1,837	1,135	706	62%	69%
(09) Health and welfare	83,226	15,287	8,415	5,815	69%	58%
(10) Services	12,751	2,360	2,026	1,070	53%	63%
All Courses	405,719	70,902	55,053	39,681	72%	61%

Specialist Group	A	B	C	D	E	F
(001) Primary Education	9,943	2,852	1,284	1,142	89%	72%
(002) Secondary Education	9,054	2,101	1,190	986	83%	71%
(003) Dentistry (including Dental Nursing and Hygiene)	1,072	367	74	62	84%	58%
(004) Medicine	10,256	2,866	848	742	88%	79%
(005) Nursing and midwifery	36,869	5,370	2,818	1,949	69%	48%
(006) Pharmacy (including Pharmacy Technician)	2,090	445	247	180	73%	51%
(007) Art, Design and Media (techniques and production)	10,597	2,703	2,077	1,512	73%	88%
(008) Veterinary Medicine	638	483	108	92	85%	90%
(009) Physiotherapy	3,107	722	218	156	72%	55%

NOTES:

Col. A: Total course applications.
 Col. C: Total offers issued.
 Col. E: % of offers finally accepted.

Col. B: First preferences (= no. of applicants).
 Col. D: Nett acceptances.
 Col. F: % of nett acceptances which were first preferences.

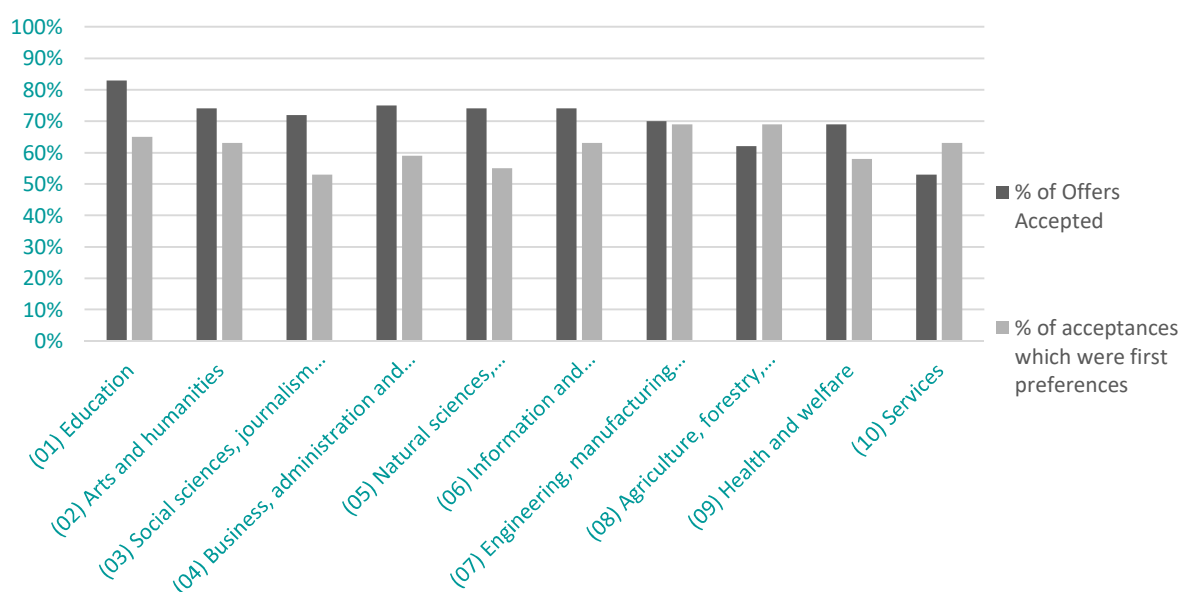
Graph1: Level 8 Course ISCEDf Broad Category Percentages


TABLE THREE: LEVEL 7/6 LIST 2019

ISCEDf Broad Field	A	B	C	D	E	F
(01) Education	804	243	240	14	6%	93%
(02) Arts and humanities	8,232	2,878	2,677	488	18%	90%
(03) Social sciences, journalism and information	1,792	440	446	56	13%	68%
(04) Business, administration and law	34,126	9,537	8,902	1,822	20%	85%
(05) Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	18,345	5,076	4,562	570	12%	78%
(06) Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	10,528	2,682	2,398	652	27%	89%
(07) Engineering, manufacturing and construction	27,056	6,683	5,944	1,617	27%	84%
(08) Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	5,348	1,923	1,325	291	22%	85%
(09) Health and welfare	21,233	7,504	5,963	1,132	19%	85%
(10) Services	18,102	4,573	4,225	1,100	26%	84%
All Courses	145,566	41,539	36,682	7,742	21%	85%

Specialist Group	A	B	C	D	E	F
(003) Dentistry (including Dental Nursing and Hygiene)	2,345	829	370	90	24%	64%
(006) Pharmacy (including Pharmacy Technician)	1,635	494	471	136	29%	91%
(007) Art, Design and Media (techniques and production)	4,183	1,394	1,306	285	22%	91%

NOTES:

Col. A: Total course applications.

