

**08/03/2018**

**CAO Press Release**

**\*\*Embargo until March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6am\*\***

**CAO release 2018 course choices data**

The Central Applications Office (CAO) has released 2018 application data up to the Change of Course Choices closing date of March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The data shows applications by course classification, level and by address group.

72,643 applications were received by CAO by the February 1<sup>st</sup> closing date - a decrease of 3,443 (-4.5%) applicants on the previous year.

There was a total of 8,539 applications from applicants over 23 years of age - down 1,168 (-12.0%) applications from 2017.

6,571 applicants indicated that they wish to be considered for the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) – an increase of 186 (+2.9%) from last year.

A total of 10,465 applicants indicated that they wish to be considered for the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) - a decrease of 1,023 (-8.9%) from 2017.

The data provided at this stage is interim data and is subject to change when Late Applications are taken into account and when the Change of Mind facility closes on July 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:15pm.

Speaking about the application figures, communications officer for CAO, Eileen Keleghan, commented: “The majority of CAO applicants will be permitted to use the Change of Mind facility when it opens on May 4<sup>th</sup> to add, remove or re-order course choices, which will result in changes to the figures released today”.

“Late applications are also being accepted up to May 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:15pm”.

“All CAO applicants will receive a Statement of Application Record before the end of May. This Statement will contain details of important information held on file for an applicant - including course choices and examination details. Any errors or omissions identified in this document must be communicated to CAO immediately” she added.

To apply to CAO go to [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) and click on Apply.

Registered applicants can log in to view and edit their account information using the My Application facility. Changes to course choices can be made using the Change of Mind facility between the 4<sup>th</sup> of May and the 1<sup>st</sup> of July at 5:15pm – restrictions apply.

**-Ends-**

For more information email Eileen Keleghan before 2pm on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Email: [ekeleghan@cao.ie](mailto:ekeleghan@cao.ie)

**Notes to the Editor:**

- As notified previously, the CAO has introduced a new course classification (The International Standard Classification of Education for Fields of Education and Training 2013 (ISCED-F)). All CAO courses have been assigned one ISCED-F code. In addition, in order to reflect previous subject categories and particular groups, the CAO has implemented a new specialist group classification. This specialist group classification is completely separate to the ISCED-F classification and not all courses will be in a specialist group, however, it is possible for a course to be in two specialist groups.

- There are limitations to the year-on-year data comparisons by course classification due to the introduction or cancellation of courses, and as a result of some courses being re-classified by the HEI. The statistical category for each course is given in the accompanying spreadsheet.
- The address data is broken down by the address given on the application – these are grouped: county in Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Britain, EU (Other than Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Britain) and Non EU.
- 317 of the 72,643 applicants were Advanced Entry applicants only. The CAO processes applications for entry to years 2, 3 and 4 of undergraduate courses in some Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). This entry route is known as Advanced Entry.
- The final DARE/HEAR completed applications numbers will not be known until after all the documents have been received (after 1<sup>st</sup> April) and the screening of that information is complete.