

Dear Principal/Guidance Counsellor,

November 2021

1 Points scores, offers and acceptances data, and specific statistical information

To view the above information, please go to the 'Guidance/Schools' page and click into 'Schools Message Board'. Go to the '[2021 Messages](#)' tab and you will find the information that you usually receive in the November postal mailing. The charts will show the minimum points scores that were required for entry to courses in 2021. In addition, for each course we also show the mid-point score of those who were offered places. Summary data about 2021 offers and acceptances is also included.

The points charts are in Excel format to allow you to sort and filter the information. This will allow you to filter by subject area, level, institution, round, etc. We hope you find this information helpful.

If you wish to have data on the destinations of your students, please see letter included in the '2021 Messages' tab.

2 Important Changes to courses in the 2022 Handbook

Since the publication of the 2022 Handbook, some institutions have made changes to the courses on offer. This information is available on the CAO website (got to www.cao.ie/handbook) and will be updated as we receive new information from HEIs.

3 Additional information available on the CAO website

We ask you to encourage applicants to visit the CAO website and become familiar with the services on offer, particularly in the 'Applicants' section. Applicants should also be encouraged to regularly interact with their CAO account, particularly the 'Correspondence' section which will contain a log of all of the emails from CAO containing important updates and instructions. The 'Have a Question' page contains a virtual assistant and a number of FAQs broken down by category which your students/clients should find helpful.

We have prepared and placed on the website the following information which Guidance Counsellors have requested (this will be updated as more information comes to hand from HEIs): Calendar of test and interview dates for 2022; Details of HEI Open Days; Contact details for Admissions Officers, School Liaison and Access Officers (in the **HEI contact details** section); and a Demo Application facility. In the 'Guidance/Schools' page you will find a link to 'Guidance Counsellor Resources' which contains a slideshow presentation on the CAO process, a presentation and guide for parents and guardians, posters and video guides for sharing on social media.

4 Supplementary Entry Routes

The Supplementary Information Form for applicants with a disability or specific learning difficulty has two purposes: to facilitate applicants in alerting HEIs of any special needs and any facilities that might be required; and to supply information to be considered for supplementary admission routes including the DARE scheme. The HEAR form should be completed by applicants who wish to be considered on the basis of socio-economic disadvantage. DARE and HEAR online application forms must be completed by 5pm on 1 March. Information is available on the website www.accesscollege.ie and in the HEAR/DARE/SIF section of the CAO website. We ask that you encourage students interested in applying for either scheme to start the process early and ensure that they have their documentation submitted to CAO well in advance of the published deadline of 5pm on 15 March 2022. **Applicants should allow for potential delays in gathering documentation from third parties - particularly in light of Covid-19 restrictions - and remember that CAO deadlines are final.**

The HEAR and DARE Application Information Sessions take place on Saturday, 8 January. For more information go to www.accesscollege.ie

5 Exemptions

It is important to note that exemptions are a separate matter to supplying HEIs with information about a disability or specific learning difficulty. If an applicant, for any reason, is seeking exemptions from minimum entry requirements (e.g. exemptions from Irish or modern language requirements) then they should contact the Admissions Offices of the

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) they are applying to (or, in the case of NUI institutions, they should apply to the NUI without delay and no later than 21 days after opening their CAO account - see www.nui.ie for details). Applicants must make arrangements for exemptions each year they apply. More information on exemptions can be found in the 'Applicants' section of the CAO website.

6 **Changes to the CAO Application Form for 2022**

Please note that CAO application deadlines which previously closed at 5.15pm will now close at 5pm, as published in the Timetable of Events section of the CAO Handbook and the Important Dates section of the CAO website.

For GCE candidates, applicants must now supply the year, sitting, level, subject and grade for examinations taken between 2006 and 2021. Applicants are also required post certified A4 photocopies of the appropriate certificates for any GCE/GCSE examinations mentioned in the table and for which a certificate has been issued.

7 **Offers and Acceptances Schedule for 2022**

We intend to publicise details of the 2022 Offers and Acceptances Schedule as soon as CAO and HEIs agree the dates. This will be soon after the Leaving Certificate resulting date is provided by the State Examinations Commission.

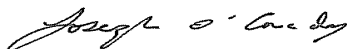
8 **Webinars**

Due to the demand for the recent CAO Information Evening for Parents and Students, CAO plans to hold a similar event in April focusing on Change of Mind and the Statement of Application process – please check the cao.ie/webinar page in January for more information on this, and other, upcoming online information sessions. A recording of the October information evening for Students and Parents is also available to view at www.cao.ie/webinar

9 **CAO Mailing List**

Thank you to those of you who have already signed up to the CAO email mailing list for Guidance Counsellors and Principals. If you have not yet registered to receive email updates directly from CAO, you may do so by clicking on the link in the 'Guidance/Schools' section of www.cao.ie

Yours sincerely,



Joseph O'Grady
General Manager