Col. C: Total offers issued.

Col. E: % of offers finally accepted.

Col. B: First preferences (= no. of applicants).

Col. D: Nett acceptances.

Col. F: % of nett acceptances which were first preferences.

Graph2: Level 7/ 6 Course ISCEDf Broad Category Percentages

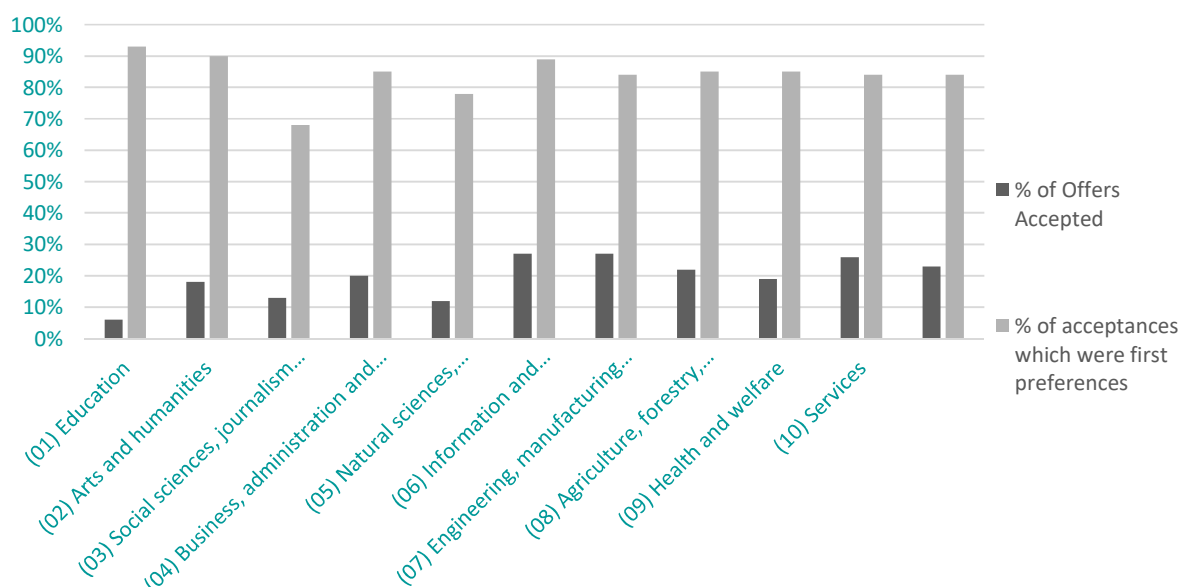


TABLE FOUR:

NUMBER OF NETT ACCEPTANCES FOR 2019 ADMISSION BY AGE AT 1ST JANUARY 2019

Age at Jan 1st	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
Level 8						
23 or more	1,360	7.7	1,702	7.8	3,062	7.7
22	177	1.0	156	0.7	333	0.8
21	256	1.4	250	1.1	506	1.3
20	538	3.0	514	2.3	1,052	2.7
19	1,627	9.2	1,902	8.7	3,529	8.9
18	7,908	44.5	9,336	42.6	17,244	43.5
17	5,358	30.2	7,310	33.3	12,668	31.9
16 or under	534	3.0	753	3.4	1,287	3.2
Total	17,758	100.0	21,923	100.0	39,681	100.0
Level 7/6						
23 or more	491	10.7	376	11.9	867	11.2
22	60	1.3	46	1.5	106	1.4
21	107	2.3	72	2.3	179	2.3
20	236	5.2	148	4.7	384	5.0
19	578	12.6	392	12.4	970	12.5
18	1,616	35.3	1,063	33.5	2,679	34.6
17	1,261	27.6	895	28.2	2,156	27.8
16 or under	224	4.9	177	5.6	401	5.2
Total	4,573	100.0	3,169	100.0	7,742	100.0

TABLE FIVE:

