

10/03/2025

CAO Press Release

****Embargoed until 00:01 on 11 March****

CAO release 2025 course choices data

The Central Applications Office (CAO) has released 2025 application data up to the Change of Course Choices closing date of 1 March at 5pm.

The data shows applications by course classification, course level and by applicant address.

83,424 applications were received by CAO by the February closing date – an increase of 6,525 applicants on the previous year (8.5%).

There was a total of 7,047 applications from applicants over 23 years of age – up 944 applications from 2024.

12,056 applicants indicated that they wish to be considered for the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) – an increase of 1,800 from last year.

A total of 8,224 applicants indicated that they wish to be considered for the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) – a decrease of 53 from 2024.

Final numbers for DARE HEAR applicants will not be known until after the 15 March deadline for receipt of supporting documentation.

The data provided at this stage is interim data and is subject to change when late applications are received and when the Change of Mind facility closes on 1 July at 5pm.

Speaking about the application figures, head of communications for CAO, Eileen Keleghan, commented: “The majority of CAO applicants will be permitted to use the Change of Mind facility when it opens on 6 May to add, remove or re-order course choices, which will result in changes to the figures released today.

“Late applications are also being accepted up to 1 May at 5pm. The 1 May at 5pm is the final date by which an application can be made to CAO for 2025 entry, including for those students currently attending higher education who may be considering reapplying to CAO for a different first year undergraduate course. The exceptional late application facility for applicants attending higher education, which previously had a deadline of 22 July, has been discontinued from 2025; such applicants must submit their application by 1 May at 5pm if they wish to be considered for 2025 entry to higher education through CAO.

“To apply to CAO, go to www.cao.ie and click on Apply. Please note, some restrictions apply” she added.

-Ends-

For more information email ekeleghan@cao.ie

Notes to the Editor:

- The CAO uses the International Standard Classification of Education for Fields of Education and Training 2013 (ISCED-F). All CAO courses have been assigned one ISCED-F code. In addition, to reflect previous subject categories and particular groups, the CAO has implemented a specialist group classification. This specialist group classification is separate to the ISCED-F classification and not all courses will be in a specialist group; however, it is possible for a course to be in two specialist groups.
- There are limitations to the year-on-year data comparisons by course classification due to the introduction or cancellation of courses, and as a result of some courses being re-classified by the HEI. The statistical category for each course is given in the accompanying spreadsheet.
- The address data is broken down by the address given on the application – these are grouped: county in Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, British, Other EU countries and other non-EU countries.
- 437 of the 83,424 applicants were Advanced Entry applicants only. The CAO processes applications for entry to years 2, 3 and 4 of undergraduate courses in some Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). This entry route is known as Advanced Entry.
- The final DARE/HEAR completed application numbers will not be known until after all the documents have been received (after 15 March) and the screening of that information is complete.