

Dear Principal/Guidance Counsellor,

December 2023

1 Points scores, offers and acceptances data, and specific statistical information

To view the above information, please go to the 'Guidance/Schools' page, click into 'Schools Message Board' and go to the '[2023 Messages](#)' tab. The charts will show the minimum points scores that were required for entry to courses in 2023. In addition, for each course we also show the mid-point score of those who were offered places. Summary data about 2023 offers and acceptances is also included.

The points charts are in Excel format to allow you to sort and filter the information. This will allow you to filter by subject area, level, institution, round, etc. We hope you find this information helpful.

If you wish to have data on the destinations of your students, please see letter included in the '2023 Messages' tab.

2 Important Changes to courses in the 2024 Handbook

Since the publication of the 2024 Handbook, some institutions have made changes to the courses on offer. This information is available on the CAO website (got to www.cao.ie/handbook) and will be updated as we receive new information from HEIs. The course information in the personalised version of the CAO Handbook is updated on a weekly basis.

3 Additional information available on the CAO website

We ask you to encourage applicants to visit the CAO website and become familiar with the services on offer, particularly in the 'Applicants' section. Applicants should also be encouraged to regularly interact with their CAO account, particularly the 'Correspondence' section which will contain a log of all of the emails from CAO containing important updates and instructions. The 'Have a Question' page contains a virtual assistant and a number of FAQs broken down by category which your students/clients should find helpful.

We have prepared and placed on the website the following information which Guidance Counsellors have requested (this will be updated as more information comes to hand from HEIs): Calendar of test and interview dates for 2024; Details of HEI Open Days; Links to HEI prospectuses and contact details for Admissions Officers, School Liaison and Access Officers (go to cao.ie/hei); and a Demo Application facility. In the 'Guidance/Schools' page you will find a link to 'Guidance Counsellor Resources' which contains a slideshow presentation on the CAO process, a presentation and guide for parents and guardians, posters and video guides for sharing on social media.

4 Supplementary Entry Routes

The Supplementary Information Form for applicants with a disability or specific learning difficulty has two purposes: to facilitate applicants in alerting HEIs of any special needs and any facilities that might be required; and to supply information to be considered for supplementary admission routes including the DARE scheme. The HEAR form should be completed by applicants who wish to be considered on the basis of socio-economic disadvantage. DARE and HEAR online application forms must be completed by 5pm on 1 March. Information is available on the website www.accesscollege.ie and in the HEAR/DARE/SIF section of the CAO website. We ask that you encourage students interested in applying for either scheme to start the process early and ensure that they have their documentation submitted to CAO well in advance of the published deadline of 5pm on 15 March 2024. **Applicants should allow for potential delays in gathering documentation from third parties and remember that CAO deadlines are final.**

The HEAR and DARE Application Information Sessions take place on Saturday, 13 January 2023. For more information go to www.accesscollege.ie

5 Exemptions

It is important to note that exemptions are a separate matter to supplying HEIs with information about a disability or specific learning difficulty. If an applicant, for any reason, is seeking exemptions from minimum entry requirements (e.g. exemptions from Irish or modern language requirements) then they should contact the Admissions Offices of the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) they are applying to (or, in the case of NUI institutions, they should apply to the NUI without

delay - see www.nui.ie for details). Applicants must make arrangements for exemptions each year they apply. More information on exemptions can be found at www.cao.ie/exemptions

6 Changes to the CAO Application form for 2024

From 2024, the number of application categories on the CAO application form is reduced to seven, with category 3 (2001 or earlier FETAC Level 5/6 (NCVA Level 2/3) Exams) and category 6 (Further Education) being merged into the 'Other Further Education' category.

7 Offers and Acceptances Schedule for 2024

We intend to publicise details of the 2024 Offers and Acceptances Schedule as soon as CAO and HEIs agree the dates. This will be soon after the Leaving Certificate resulting date is provided by the State Examinations Commission.

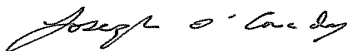
8 Webinars

Due to the demand for last year's CAO Information Evening for Parents and Students, CAO plans to hold a similar event on January 17 at 6pm. Numbers will be limited at the live event, however, a recording will be made available after the event for those who are unable to register – please check the cao.ie/webinar page in January for more information on this upcoming online information session.

9 CAO Mailing List

Thank you to those of you who have already signed up to the CAO email mailing list for Guidance Counsellors and Principals. If you have not yet registered to receive email updates directly from CAO, you may do so by clicking on the link in the 'Guidance/Schools' section of www.cao.ie

Yours sincerely,



Joseph O'Grady
General Manager