NUMBER OF NETT ACCEPTANCES FOR 2019 ADMISSION BY NATIONALITY

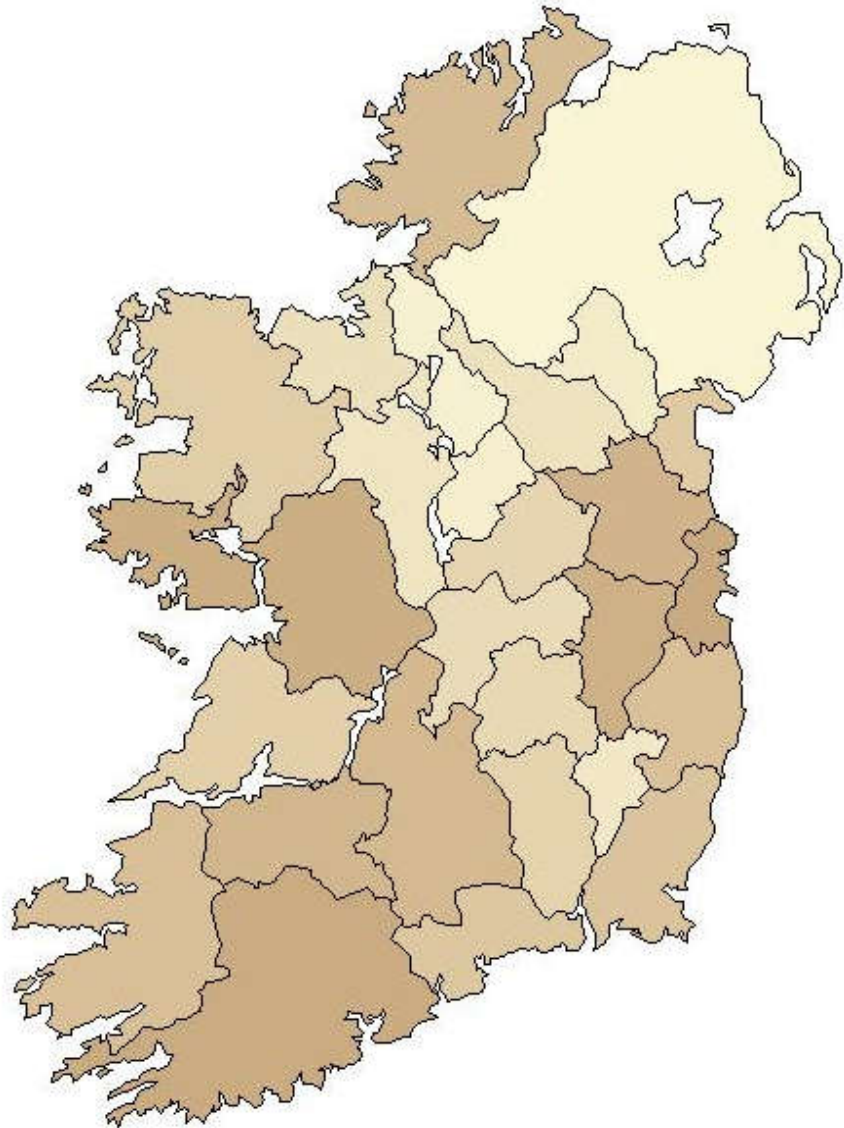
Nationality	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
Level 8						
Ireland	16,419	92.5	20,096	91.7	36,515	92.0
UK	211	1.2	272	1.2	483	1.2
Rest of EU	789	4.4	1,108	5.1	1,897	4.8
Non-EU	339	1.9	447	2.0	786	2.0
Total	17,758	100.0	21,923	100.0	39,681	100.0
Level 7/6						
Ireland	4,160	91.0	2,770	87.4	6,930	89.5
UK	64	1.4	63	2.0	127	1.6
Rest of EU	200	4.4	201	6.3	401	5.2
Non-EU	149	3.3	135	4.3	284	3.7
Total	4,573	100.0	3,169	100.0	7,742	100.0

TABLE SIX:

NUMBER OF NETT ACCEPTANCES FOR 2018 AND 2019 ADMISSION BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION

Type of Institution:	2018		2019	
	Number	%	Number	%
Colleges of Education	1,363	2.9	1,441	3.0
Dublin Institute of Technology	3,616	7.8	3,496	7.4
Other Institutes of Technology	16,552	35.5	16,670	35.2
Universities (excl. Colleges of Education)	23,506	50.4	24,254	51.1
Other Institutions	1,587	3.4	1,562	3.3
TOTAL	46,624	100.0	47,423	100.0

MAP 1 CAO Nett Acceptances by Address of Applicant by County and Northern Ireland



Number of Acceptances

Northern Ireland (299)	Leitrim (334)	Longford (419)
Monaghan (572)	Carlow (618)	Roscommon (658)
Cavan (725)	Sligo (761)	Offaly (781)
Laois (838)	Westmeath (917)	Kilkenny (1,053)
Clare (1,341)	Mayo (1,383)	Louth (1,387)
Waterford (1,388)	Wexford (1,472)	Wicklow (1,473)
Kerry (1,524)	Donegal (1,565)	Tipperary (1,567)
Limerick (1,977)	Meath (2,144)	Kildare (2,427)
Galway (2,712)	Cork (5,330)	Dublin (11,188)

STAFFING AND FINANCES

CAO derives its income from application fees and, since its inception, has maintained a policy of keeping fees at the lowest level consistent with an appropriate standard of service. This policy has led to a steady reduction in the real value of fees over the years as the Office availed of every opportunity to increase its productivity. At their meeting of June 2018, the CAO Board of Directors maintained fees for 2019 application at the rates of €30 for discounted-rate online application and €45 for normal-rate online and paper application.

Under its constitution, the company may not remunerate its Directors nor distribute any surplus to its Members. Any operating surpluses go towards a contingency reserve and a provision for equipment replacement.

The CAO has a permanent staff of 14 and up to 25 seasonal staff are engaged each year to deal with peaks in clerical work.

