

01/02/2016

CAO Press Release

76,227 applicants at close of CAO normal application deadline.

The Central Applications Office (CAO) normal application deadline closed at 5:15pm today, 1 February.

The application figure to this deadline was 76,227. This figure does not represent the total number of CAO applicants as a late application facility opens on 5 March and runs until 1 May at 5:15pm.

A Change of Course Choices facility will become available on the CAO website on Friday 5 February for all registered applicants. This facility can be used by restricted-category applicants (such as mature applicants) to add course choices and for applicants who have forgotten to include a restricted course on their CAO application - a fee of €10 applies.

Most applicants will use the free Change of Mind facility which opens in May and closes on 1 July at 5:15pm, but there are some restrictions at that stage.

Speaking about the application process, CAO communications officer Eileen Keleghan commented, "Applicants who have already applied to CAO will have opportunities to change their course choices in May or June for no extra charge. If an applicant has forgotten to apply for a restricted course, or if they are a restricted-category applicant, they should avail of our Change of Course Choices facility which opens on Friday and is available until 1 March".

"Restricted-category applicants, such as mature applicants or applicants for the HEAR or DARE schemes, should have applied to CAO by today's (1 February) deadline. Some mature applicants may be required to apply directly to a Higher Education Institution (HEI) and not through CAO; potential applicants should check with the Admissions Office of the HEI.

"Leaving Certificate students and other non-restricted category applicants can still apply to CAO up to 1 May at 5:15pm using the Late Application facility which becomes available in March for a fee of €50 for online applicants and €80 for paper applicants," she said.

"Students with concerns about their options or their application should consult their Guidance Counsellor, the Admissions Officers in the individual institutions, and read the CAO Handbook. If they cannot find the answer to their application query they can e-mail CAO using the 'Contact' page on the website," she added.

The CAO website contains a number of resources for CAO applicants including an CAO Video Guides and resources for parents and guardians. Visit www.cao.ie for more information.

Notes to the Editor:

Please note that the figure quoted as at 5:15pm on 1 February may include some duplications and will be adjusted to include paper applications not yet counted on the system.

CAO Application Figures

2016: Applications to the early online closing date 20 Jan at 17:15 = 65,535. Applications to 1 February at 17:15 = 76,227

2015: Applications to the early online closing date 20 Jan at 17:15 = 63,554. Applications to 1 February at 17:15 = 74,499

2014: Applications to the early online closing date 20th Jan at 17:15 = 61,235. Applications to 1st February at 17:15 = 73,063

2013: Applications to the early online closing date 20th Jan at 17:15 = 58,361. Applications to 1st February at 17:15 = 71,151

CAO Change of Course Choices Facility for registered applicants opens on 5 February and closes on 1 March at 5:15pm – a fee of €10 applies.

HEAR or DARE applicants must have applied to CAO by 1 February at 5:15pm.

HEAR or DARE applicants have until 1 March at 5:15pm to complete their online HEAR or DARE form.

HEAR or DARE applicants must submit their supporting documentation to CAO by 1 April at 5:15pm.

The CAO Late Application facility closes on 1 May at 5:15pm – restrictions apply.

The CAO Change of Mind Facility opens on 5 May and closes at 5:15pm on 1 July. This facility is free of charge – restrictions apply.

For more information contact Eileen Keleghan, CAO Communications Officer, on 091 509884 or email ekeleghan@cao.ie