

September 2026

Dear Principal/Guidance Counsellor,

We are pleased to enclose HEAR DARE application literature and a small number of CAO Handbooks and posters highlighting key 2027 application dates and promoting the interactive CAO Handbook at www.cao.ie/handbook. Printable PDFs of the 2027 course listings are also available online, including course codes, titles, special requirements, and campus names. Updates (e.g. cancelled or new courses) will be posted in the Important Changes section of the CAO website. A demo version of the 2027 online application form will be available in November, including HEAR and DARE sections.

I would like to draw your attention to the following important updates for 2027:

- **HEAR/DARE Documentation Deadline**

All supporting documents for the HEAR and DARE schemes must be received by **10 March 2027 at 5pm**. Please note, it is not possible to upload or email HEAR/DARE supporting documents.

- **Document Upload Facility**

The document upload facility (introduced in 2026) for applicants who are required to supply supporting qualifications documents (for example, Other School Leaving candidates, GCE Applicants, Mature Applicants, etc.) will be made available again for the 2027 application season. **Please note: The document upload facility will not be available for HEAR, DARE and Graduate Entry Medicine documents** – these documents must still be posted to CAO, Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway, Ireland.

- **Autumn Conferences**

Provisional dates and venues: 3 November – Kingsley Hotel, Cork; 4 November – Clayton Hotel, Limerick;

6 November – Online Webinar; 10 November – Johnstown Estate, Enfield; 11 November – Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo

Registration: Opens 6 October at noon and closes 23 October at midnight via the Guidance/Schools section at cao.ie

- **Statement of Application Process**

Please note that from 2027, the process previously referred to as the Statement of Application e-mail will be renamed to the Check and Confirm email.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming conferences. If you have any questions or need support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph O'Grady,

General Manager