

**20/01/2022**

## **CAO Press Release**

### **65,535 applicants to CAO by 20 January reduced-fee deadline**

The Central Applications Office (CAO) normal application deadline for higher education courses is 5pm on Tuesday, 1 February.

Today (20 January) the application figure by the close of the reduced-fee deadline was 65,535.

Those thinking of applying to CAO for undergraduate courses at Irish Higher Education Institutions can still do so up to the 1 February at 5pm for a fee of €45. Applicants interested in applying for further education or apprenticeship courses should continue to apply through the traditional channels, and not through CAO.

A late application facility will open on 4 March and closes on the 1 May at 5pm, however some restrictions apply, particularly in the case of mature applicants.

Head of Communications for CAO, 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 their courses in order to register, 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 5pm in order to avoid restrictions.

"Applicants for the DARE and HEAR schemes are required to complete online forms before the 1 March at 5pm, and supply supporting documentation by 15 March at 5pm. 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 including a Demo Application Form, CAO Video Guides, a copy of the interactive CAO Handbook, and resources for parents and guardians.

Visit [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) for more information.

#### **Notes to the Editor:**

Please note that the figure quoted as at 5pm on 20 January may include some duplication and will be adjusted to include a small number of paper applications not yet counted on the system.

#### **CAO Application Figures 2022**

Applications to early online closing date 20 Jan at 5pm = 65,535

**CAO Application Figures 2021**

Applications to the early online closing date 20 Jan at 5:15pm = 66,457

Applications to 1 February at 5:15pm = 79,303

**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 5pm

CAO Change of Course Choices facility for registered applicants opens on 4 February and closes on 1 March at 5pm – a fee of €10 applies.

HEAR and/or DARE applicants must have applied to CAO by 1 February at 5pm. HEAR or DARE applicants have until 1 March at 5pm to complete their online HEAR or DARE form. HEAR or DARE applicants must submit their supporting documentation to CAO by 15 March at 5pm.

Mature applicants who have registered on the system by the 1 of February at 5pm have until the 1 March at 5pm to complete the mature applicant section of the application form.

The CAO Late Application facility opens on 4 March at noon and closes on 1 May at 5pm – restrictions apply. A fee of €60 applies for online late applications.

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

**For more information contact Eileen Keleghan, Head of Communications, at [ekeleghan@cao.ie](mailto:ekeleghan@cao.ie)**