

# Section 6: Socio-Economic Group

Socio-Economic Group (SEG) is a measure of social background. Your socio-economic group is determined by the information you provide under Section 6 of the HEAR application form, i.e.

6.1. Parent's/Guardian's Employment Status

6.2. Parent's/Guardian's Type of Employment

6.3. Parent's/Guardian's Occupation

Socio-economic group is not determined by whether your parent(s)/guardian(s) have completed third level education.

Research shows that students from particular socio-economic groups are under-represented in higher education relative to their proportion of the population as a whole. The under-represented groups are the Non-Manual Workers Group and the Semi and Unskilled Manual Workers Group.

The Higher Education Authority, the statutory planning and policy development body for higher education and research in Ireland, has set specific targets for colleges and universities in order to increase the number of new students entering higher education who belong to these groups. Students who belong to either of these groups will be awarded the HEAR socio-economic group indicator. Students who belong to any of the other socio-economic groups will not be awarded the HEAR socio-economic group indicator.

- Where you are providing information on two parents/guardians under Section 6: Socio-Economic Group, both parents/guardians must belong to an underrepresented group in order for you to meet the SEG Indicator.
- Please enter details for your parent(s)/guardian(s) so that we can determine your socio-economic group. If you are unsure about how to answer this question please contact any member of the HEAR team for assistance.



## 6.1 Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Employment Status

### Section 6: Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Employment Status

This is an important section of your HEAR application. Seek assistance from your parent(s)/guardian(s). Be as precise as possible when describing your parent(s)/guardian(s) status and job titles. To ensure you answer this section correctly please look at the instructions in the Handbook. [Click here for help](#)

#### Mother/Guardian 1

##### 1. Present Principal Status:

Please select

Answer the following questions about your parent/guardian's main job or their last main job if they are not currently working.

**2. Do (did) they work as an employee or are (were) they self-employed in their main job?** Their main job is the job in which they usually work(ed) the most hours.

Please select

##### 3. What is (was) their occupation in their main job?

In all cases describe the occupation fully and precisely giving the full job title, such as Office Administrator (do not use Administrator), Retail Store Manager (do not use Manager), Electrical Engineer (do not use Engineer), Construction Labourer (do not use Construction) etc.

**(click to save your details and continue on to complete the form)**

Save

**Complete this section with your parent(s) or guardian(s). You can select one of the following options under Section 6.1 of the HEAR application form:**

<b>Present Principal Status</b>	<b>Mother/Guardian 1</b>	<b>Father/Guardian 2</b>
Working for payment or profit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Currently unemployed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Looking after home/family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time student	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retired from employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to work due to permanent sickness/disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never worked	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No contact whatsoever	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deceased	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## **Important Instructions**

- Only tick 'No contact whatsoever' if you have never had any contact with your parent/guardian.
- Only tick 'Never worked' if your parent/guardian has never had a job.
- If your parent/guardian works part-time or is on an employment scheme tick 'Working for payment or profit'.

## 6.2 Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Type of Employment

You can select one of the following options under Section 6.2 of the HEAR application form. Tick the type of employment your parent(s)/guardian(s) have or had in their current or last main job.

Type of employment	Mother/Guardian 1	Father/Guardian 2
Employee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-Employed (including farmer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-Employed (including farmer) with paid employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 6.3 Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Main Job Title

- You must give an accurate job title otherwise we may not be able to establish your socio-economic group. Do not use generic terms such as Administrator, and be as specific as possible. For instance:
  - If your parent/guardian works as a cook in a fast-food restaurant, enter “works as a cook in a fast food restaurant” instead of “McDonald’s”.
  - If your parent/guardian is a computer programmer please enter “computer programmer” instead of “computing”.
  - If your parent/guardian works in retail, do not write retail. Be more specific for example “sales assistant” or “store manager”.
- If your parent/guardian is a member of the Gardaí, army or a civil servant enter the rank or grade.
- If your parent/guardian is working in an employment scheme e.g. CE Scheme, enter “CE Scheme Worker” under job title.
- If your parent/guardian is currently unemployed or looking after the home/family enter the title of the job in which they worked the most hours in the past. Do not enter “Unemployed”.

Present Principal Status	Job Title
Mother/Guardian 1	
Father/Guardian 2	