The audited Financial Statements of the company are published separately. A summary of provisional results for the year ended 31/12/2019 is shown here in Tables Six and Seven as well as a comparison with the previous year.

DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL APPLICATIONS OFFICE

At 31 December 2019 the list of Directors was as follows:

Prof. Eithne Guilfoyle, Mr Billy Bennett, Prof. Jürgen Barkhoff, Prof. Mike Murphy,
Prof. Niamh Hourigan, Prof. Aidan Mulkeen, Mr. Gerry O'Brien, Prof. Pól Ó Dochartaigh (Chair),
Dr Derek O'Byrne, Prof. John O'Halloran, Dr. Vivienne Patterson, Prof. Mark Rogers.
Company Secretary: Mr Shane McSweeney.

NOTE OF THANKS

The CAO Board wishes to express its deep appreciation to the staff for their work throughout the year and for their unstinting dedication which has earned the office such a high reputation among the public.

ADDITIONAL STATISTICAL TABLES

TABLE SIX

CAO INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

YEAR	2018 (€)	2019 (€)
Income	3,049,118	3,096,260
Less expenditure:	<u>(3,180,633)</u>	<u>(2,862,594)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) before Interest	(131,515)	233,666
Investment Income	(196,716)	320,066
Interest Receivable & Similar Income	<u>9,003</u>	<u>36,655</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) before Taxation	(319,228)	590,387
Taxation Refund/(Charge)	<u>15,474</u>	<u>(32,966)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	<u>(303,754)</u>	<u>557,421</u>

Additional Statistical Tables

TABLE SEVEN

CAO BALANCE SHEET

31 December 2019

YEAR	2018 (€)	2019 (€)
Fixed Assets		
Intangible Assets	43,739	29,160
Tangible Assets	273,147	206,996
Investments	<u>3,982,493</u>	<u>4,302,559</u>
Sub Total Fixed Assets	4,299,379	4,538,715
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,625,756	1,865,239
Debtors	<u>180,825</u>	<u>253,198</u>
Total Fixed & Current Assets	6,105,960	6,657,152
Creditors	<u>(838,999)</u>	<u>(908,396)</u>
Net Assets Excluding Pension Asset/(Deficit)	5,266,961	5,748,756
Pension Asset/(Deficit)	<u>1,247,092</u>	<u>623,582</u>
Net Assets	<u>6,514,053</u>	<u>6,372,338</u>

Offer/Acceptance Figures

ENTIRE SYSTEM (Levels 8 & 7/6)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Applicants accepting one or more offers	48,215	47,636	47,997	46,624	47,423
Applicants offered but not accepting	13,777	14,224	14,669	14,174	13,899
Applicants eligible but receiving no offer	5,107	4,962	4,474	4,095	3,989
Applicants with no first year choice and no advanced entry choice	2,737	3,414	3,536	2,917	2,801
Applicants with no first year choice but with an advanced entry choice	505	450	494	683	593
Ineligible applicants	9,669	10,590	9,921	9,292	9,315
Total Applicants	80,010	81,276	81,091	77,785	78,020
LEVEL 8 LIST	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Applicants accepting one or more offers	36,757	37,200	38,587	38,157	39,681
Applicants offered but not accepting	11,761	12,142	13,153	12,726	12,566
Applicants eligible but receiving no offer	4,807	4,759	5,764	5,379	5,110
Ineligible applicants	17,151	17,669	14,495	13,599	13,545
Total Applicants	70,476	71,170	71,199	69,861	70,902
LEVEL 7/6 LIST	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Applicants accepting one or more offers	11,458	10,436	9,410	8,467	7,742
Applicants offered but not accepting	28,373	28,367	29,357	27,671	27,712
Applicants eligible but receiving no offer	3,220	2,943	2,287	1,929	1,812
Ineligible applicants	4,575	5,004	4,940	4,212	4,273
Total Applicants	47,626	46,750	45,994	42,279	41,539

Note: This table has been updated to better reflect data which indicates ineligibility for courses and some sub-totals are not comparable with reports prior to 2016.

Additional Statistical Tables

Caution should be exercised when interpreting trends in course category numbers from year to year, as courses may be added and removed in each course category area and occasionally courses may have their course category code recategorised by the HEI.

