

Applying to CAO 2026

Go to www.cao.ie and click on 'Apply'.

1

CAO opens for applications on 5 November.

Register with CAO at www.cao.ie before 5pm on 1 February (€50 application fee or €35 before 5pm on 20 January).

2

Edit your application using the 'My Application' facility.



3

Provide supplementary information and all documents required by the deadlines stated in the handbook.



4

Introduce your courses before 1 February at 5pm to avoid restrictions.



5

Remember to place your course choices in genuine order of preference.



6

Use the **Change of Mind** facility from 5 May to 1 July at 5pm - restrictions apply.



7

Carefully check the **Statement of Application Record** email when it is sent to you in May - notify CAO of any errors or omissions immediately.



8

Round One offers are issued to eligible applicants after the release of the Leaving Certificate results, and in subsequent rounds until the offer season closes.



9

You **MUST** read the CAO Handbook in its entirety before making an application.



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Important Dates

For a list of all deadlines and important dates go to www.cao.ie and read the CAO Handbook.

Nov - Feb

5 November: CAO Online application facility opens at noon.

20 January (5pm): Closing date for discounted application fee of €35.

1 February (5pm): Normal closing date for CAO applications.

5 February: Change of Course Choices facility opens at noon - used for introducing restricted courses or by restricted-category applicants.

March - June

1 March: Change of Course Choices facility closes at 5pm.

1 March (5pm): Closing date for completion of HEAR/ DARE application forms.

10 March: HEAR/ DARE supporting documents to be received by CAO by 5pm.

5 May: Change of Mind facility opens at noon - restrictions apply.

July - Oct

1 July: Change of Mind facility closes at 5pm.

Early July: Round A offers issued.

Early August: Round O offers issued.

TBC: Round One offers available online at www.cao.ie

Offers are issued on a weekly basis until the offer season closes.

1. To get your CAO application number you need to register with CAO - go to www.cao.ie and click on 'Apply'.
2. You can register from 5 November and add your course information at a later date. Restrictions apply after 1 February at 5pm for certain courses and for restricted-category applicants - see the CAO Handbook for more information.
3. Please enter your personal details carefully and correctly.
4. You must inform CAO of all qualifications. If you are required to submit supporting documents to CAO, make sure to follow instructions on the online form and in the CAO Handbook.
5. You may make changes to your CAO application when the 'Change of Mind' facility opens on 5 May and right up to 1 July at 5pm - restrictions apply.
6. Before applying for a course, check that you meet the minimum entry requirements - this information is available on the website of the institution. Having the points for a course is not enough; you must meet the course/institution's requirements to be considered.
7. Place your course choices in genuine order of preference.
8. You must always read the [CAO Handbook](http://www.cao.ie/handbook) before submitting a CAO application - go to www.cao.ie/handbook

Tips

