

**01/02/2014**

## **CAO Press Release**

### **73,063 applicants at close of CAO normal application deadline.**

The Central Applications Office (CAO) normal application deadline closed at 5:15pm today, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

The application figure to this deadline was 73,063. This figure does not represent the total number of CAO applicants as a late application facility opens in March and runs until May 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:15pm.

Restricted courses and the HEAR/DARE schemes cannot be applied for by late applicants.

A Change of Course Choices facility will become available on the CAO website on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, for all registered applicants. This facility is provided for restricted category applicants such as mature applicants to add course choices and for applicants who want 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 July 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:15pm, but there are some restrictions at that stage.

Speaking about the application process, General Manager of CAO, Joseph O'Grady, commented: "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 restricted-category applicant, they can avail of our 'Change of Course Choices' facility which opens on Wednesday and is available until March 1<sup>st</sup>."

"Restricted-category applicants, such as mature applicants or applicants for the HEAR or DARE schemes, should have applied to CAO by today's (February 1<sup>st</sup>) deadline. Some mature applicants may be required to apply directly to a Higher Education Institution (HEI) and not through CAO; potential applicants should check with the Admissions Officer of the HEI.

"Leaving Certificate students and other non-restricted category applicants can still apply to CAO up to May 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:15pm using the Late Application facility which becomes available in March for a fee of €50 for online applicants and €80 for paper applicants," he said.

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

The CAO website contains a number of resources for CAO applicants including a recently introduced 'Applicant News' section, CAO Video Guides, and resources for parents and guardians. Visit [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) for more information.

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

#### **CAO Application Figures**

2014: Applications to the early online closing date 20th Jan at 17:15 = 61235. Applications to 1<sup>st</sup> Feb at 17:15 = 73,063

2013: Applications to the early online closing date 20th Jan at 17:15 = 58361. Applications to 1st Feb at 17:15 = 71151

2012: Applications to the early online closing date 20th Jan at 17:15 = 54695. Applications to 1st Feb at 17:15 = 71648

CAO Normal Application Deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:15pm

CAO Change of Course Choices Facility for registered applicants opens on February 5<sup>th</sup> and closes on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:15pm – a fee of €10 applies.

HEAR or DARE applicants must apply to CAO by February 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:15pm.

HEAR or DARE applicants have until March 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:15pm to complete their online HEAR or DARE form.

HEAR or DARE applicants must submit their supporting documentation to CAO by April 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:15pm.

The CAO Late Application facility closes on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:15pm – restrictions apply.

The CAO Change of Mind Facility opens on May 5<sup>th</sup> and closes at 5:15pm on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This facility is free of charge – restricted courses cannot be added using this facility.

**For more information contact Eileen Keleghan, CAO Communications Officer, on 091 509800 or email [ekeleghan@cao.ie](mailto:ekeleghan@cao.ie)**