Total Applications by Course Category: Level 7/6 List

ISCEDf Narrow Field	2018			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(011) Education	18	377	395	40	764	804
(021) Arts	3,467	4,010	7,477	3,329	4,174	7,503
(022) Humanities (except languages)	215	322	537	277	452	729
(031) Social and behavioural sciences	442	1,624	2,066	320	1,044	1,364
(032) Journalism and information	177	240	417	168	260	428
(041) Business and administration	16,885	17,149	34,034	16,055	16,388	32,443
(042) Law	540	1,207	1,747	490	1,193	1,683
(051) Biological and related sciences	4,168	7,982	12,150	3,987	7,872	11,859
(052) Environment	401	652	1,053	355	726	1,081
(053) Physical sciences	2,463	3,651	6,114	1,978	3,427	5,405
(061) Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	8,623	2,122	10,745	8,350	2,178	10,528
(071) Engineering and engineering trades	15,984	2,341	18,325	16,149	2,611	18,760
(072) Manufacturing and processing	813	662	1,475	816	577	1,393
(073) Architecture and construction	6,045	1,006	7,051	5,864	1,039	6,903
(081) Agriculture	1,552	544	2,096	1,466	731	2,197
(084) Veterinary	320	2,520	2,840	329	2,529	2,858
(088) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving agriculture, forestry and veterinary	215	64	279	222	71	293
(091) Health	2,159	6,644	8,803	1,997	7,205	9,202
(092) Welfare	1,520	11,056	12,576	1,552	10,479	12,031
(101) Personal services	8,952	10,056	19,008	8,264	9,255	17,519
(102) Hygiene and occupational health services	105	128	233	91	125	216
(104) Transport services	353	65	418	313	54	367
All Courses	75,417	74,422	149,839	72,412	73,154	145,566

Specialist Group	2018			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(003) Dentistry (including Dental Nursing and Hygiene)	279	1,832	2,111	299	2,046	2,345
(006) Pharmacy (including Pharmacy Technician)	322	1,278	1,600	288	1,347	1,635
(007) Art, Design and Media (techniques and production)	1,623	2,363	3,986	1,702	2,481	4,183

Total Applications by Course Category: Level 8 List

ISCEDf Narrow Field	2018			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(011) Education	6,042	16,153	22,195	6,225	16,698	22,923
(021) Arts	18,420	27,187	45,607	16,957	25,638	42,595
(022) Humanities (except languages)	5,175	7,614	12,789	7,166	11,296	18,462
(023) Languages	1,255	3,472	4,727	1,881	4,294	6,175
(028) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving arts and humanities	282	638	920	139	361	500
(031) Social and behavioural sciences	10,096	19,117	29,213	10,656	21,604	32,260
(032) Journalism and information	1,722	2,008	3,730	1,032	1,203	2,235
(041) Business and administration	32,957	28,544	61,501	31,518	27,171	58,689
(042) Law	6,116	9,874	15,990	5,839	10,407	16,246
(051) Biological and related sciences	7,538	12,879	20,417	8,034	14,676	22,710
(052) Environment	1,173	1,243	2,416	1,228	1,442	2,670
(053) Physical sciences	5,302	4,629	9,931	4,878	4,600	9,478
(054) Mathematics and statistics	2,085	1,023	3,108	2,188	1,122	3,310
(058) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving natural sciences, Mathematics and statistics	2,592	3,112	5,704	2,487	3,180	5,667
(061) Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	18,985	4,189	23,174	18,892	4,383	23,275
(071) Engineering and engineering trades	16,174	3,896	20,070	18,013	4,047	22,060
(072) Manufacturing and processing	1,491	1,246	2,737	1,497	1,094	2,591
(073) Architecture and construction	9,096	2,324	11,420	9,169	2,506	11,675
(081) Agriculture	1,363	845	2,208	1,371	1,040	2,411
(084) Veterinary	326	1,597	1,923	281	1,454	1,735
(088) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving agriculture, forestry and veterinary	1,354	865	2,219	1,160	915	2,075
(091) Health	15,658	58,482	74,140	14,937	55,987	70,924
(092) Welfare	1,603	9,999	11,602	1,550	10,752	12,302
(101) Personal services	6,248	5,914	12,162	6,018	5,723	11,741
(102) Hygiene and occupational health services	341	382	723	291	399	690
(104) Transport services	159	15	174	299	21	320
All Courses	173,553	227,247	400,800	173,70	232,01	405,719

Specialist Group	2018			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(001) Primary Education	2,274	7,952	10,226	2,066	7,877	9,943
(002) Secondary Education	3,591	4,512	8,103	4,024	5,030	9,054
(003) Dentistry (including Dental Nursing and Hygiene)	382	739	1,121	383	689	1,072
(004) Medicine	4,113	6,708	10,821	3,676	6,580	10,256
(005) Nursing and midwifery	3,913	35,841	39,754	3,507	33,362	36,869
(006) Pharmacy (including Pharmacy Technician)	656	1,320	1,976	655	1,435	2,090
(007) Art, Design and Media (techniques and production)	4,570	5,919	10,489	4,489	6,108	10,597
(008) Veterinary Medicine	177	505	682	149	489	638
(009) Physiotherapy	1,134	1,839	2,973	1,141	1,966	3,107

