HEAR

Higher Education Access Route

Application Information 2024

DARE HEAR Application Information Days
See details at:
www.accesscollege.ie

What is the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)?

The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a college and university scheme which offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers, resident in the Republic of Ireland, who are under represented at Higher Education due to their socio-economic background.

HEAR has been set up by a number of colleges and universities as evidence shows that long-term poverty can have a negative effect on how well a student does at school and whether they go on to college.

HEAR applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural indicators to be considered for a reduced points place and extra college support.

What are the benefits of filling in a HEAR Application?

Reduced Points Places: Each participating college has a reserved number of places to offer eligible HEAR students at lower Leaving Certificate points.

Extra College Support: If you get a place through HEAR you will receive a variety of academic, personal and social supports while at college.

Examples of extra college supports may include:

- An Orientation Programme to introduce you to college life.
- Extra tuition if required, study skills and exam preparation.
- One to one meetings with student advisors.
- Social gatherings/mentoring.
- Extra financial assistance when available/advice regarding grants and scholarships.

What HEAR is not

HEAR is not your maintenance grant. The maintenance grant is the main source of financial assistance available from the Irish State for students in full-time Post Leaving Certificate Courses (PLCs) and full-time higher education undergraduate courses.

HEAR is an admissions scheme to help students who may not traditionally go on to third level. Students applying to HEAR are encouraged to find out more information on the maintenance grant by logging on to **susi.ie**. Additional information on financial assistance for third level students is available at **www.studentfinance.ie**.

Who can apply to HEAR?

HEAR is for school leavers under the age of 23 as of 1 January 2024 who are resident in the Republic of Ireland. HEAR applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural indicators to be considered for a reduced points place and extra college support.

DARE DISABILITY ACCESS ROUTE TO EDUCATION **HEAR** HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS ROUTE

How do I fill in a HEAR application?

Applicants applying for HEAR must:

1. Be under the age of 23 as of 1 January 2024.
2. Apply online to CAO by 17:00 on 1 February 2024. CAO applications open on 6 November 2023 at 12 noon.
3. No later than 17:00 on **1 March 2024, indicate in your CAO application that you wish to apply for the HEAR scheme and fully and correctly complete all elements of the online HEAR application form**. Once you have completed the HEAR application form you will get a checklist which tells you which documents you need to supply.
4. **Post your supporting documents to arrive in CAO** no later than 17:00 on **15 March 2024**.

To complete your online HEAR Application you must:

Get assistance from your parent(s)/guardian(s).

Use the **HEAR 2024 Handbook** to help you answer all relevant questions on your online HEAR application.

You can download the HEAR 2024 Handbook at **www.accesscollege.ie**.

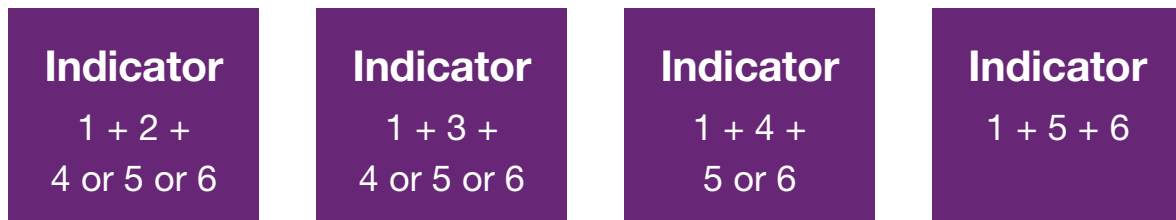## HEAR Application Timeline

From November 2023	Review the HEAR Handbook with your parent(s)/guardian(s). Make a CAO application at www.cao.ie. Fill in the online HEAR Application at www.cao.ie. Gather your supporting documents. **Remember, they can take several weeks to issue.**
By 1 February 2024	Apply to CAO by 17:00 on 1 February.
By 1 March 2024	Complete all elements of the online HEAR Application Form by 17:00 on 1 March. Gather all supporting documents relevant to your application.
By 15 March 2024	Submit copies of supporting documents to CAO, Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway by 15 March. Make sure your copies are clear and can be easily read. Please number each page and write your CAO application number and the date on the front of each page. Faxed/emailed documents are not accepted. **Keep the original of all documents and obtain a certificate of posting from An Post every time you post supporting documents to CAO.** For confirmation that the documents you posted arrived safely in CAO, enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard with details of the documents you have submitted.
April – June 2024	HEAR Application Assessment.
In late June 2024	Applicants notified of outcome of HEAR Application.
End June/ Early July 2024	HEAR Review and Appeals Application.
August 2024	Leaving Certificate exam results. CAO offers. Successful HEAR Applicants notified. Accept CAO offer. Accept HEAR offer of extra college supports.
Late August/ Early Sept. 2024	Attend mandatory HEAR orientation programme.

Should I apply

HEAR applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural indicators (criteria) to be considered for a reduced points place and extra college support. Here is a list of all the HEAR indicators:

1. **Income:** Your family income falls on or below the HEAR Income Limit for the year 2022.

