

# Guide to providing evidence of your disability

This is a guide to help you identify what supporting documents are required as part of your DARE application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the “Providing evidence of your disability” section on [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie) for full details or contact a member of the DARE Team for guidance.

Type of Disability	Appropriate documentation	Type of professional	Required age of report
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)/ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	Evidence of Disability Form 2024 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Consultant Psychiatrist <b>OR</b> Psychologist <b>OR</b> Neurologist <b>OR</b> Paediatrician.	Must be less than three years old i.e. dated after <b>1 February 2021</b> .
Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Asperger’s Syndrome)	Evidence of Disability Form 2024 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Consultant Psychiatrist <b>OR</b> Psychologist <b>OR</b> Neurologist <b>OR</b> Paediatrician.	No age limit.
Blind/Vision Impaired	Evidence of Disability Form 2024 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Ophthalmologist <b>OR</b> Ophthalmic Surgeon.	No age limit.
Deaf/Hard of Hearing: Students may apply under ONE of the following categories: (A) Applicants who have an audiogram (B) Applicants who attend a School for the Deaf (C) Applicants with a Cochlear Implant.	(A) Applicants who have an audiogram: Audiogram (B) Applicants who attend a School for the Deaf: Letter confirming attendance from Principal of School for the Deaf <b>OR</b> Evidence of Disability Form 2024. (C) Applicants with a Cochlear Implant: Existing report confirming cochlear implant <b>OR</b> Evidence of Disability Form 2024 (DARE does not accept reports from high street retailers).	(A) Applicants who have an audiogram: Diagnostic/Clinical Audiologist registered with the Irish Academy of Audiologists (IAA) or HSE Audiologist (B) School for the Deaf: Principal of School for the Deaf (C) Applicants with a Cochlear Implant: Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Consultant <b>OR</b> Cochlear Implant Programme Coordinator	No age limit.

Type of Disability	Appropriate documentation	Type of professional	Required age of report
Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) – Dyspraxia	Evidence of Disability Form 2024 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Occupational Therapist <b>OR</b> Neurologist <b>OR</b> Physiotherapist <b>OR</b> Paediatrician.	No age limit.
Mental Health Condition	Evidence of Disability Form 2024 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Consultant Psychiatrist on specialist register.	Must be less than three years old i.e. dated after <b>1 February 2021</b> .
Neurological Condition (including Brain Injury and Epilepsy)	Evidence of Disability Form 2024 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Neurologist <b>OR</b> Other relevant Consultant.	No age limit.
Physical Disability	Evidence of Disability Form 2024 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Orthopaedic Consultant <b>OR</b> Other relevant Consultant appropriate to the disability/condition.	No age limit.
Significant On-going Illness	Evidence of Disability Form 2024 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Relevant Consultant/ Specialist appropriate to the disability/condition.	Must be less than three years old i.e. dated after <b>1 February 2021</b> .
Speech and Language Communication Disorder	Evidence of Disability Form 2024 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Speech and Language Therapist.	No age limit.
Dyslexia / Significant Literacy Difficulties  Students may apply under ONE of the following categories: (A) Applicants who have a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia (B) Applicants who have Significant Literacy Difficulties but do NOT have a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia	(A) Applicants who have a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia: Psychological Assessment Report  (B) Applicants who have Significant Literacy Difficulties but do NOT have a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia: Section D School Statement	(A) Psychologist  (B) Special Educational Needs (SEN) Teacher and countersigned by Principal/Deputy Principal	No age limit.

Type of Disability	Appropriate documentation	Type of professional	Required age of report
Dyscalculia / Significant Numeracy Difficulties	Psychological Assessment Report	Psychologist	No age limit

**\*Important note for applicants with Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties or Dyscalculia/ Significant Numeracy Difficulties**

A full **Psychological Assessment Report OR Section D School Statement** must be submitted for applicants with **Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties**. In addition, applicants with **Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties** must also have **two literacy attainment scores** at or below the 10th percentile (Standard Score of 81 or below) from testing carried out on or after **1 February 2022**.

A full **Psychological Assessment Report** must be submitted for applicants with **Dyscalculia/ Significant Numeracy Difficulties**. In addition, applicants with **Dyscalculia/ Significant Numeracy Difficulties** must have **one numeracy attainment score** at or below the 10th percentile (Standard Score of 81 or below) from testing carried out on or after **1 February 2022**.

These attainment scores can be from one (or a combination) of the following sources:

- Scores from school-based attainment testing
- Scores from attainment tests carried out by a psychologist.

Testing must have been carried out on or after **1 February 2022** and all applicants must submit an EIS completed by their school.

## Important Instructions

- Send Section B Educational Impact Statement and Section C Evidence of Disability documents and where relevant Section D to the CAO, Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway by **15 March 2024**.

## CAO Helpdesk

You can contact the CAO Helpdesk with questions on completing a DARE application. The simplest way to contact the CAO is by clicking on the 'Contact Us' button at **www.cao.ie**. Alternatively, you can call the helpdesk at **091 509 800**.

DARE will only discuss details of your application with you or your parent(s)/guardian(s).