First Preferences by Course Category: Level 7/6 List

ISCEDf Narrow Field	2018			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(011) Education	5	146	151	11	232	243
(021) Arts	1,243	1,409	2,652	1,173	1,378	2,551
(022) Humanities (except languages)	86	124	210	120	207	327
(031) Social and behavioural sciences	119	379	498	69	242	311
(032) Journalism and information	55	80	135	56	73	129
(041) Business and administration	4,712	4,620	9,332	4,477	4,502	8,979
(042) Law	162	367	529	138	420	558
(051) Biological and related sciences	1,078	2,084	3,162	1,132	2,218	3,350
(052) Environment	70	117	187	73	138	211
(053) Physical sciences	751	1,051	1,802	574	941	1,515
(061) Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	2,221	433	2,654	2,221	461	2,682
(071) Engineering and engineering trades	3,884	503	4,387	4,021	587	4,608
(072) Manufacturing and processing	207	161	368	212	137	349
(073) Architecture and construction	1,504	257	1,761	1,483	243	1,726
(081) Agriculture	571	162	733	536	239	775
(084) Veterinary	96	971	1,067	103	961	1,064
(088) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving agriculture, forestry and veterinary	64	12	76	70	14	84
(091) Health	662	2,354	3,016	639	2,438	3,077
(092) Welfare	519	3,965	4,484	559	3,868	4,427
(101) Personal services	2,545	2,281	4,826	2,299	2,060	4,359
(102) Hygiene and occupational health services	41	38	79	40	42	82
(104) Transport services	140	30	170	112	20	132
All Courses	20,735	21,544	42,279	20,118	21,421	41,539

Specialist Group	2018			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(003) Dentistry (including Dental Nursing and Hygiene)	73	698	771	94	735	829
(006) Pharmacy (including Pharmacy Technician)	71	378	449	63	431	494
(007) Art, Design and Media (techniques and production)	546	845	1,391	530	864	1,394

First Preferences by Course Category: Level 8 List

ISCEDf Narrow Field	2018			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(011) Education	1,559	3,595	5,154	1,593	3,692	5,285
(021) Arts	3,621	4,241	7,862	3,395	4,145	7,540
(022) Humanities (except languages)	961	1,322	2,283	1,314	1,822	3,136
(023) Languages	209	510	719	273	627	900
(028) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving arts and humanities	46	105	151	31	66	97
(031) Social and behavioural sciences	1,699	3,117	4,816	1,761	3,453	5,214
(032) Journalism and information	237	276	513	118	113	231
(041) Business and administration	5,682	4,394	10,076	5,483	4,207	9,690
(042) Law	1,043	1,673	2,716	992	1,768	2,760
(051) Biological and related sciences	1,129	1,722	2,851	1,129	1,884	3,013
(052) Environment	132	106	238	159	136	295
(053) Physical sciences	631	458	1,089	638	448	1,086
(054) Mathematics and statistics	359	159	518	396	160	556
(058) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving natural sciences, Mathematics and statistics	456	433	889	454	516	970
(061) Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	3,302	574	3,876	3,377	590	3,967
(071) Engineering and engineering trades	3,063	563	3,626	3,455	651	4,106
(072) Manufacturing and processing	282	120	402	304	105	409
(073) Architecture and construction	1,738	413	2,151	1,692	471	2,163
(081) Agriculture	297	113	410	310	164	474
(084) Veterinary	164	766	930	138	745	883
(088) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving agriculture, forestry and veterinary	408	165	573	304	176	480
(091) Health	3,182	9,902	13,084	3,076	9,699	12,775
(092) Welfare	369	2,078	2,447	390	2,122	2,512
(101) Personal services	1,322	1,019	2,341	1,260	940	2,200
(102) Hygiene and occupational health services	61	52	113	55	59	114
(104) Transport services	31	2	33	43	3	46
All Courses	31,983	37,878	69,861	32,140	38,762	70,902

Specialist Group	2016			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(001) Primary Education	635	2,239	2,874	609	2,243	2,852
(002) Secondary Education	923	949	1,872	999	1,102	2,101
(003) Dentistry (including Dental Nursing and Hygiene)	102	251	353	129	238	367
(004) Medicine	1,100	1,802	2,902	1,010	1,856	2,866
(005) Nursing and midwifery	632	5,062	5,694	569	4,801	5,370
(006) Pharmacy (including Pharmacy Technicians)	109	264	373	123	322	445
(007) Art, Design and Media (techniques and production)	1,133	1,531	2,664	1,154	1,549	2,703
(008) Veterinary Medicine	125	376	501	98	385	483
(009) Physiotherapy	320	394	714	292	430	722

