

20/01/2021

CAO Press Release

66,457 applicants to CAO by 20 January reduced-fee deadline

The Central Applications Office (CAO) normal application deadline is 5:15pm on Monday, 1 February.

Today (20 January) the application figure by the close of the reduced-fee deadline was 66,457. This figure is an increase of 5,070 applicants on the same date last year.

Those thinking of applying to CAO can still do so up to the 1 February at 5:15pm for a fee of €45.

A late application facility will also open on 5 March and closes on the 1 May at 5:15pm, however some restrictions apply, particularly in the case of mature applicants.

CAO spokesperson, Eileen Keleghan, commented: “We are pleased to see that so many applicants have already started their application well in advance of the 1 February deadline.

“The process of obtaining a CAO application number is really straight-forward, so those interested in applying shouldn’t put off starting an application.

“Applicants do not need to enter courses at this stage, they are just required to supply their personal details, tick a box or boxes on the qualifications and assessments section, make a payment and create a password.

“We urge all mature applicants, applicants interested in restricted courses, and those applying for the DARE or HEAR schemes to apply before the 1 February at 5:15pm in order to avoid restrictions.

“Applicants for the DARE and HEAR schemes are required to complete online forms before the 1 March at 5:15pm, and supply supporting documentation by 15 March at 5:15pm. Gathering supporting documentation can take some time, so the process should be started now if it hasn’t been started already” she added.

“Mature applicants are also required to complete a Mature Applicant Form by the 1 March and supply supporting documentation within ten days of making an application”.

The CAO website contains a number of resources for CAO applicants in the ‘Student Resources’ section, including a Demo Application Form, CAO Video Guides, a copy of the CAO Handbook, 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 20 January may include some duplication and will be adjusted to include paper applications not yet counted on the system.

CAO Application Figures 2021

Applications to the early online closing date 20 Jan at 5:15pm = 66457

CAO Application Figures 2020

Applications to the early online closing date 20 Jan at 5:15pm = 61,387

Applications to 1 February at 5:15pm = 73,048

CAO Application Figures 2019

Applications to the early online closing date 20 Jan at 5:15pm = 59,671

Applications to 1 February at 5:15pm = 73,157

Important Dates

CAO normal closing date is 1 February at 5:15pm

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 and/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 15 March at 5:15pm.

Mature applicants who have registered on the system by the 1 of February at 5.15 pm have until the 1 March at 5.15pm to complete the mature applicant section of the application form.

The CAO Late Application facility opens on 5 March at noon and closes on 1 May at 5:15pm – restrictions apply. A fee of €60 applies for online applications.

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
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