

01/02/2017

CAO Press Release

76,213 applicants at close of CAO normal application deadline

The Central Applications Office (CAO) normal application deadline closed at 5:15pm today, 1st February. The application figure to this deadline was 76,213. This figure does not represent the total number of CAO applicants as a late application facility opens on 6th March and runs until 1st May at 5:15pm.

A Change of Course Choices facility will become available on the CAO website on Monday 6th February for all registered applicants. This facility can be used by restricted-category applicants (such as 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 at that stage. 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 restricted-category applicant, they should avail of our Change of Course Choices facility which opens on Monday and is available until 5:15pm on 1st March for a fee of ten euro".

"Restricted-category applicants, such as mature applicants or applicants for the HEAR or DARE schemes, should have applied to CAO by the 1st February deadline. Some mature applicants may be required to apply directly to a Higher Education Institution (HEI); potential applicants should check with the Admissions Office of the HEI.

"Leaving Certificate students and other non-restricted category applicants can still apply to CAO up to 1st May at 5:15pm using the Late Application facility which becomes available on the 6th March for a fee of €50 for online applicants and €80 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 for more information.

Notes to the Editor:

Please note that the figure quoted as at 5:15pm on 1st February may include some duplication and will be adjusted to include paper applications not yet counted on the system.

CAO Application Figures 2017

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

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

CAO Application Figures 2016

Applications to the early online closing date 20th Jan at 17:15 = 65,535.

Applications to 1st February at 17:15 = 76,227

CAO Application Figures 2015

Applications to the early online closing date 20th Jan at 17:15 = 63,554.

Applications to 1st February at 17:15 = 74,499

CAO Application Figures 2014

Applications to the early online closing date 20th Jan at 17:15 = 61,235.

Applications to 1st February at 17:15 = 73,063

CAO Application Figures 2013

Applications to the early online closing date 20th Jan at 17:15 = 58,361.

Applications to 1st February at 17:15 = 71,151

Important Dates

CAO Change of Course Choices Facility for registered applicants opens on 6th February and closes on 1st March at 5:15pm – a fee of €10 applies.

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

The CAO Late Application facility opens on 6th March at noon and closes on 1st May at 5:15pm – restrictions apply.

The CAO Change of Mind Facility opens on 5th May and closes at 5:15pm on 1st 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