Offers by Course Category: Level 7/6 List

ISCEDf Narrow Field	2018			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(011) Education	3	136	139	12	228	240
(021) Arts	1,106	1,250	2,356	1,037	1,294	2,331
(022) Humanities (except languages)	95	131	226	127	219	346
(031) Social and behavioural sciences	132	406	538	78	258	336
(032) Journalism and information	61	82	143	45	65	110
(041) Business and administration	4,248	4,362	8,610	4,130	4,243	8,373
(042) Law	166	399	565	132	397	529
(051) Biological and related sciences	928	2,025	2,953	914	2,068	2,982
(052) Environment	80	122	202	73	147	220
(053) Physical sciences	623	951	1,574	510	850	1,360
(061) Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	1,941	412	2,353	1,953	445	2,398
(071) Engineering and engineering trades	3,300	473	3,773	3,412	534	3,946
(072) Manufacturing and processing	169	173	342	187	140	327
(073) Architecture and construction	1,459	242	1,701	1,435	236	1,671
(081) Agriculture	449	157	606	464	221	685
(084) Veterinary	47	439	486	43	513	556
(088) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving agriculture, forestry and veterinary	61	15	76	71	13	84
(091) Health	491	1,766	2,257	429	1,893	2,322
(092) Welfare	395	3,319	3,714	410	3,231	3,641
(101) Personal services	2,196	2,325	4,521	1,981	2,041	4,022
(102) Hygiene and occupational health services	39	38	77	36	42	78
(104) Transport services	119	32	151	107	18	125
All Courses	18,108	19,255	37,363	17,586	19,096	36,682

Specialist Group	2018			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(003) Dentistry (including Dental Nursing and Hygiene)	30	338	368	23	347	370
(006) Pharmacy (including Pharmacy Technician)	62	323	385	52	419	471
(007) Art, Design and Media (techniques and production)	505	736	1,241	495	811	1,306

Offers by Course Category: Level 8 List

ISCEDf Narrow Field	2018			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(011) Education	708	1,989	2,697	751	2,217	2,968
(021) Arts	3,307	4,613	7,920	3,113	4,523	7,636
(022) Humanities (except languages)	1,148	1,713	2,861	1,462	2,247	3,709
(023) Languages	153	453	606	209	599	808
(028) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving arts and humanities	36	80	116	30	53	83
(031) Social and behavioural sciences	1,350	2,381	3,731	1,261	2,507	3,768
(032) Journalism and information	150	212	362	88	104	192
(041) Business and administration	4,348	3,852	8,200	4,311	3,617	7,928
(042) Law	684	1,147	1,831	636	1,174	1,810
(051) Biological and related sciences	1,029	1,820	2,849	1,003	2,034	3,037
(052) Environment	183	177	360	180	177	357
(053) Physical sciences	591	542	1,133	599	585	1,184
(054) Mathematics and statistics	301	149	450	316	125	441
(058) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving natural sciences, Mathematics and statistics	417	489	906	420	477	897
(061) Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	2,624	561	3,185	2,639	609	3,248
(071) Engineering and engineering trades	2,329	547	2,876	2,551	562	3,113
(072) Manufacturing and processing	246	149	395	266	133	399
(073) Architecture and construction	1,506	379	1,885	1,491	408	1,899
(081) Agriculture	235	133	368	251	177	428
(084) Veterinary	72	215	287	37	210	247
(088) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving agriculture, forestry and veterinary	308	176	484	251	209	460
(091) Health	1,289	4,754	6,043	1,345	4,859	6,204
(092) Welfare	267	1,885	2,152	281	1,930	2,211
(101) Personal services	980	942	1,922	926	939	1,865
(102) Hygiene and occupational health services	53	64	117	40	69	109
(104) Transport services	34	3	37	49	3	52
All Courses	24,348	29,425	53,773	24,506	30,547	55,053

Specialist Group	2018			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(001) Primary Education	248	956	1,204	246	1,038	1,284
(002) Secondary Education	440	604	1,044	495	695	1,190
(003) Dentistry (including Dental Nursing and Hygiene)	23	57	80	29	45	74
(004) Medicine	388	535	923	344	504	848
(005) Nursing and midwifery	268	2,484	2,752	298	2,520	2,818
(006) Pharmacy (including Pharmacy Technician)	66	161	227	79	168	247
(007) Art, Design and Media (techniques and production)	798	1,249	2,047	817	1,260	2,077
(008) Veterinary Medicine	43	73	116	24	84	108
(009) Physiotherapy	76	140	216	71	147	218

Net Acceptances by Course Category: Level 7/6 List

ISCEDf Narrow Field	2018			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(011) Education	1	28	29	0	14	14
(021) Arts	264	195	459	252	191	443
(022) Humanities (except languages)	24	20	44	23	22	45
(031) Social and behavioural sciences	37	65	102	15	36	51
(032) Journalism and information	7	2	9	2	3	5
(041) Business and administration	1,027	815	1,842	981	744	1,725
(042) Law	42	65	107	32	64	96
(051) Biological and related sciences	187	250	437	146	260	406
(052) Environment	16	20	36	13	16	29
(053) Physical sciences	86	99	185	63	72	135
(061) Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	657	86	743	578	74	652
(071) Engineering and engineering trades	967	71	1,038	971	78	1,049
(072) Manufacturing and processing	50	28	78	52	25	77
(073) Architecture and construction	418	47	465	444	47	491
(081) Agriculture	129	25	154	117	44	161
(084) Veterinary	9	116	125	7	109	116
(088) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving agriculture, forestry and veterinary	23	1	24	10	4	14
(091) Health	109	368	477	94	354	448
(092) Welfare	103	672	775	114	570	684
(101) Personal services	733	528	1,261	601	433	1,034
(102) Hygiene and occupational health services	11	9	20	10	1	11
(104) Transport services	49	8	57	48	7	55
All Courses	4,949	3,518	8,467	4,573	3,168	7,741

