

**03/02/2020**

## **CAO Press Release**

### **73,035 applicants at close of CAO normal application deadline**

The Central Applications Office (CAO) normal application deadline closed at 5:15pm on Saturday, 1 February. The application figure to this deadline was 73,035. This figure does not represent the total number of CAO applicants as a late application facility opens on 5 March and closes on the 1 May at 5:15pm.

A Change of Course Choices facility will become available on the CAO website on Wednesday, 5 February for all registered applicants. This facility can be used by mature applicants to add course choices and for applicants who have forgotten to include a restricted course on their CAO application - a fee of €10 applies.

Most applicants will use the free Change of Mind facility which opens in May and closes on 1st July at 5:15pm, but there are some restrictions. Speaking about the application process, CAO communications officer Eileen Keleghan commented, "Most applicants who have already applied to CAO will have opportunities to change their course choices in May or June for no extra charge. If an applicant has forgotten to apply for a restricted course, or if they are a mature applicant wishing to make changes to their courses, they should avail of our Change of Course Choices facility which opens on the 5 February and is available until 5:15pm on 1 March for a fee of 10 euro".

"The Late Application facility can be used by most applicants, however restrictions apply. This facility becomes available on the 5 March and closes on the 1 May at 5:15 pm. The Late Application fee is €60 for online applicants and €90 for paper applicants," she said.

"Students with concerns about their options or their application should consult their Guidance Counsellor, the Admissions Officers in the individual institutions, and read the CAO Handbook. If they cannot find the answer to their application query they can email CAO using the 'Contact' page on the website," she added.

The CAO website contains a number of resources for CAO applicants including CAO Video Guides, a copy of the CAO Handbook, and resources for parents and guardians. Visit [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) for more information.

### **Notes to the Editor:**

Please note that the figure quoted as at 5:15pm on 1 February may include some duplication.

### **CAO Application Figures 2020**

Applications to the early online closing date 20 Jan at 17:15 = 61,387

Applications to 1 February at 17:15 = 73,035

### **CAO Application Figures 2019**

Applications to the early online closing date 20 Jan at 17:15 = 59,671

Applications to 1 February at 17:15 = 73,157

### **CAO Application Figures 2018**

Applications to the early online closing date 20 Jan at 17:15 = 60,583

Applications to 1 February at 17:15 = 72,751

### **CAO Application Figures 2017**

Applications to the early online closing date 20 Jan at 17:15 = 65,673

Applications to 1 February at 17:15 = 76,213

### **Important Dates**

CAO Change of Course Choices facility for registered applicants opens on 5 February and closes on 1 March at 5:15pm – a fee of €10 applies.

HEAR and/or DARE applicants must have applied to CAO by 1 February at 5:15pm. HEAR or DARE applicants have until 1 March at 5:15pm to complete their online HEAR or DARE form. HEAR or DARE applicants must submit their supporting documentation to CAO by 15 March at 5:15pm.

Mature applicants who have registered on the system by the 1 of February at 5.15 pm have until the 1 March at 5.15pm to complete the mature applicant section of the application form.

The CAO Late Application facility opens on 5 March at noon and closes on 1 May at 5:15pm – restrictions apply.

The CAO Change of Mind Facility opens on 5 May and closes at 5:15pm on 1 July. This facility is free of charge – restrictions apply.

**For more information contact Eileen Keleghan, CAO Communications Officer, on 091 509884 or email [ekeleghan@cao.ie](mailto:ekeleghan@cao.ie)**