

28/01/2021

CAO Press Release

CAO application deadline of 1 February fast approaching

Applicants who have not yet started their application are urged by CAO to do so immediately, particularly mature applicants, applicants for the HEAR or DARE schemes, or those who are thinking about applying for a restricted course.

The Central Applications Office (CAO) application deadline for undergraduate courses in Irish Higher Education Institutions is Monday, 1 February at 5:15pm.

CAO communications officer, Eileen Keleghan, asks potential applicants who have not yet started their application to carefully read the CAO Handbook and go to the CAO website and click on 'Apply' to start their application.

"It is important that applicants start their application well in advance of the final deadline in order to avoid any issues which may arise if they leave their application to the last minute. The process of obtaining a CAO application number is really straight-forward, so those interested in applying shouldn't put off starting an application. Applicants do not need to enter their course choices to obtain their CAO application number.

"We urge all mature applicants, applicants interested in restricted courses, and those applying for the DARE or HEAR schemes to apply before the 1 February at 5:15pm.

"Mature applicants should list their courses by 1 February to avoid restrictions. They are also required to complete a Mature Applicant Form by the 1 March and supply supporting documentation within ten days of making an application".

"Applicants for the DARE and HEAR schemes are required to complete online forms before the 1 March at 5:15pm, and supply supporting documentation by 15 March at 5:15pm. Gathering supporting documentation can take some time, so the process should be started now if it hasn't been started already" she added.

"The CAO website contains a number of guides and supports for applicants in the Student Resources section which should make the application process easy to navigate, including a 'Demo Application Facility' and step-by-step video guides talking applicants through the process of obtaining their CAO application number and editing their CAO account.

Applicants who do not process their application in advance of the deadline can make a late application at an increased fee of €60 for an online application. This facility opens in March and closes at 5:15 pm on 1 May, however some restrictions apply.

Applicants who have already made a CAO application have up to 5:15 pm on 1 February to add, remove or re-order courses free of charge. If an applicant is considering applying for a restricted course, they should make sure to include the course details in their application before this deadline. If they do not apply for a restricted course before the 1 February, the course can be added up to 1 March at 5:15 pm for a fee of €10 - mature applicants can also use this facility to make changes to their course choices.

The CAO Change of Mind facility opens on the 5 May. This facility allows applicants the opportunity to add, remove or change the order of their courses as many times as they like (and free of charge) right up to 1 July at 5:15 pm, however it is important to note that restrictions apply, particularly in the case of mature applicants.

Applicants are reminded that they should list their course choices in genuine order of preference.

To apply to CAO go to www.cao.ie and click on 'Apply'.

-Ends –

Notes to the Editor:

CAO Normal Application Deadline is 1 February at 5:15pm.

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

HEAR and/or DARE applicants must apply to CAO by 1 February at 5:15 pm.

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

HEAR and/or DARE applicants must submit their supporting documentation to CAO by 15 March at 5:15 pm.

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

The CAO Change of Mind Facility opens on 5 May and closes at 5:15 pm on 1 July - this facility is free of charge. In general, restricted courses cannot be added using this facility and some mature applicants may encounter restrictions when using this facility.

A number of video guides are available in the Student Resources section of www.cao.ie

For more information or to arrange interviews contact Eileen Keleghan, CAO Communications Officer by email ekeleghan@cao.ie