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CAO Press Release

Mature applicants and HEAR/DARE applicants reminded to apply to CAO by 1 February deadline

The Central Applications Office (CAO) has called on restricted-category applicants, for example mature applicants or applicants applying for HEAR or DARE schemes, to submit their CAO applications by the 1 February at 5:15pm.

Mature applicants may be required to attend for interviews or assessments as part of their application process, and the majority of these assessments will take place in the spring so applying using the 'Late Application' facility may be too late for some institutions.

In general, mature applicants applying to CAO on the basis of mature years must complete sections 1-11 of the mature applicant section of the application form – some exceptions apply. It is important that applicants include as much information as possible in the boxes provided about any qualifications and relevant work experience; they must also complete the personal statement.

As part of the application process, mature applicants and other restricted-category applicants will be required to submit documents to support their application, including certified photocopies of transcripts of results or certificates of achievement. A certified photocopy can be obtained by bringing the original document and the photocopy into a recognised secondary school or the admissions office of a participating Higher Education Institution (HEI) to be stamped. Alternatively, a Notary may also be used.

Supporting documents should be with CAO within seven days of the 1 February closing date.

CAO communications officer, Eileen Keleghan, advises applicants that application deadlines are strict and timely action is required: "Applicants should not let the collection of supporting documents delay them from making their online application before the 1 February at 5:15pm. Deadlines are final, and it is crucial that mature applicants start the process by completing the online application form, obtaining their application number and listing their course choices before the deadline".

"A video guide for mature applicants and other useful resources are available from the Mature Applicant section of our website www.cao.ie" she added.

Applicants for the HEAR and/or DARE schemes must also have applied to CAO by 1 February and have completed the HEAR and DARE sections of the application form by 1 March at 5:15pm – supporting documentation for HEAR and DARE applications must be with CAO by 1 April at 5:15pm. For more information about the HEAR or DARE schemes applicants should go to www.accesscollege.ie

For more information about the CAO application process go to www.cao.ie

A video guide for mature applicants is available [here](#)

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For more information contact Eileen Keleghan on 091 509884 or email ekeleghan@cao.ie