2. **Medical/GP Visit Card:** Your family has a Medical Card/GP Visit Card that was in date on 31 December 2023.

3. **Means Tested Social Welfare:** Your family received a means-tested payment from the Department of Social Protection for at least 26 weeks in 2022.

4. **Socio-economic Group:** You belong to a group that is under-represented in higher education based on the occupation and employment status of your parent(s) or guardian(s). The under-represented groups are the Non-Manual Workers Group and the Semi and Unskilled Manual Workers Group.

5. **DEIS School Attendance:** You completed five years in a second level school that takes part in the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) scheme run by the Department of Education and Skills.

6. **Area Profile:** You live in an area where there is concentrated disadvantage – in other words an area where, for example, there is high unemployment and poverty and where only a small proportion of adults have attained third level education.

You must meet Indicator 1, the HEAR Income Limit, plus a correct combination of 2 other indicators to be eligible for HEAR. The combinations are:

Indicator 1 + 2 + 4 or 5 or 6	Indicator 1 + 3 + 4 or 5 or 6	Indicator 1 + 4 + 5 or 6	Indicator 1 + 5 + 6

Indicator 1, the HEAR Income Limit, is calculated by:
- How many children there are in your family;
- How many people in your family are in full time education;

Use the table to estimate if your family income is equal to or less than the HEAR income limit.

Number of dependent children* in your family	HEAR Income Limit
Fewer than 4	€46,790
4-7	€51,325
8 or more	€55,630

Add €4,785 to the total family/household income for every sibling/parent enrolled in a full time college, university or post leaving certificate course.

*A dependent includes:
- a sibling under the age of 16 years on 1 October 2023.
- a sibling over the age of 16 years on 1 October 2023 who is either:
  – attending post primary education.
  – attending a full time course in FET or higher education.
  – medically certified as permanently unfit for work.
- a parent attending a full time course in FET or higher education.

Colleges that take part in HEAR

Institution	Telephone	Email	Website
Atlantic Technological University			
Donegal Campus	(074) 918 6170	hear@lyit.ie	www.lyit.ie
Galway Campus	(091) 742 598	hear@gmit.ie	www.gmit.ie
Sligo Campus	(071) 915 5433	hear@itsligo.ie	www.itsligo.ie
Dublin City University	(01) 700 8868	hear@dcu.ie	www.dcu.ie/access
Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology	(01) 239 4628	hear@iadt.ie	www.iadt.ie
Dundalk Institute of Technology	(042) 937 0236	hear@dkit.ie	www.dkit.ie
Marino Institute of Education	(01) 805 7752	access@mie.ie	www.mie.ie/access
Mary Immaculate College	(061) 204 510	AccessOffice@mic.ul.ie	www.mic.ul.ie
Maynooth University	(01) 708 4600	hear@mu.ie	www.maynoothuniversity.ie/hear
Munster Technological University			
Cork Campus	(021) 433 5138	HearCork@mtu.ie	www.mtu.ie/access/hear
Kerry Campus	(066) 714 5636	HearKY@mtu.ie	
National College of Art & Design	(01) 636 4200	hear@ncad.ie	www.ncad.ie
National College of Ireland	(01) 449 8500	hear@ncirl.ie	www.ncirl.ie
Pontifical University, Maynooth	(01) 708 4600	hear@mu.ie	www.mu.ie/hear
RCSI University of Medicine & Health Sciences	(01) 402 2228	hear@rcsi.ie	www.rcsi.ie/study
St Angela's College, Sligo	(071) 919 5575	hear@stangelas.ie	www.stangelas.ie
South East Technological University			
Carlow and Wexford Campus	(059) 917 5600	HEAR.CW@setu.ie	www.itcarlow.ie
Waterford Campus	(051) 306 192	HEAR.WD@setu.ie	www.wit.ie/hear
Technological University Dublin	(01) 220 8440	hear@tudublin.ie	www.tudublin.ie/hear
Technological University of the Shannon			
Athlone Campus	(090) 646 8123	hear.midlands@tus.ie	www.ait.ie
Limerick Campus	(061) 293 130	hear.midwest@tus.ie	www.lit.ie
Trinity College Dublin	(01) 896 3696	hear@tcd.ie	www.tcd.ie/trinityaccess
University College Cork	(021) 490 4806	hear@ucc.ie	www.ucc.ie/hear
University College Dublin	(01) 716 7123	hear@ucd.ie	www.ucd.ie/all
University of Galway	(091) 493 553	hear@university ofgalway.ie	www.universityofgalway.ie
University of Limerick	(061) 234 122	hear@ul.ie	www.ul.ie/access

CAO Helpdesk | Email CAO by clicking Contact Us at www.cao.ie | 091 509 800 | www.cao.ie

Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)

DARE is a third level alternative admissions scheme for school-leavers whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education.

DARE offers reduced points places to school leavers who as a result of having a disability have experienced additional educational challenges in second level education.

You should apply to both DARE and HEAR if they are relevant to you.

Applicants who apply and are deemed eligible for both DARE and HEAR will be prioritised by the participating colleges and universities when offering their reduced points places.

For more information on DARE see www.accesscollege.ie.

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