Specialist Group	2018			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(003) Dentistry (including Dental Nursing and Hygiene)	6	73	79	5	85	90
(006) Pharmacy (including Pharmacy Technician)	13	100	113	17	119	136
(007) Art, Design and Media (techniques and production)	136	137	273	138	147	285

Net Acceptances by Course Category: Level 8 List

ISCEDf Narrow Field	2018			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(011) Education	577	1,668	2,245	621	1,831	2,452
(021) Arts	2,416	3,347	5,763	2,253	3,292	5,545
(022) Humanities (except languages)	824	1,256	2,080	1,105	1,708	2,813
(023) Languages	117	338	455	158	435	593
(028) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving arts and humanities	28	53	81	23	32	55
(031) Social and behavioural sciences	1,013	1,647	2,660	934	1,776	2,710
(032) Journalism and information	108	153	261	57	68	125
(041) Business and administration	3,238	2,791	6,029	3,254	2,638	5,892
(042) Law	534	874	1,408	506	880	1,386
(051) Biological and related sciences	775	1,299	2,074	745	1,490	2,235
(052) Environment	109	96	205	114	104	218
(053) Physical sciences	438	377	815	438	401	839
(054) Mathematics and statistics	250	112	362	260	100	360
(058) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving natural sciences, Mathematics and statistics	336	365	701	340	370	710
(061) Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	1,840	389	2,229	1,960	430	2,390
(071) Engineering and engineering trades	1,705	428	2,133	1,859	447	2,306
(072) Manufacturing and processing	177	103	280	177	105	282
(073) Architecture and construction	877	270	1,147	909	270	1,179
(081) Agriculture	146	77	223	142	107	249
(084) Veterinary	51	133	184	29	136	165
(088) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving agriculture, forestry and veterinary	197	109	306	155	137	292
(091) Health	946	3,351	4,297	1,005	3,469	4,474
(092) Welfare	155	1,046	1,201	172	1,169	1,341
(101) Personal services	489	448	937	502	490	992
(102) Hygiene and occupational health services	31	36	67	26	36	62
(104) Transport services	14	0	14	14	2	16
All Courses	17,391	20,766	38,157	17,758	21,923	39,681

Specialist Group	2018			2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(001) Primary Education	229	884	1,113	217	925	1,142
(002) Secondary Education	340	482	822	398	588	986
(003) Dentistry (including Dental Nursing and Hygiene)	15	41	56	25	37	62
(004) Medicine	310	419	729	305	437	742
(005) Nursing and midwifery	190	1,739	1,929	196	1,753	1,949
(006) Pharmacy (including Pharmacy Technician)	54	129	183	64	116	180
(007) Art, Design and Media (techniques and production)	565	880	1,445	586	926	1,512
(008) Veterinary Medicine	34	61	95	21	71	92
(009) Physiotherapy	55	104	159	50	106	156

Institutions Participating in the CAO System in 2019

LOCATION	INSTITUTION
Athlone	Athlone Institute of Technology
Carlow	Carlow College Institute of Technology, Carlow
Cork	Cork Institute of Technology University College Cork (NUI)
Dublin	American College Dublin College of Computing Technology Marino Institute of Education Dorset College Dublin Business School Dublin City University Dublin Institute of Technology Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology Griffith College ICD Business School Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown Institute of Technology, Tallaght National College of Art and Design National College of Ireland (NCI) Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland St Nicholas Montessori College Ireland Trinity College Dublin University College Dublin (NUI)
Dundalk	Dundalk Institute of Technology
Galway	Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology National University of Ireland, Galway Galway Business School
Letterkenny	Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Limerick	Mary Immaculate College, Limerick Irish College of Humanities and Applied Sciences Limerick Institute of Technology University of Limerick
Maynooth	Maynooth University Pontifical University, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth
Sligo	Institute of Technology, Sligo St. Angela's College of Education
Tralee	Institute of Technology, Tralee
Waterford	Waterford Institute of Technology

DIRECTORS ATTENDANCE AT DECEMBER 2019 MEETING

Prof. P Ó Dochartaigh (Chairman), Prof. E. Guilfoyle, Prof. J. O'Halloran, Prof. M. Rogers
Prof. M. Murphy, Dr. D. O'Byrne, Mr. B. Bennett, Prof. J. Barkhoff, Mr. G. O'Brien,
Prof. N. Hourigan

DIRECTORS ATTENDANCE AT JUNE 2019 MEETING

Prof. C. Morash, Prof. A. Mulkeen, Prof. M. Murphy, Prof. P. Ó Dochartaigh (Chair),
Dr D. O'Byrne, Mr G. O'Brien, Dr. V. Patterson, Prof. M. Rogers, Mr B. Bennett,
Prof. N. Hourigan.

CAO