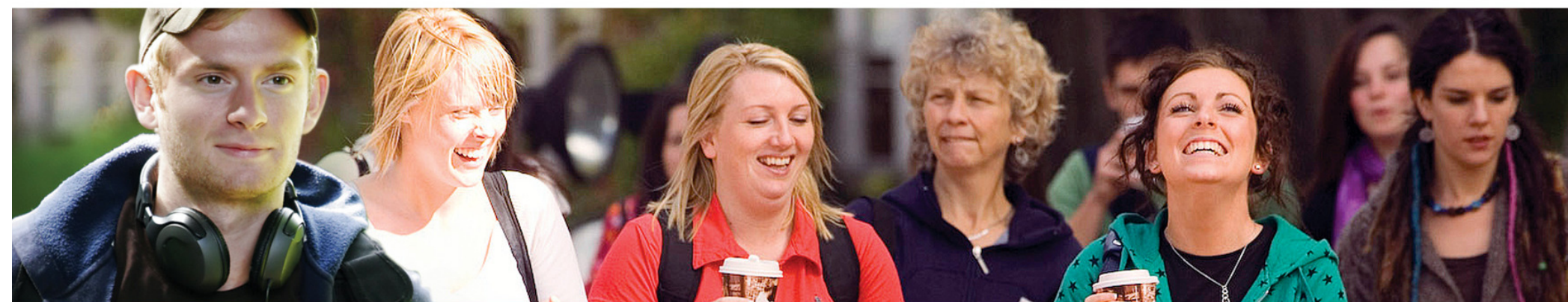




Disability Access Route To Education

Disability Access Route to Education 2012

Process Explained



www.accesscollege.ie

What is DARE?

- The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) is a supplementary admissions scheme which offers college places on **reduced points** to school leavers with disabilities.
- DARE has been established by a number of higher education institutions as clear evidence shows that disability can have a negative impact on educational attainment at school and progression to higher education.



What Colleges Participate?

- Athlone Institute of Technology
- Cork Institute of Technology
- Dublin City University
- Dublin Institute of Technology
- Mater Dei Institute of Education
- National College of Ireland
- NUI Galway
- NUI Maynooth
- Pontifical University, Maynooth
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Cork
- University College Dublin
- University of Limerick



Why Should a Student Apply?

- Students who are eligible for DARE may secure a place on a **reduced points** basis.
- Participating colleges have **reserved a number of places** to offer students at lower Leaving Certificate points.
- If a student gets a place through DARE they will have access to a variety of academic, personal and social supports while at college.



Who Should Apply?

- Applicants whose disability had a significant impact on educational performance in school
- Applicants who may not be able to meet the points for their preferred course due to the impact of disability.
- Applicants under 23 years as at 1st January 2012



Disabilities eligible for consideration under DARE

- Asperger's Syndrome/Autism
- ADD/ADHD
- Blind/Vision Impaired
- Deaf/Hearing Impaired
- DCD-Dyspraxia/Dysgraphia
- Mental Health Condition
- Neurological Conditions (incl. Brain Injury, Speech & Language Disabilities)
- Significant Ongoing Illness
- Physical Disability
- Specific Learning Difficulty (incl. Dyslexia & Dyscalculia)



How To Apply

- **Step 1**

Apply to the CAO at www.cao.ie by **1st February 2012**.

- **Step 2**

By **1st March 2012** you must disclose your disability and/or specific learning difficulty in your CAO application and complete **Section A** of the Supplementary Information Form (the SIF is a part of your CAO application).

If you wish to be considered for the DARE scheme, you must indicate this on **Section A** of the fully completed SIF by ticking **"Yes" to Question 5** by **1st March 2012**.

- **Step 3**

You must return the fully completed Second Level Academic Reference (Section B) and Evidence of Disability (Section C) to the CAO by **1st April 2012**.



Section A – Applicant Information

- Section A is completed by you and asks for specific information on your disability and the supports received in second level.
- You must also complete a Personal Statement which outlines, from your perspective, the academic impact of your disability or specific learning difficulty.
- Must be completed by **1st March 2012**



Section B – Second Level Academic Reference

- Provides background information on your educational experience and helps to determine appropriate supports in 3rd level
- This form **should be downloaded by you**, completed by your school and returned to the CAO
 - School teacher/Guidance Counsellor/Visiting Teacher **AND** school principal must complete the form
 - The form **MUST BE** stamped
- The Second Level Academic Reference must be returned to the CAO **by 1st April 2012**



Section C – Evidence of Disability Form

- This form provides verification of your disability and helps to determine appropriate supports at 3rd level
- This form **should be downloaded by you**, completed by the accepted Medical Consultant/ Specialist and returned to the CAO
- All applicants must complete this form with the exception of the following:
 - Applicants with specific learning difficulties (Dyslexia and Dyscalculia) and applicants with DCD-Dyspraxia/Dysgraphia
 - Applicants who have an existing report completed by the accepted Medical Consultant/Specialist.



Section C – Evidence of Disability

- Applicants with specific learning difficulties (Dyslexia and Dyscalculia) and applicants with DCD-Dyspraxia/Dysgraphia must provide a full psycho-educational assessment completed by an appropriately qualified psychologist.
 - The psycho-educational assessment must be less than 3 years old i.e. dated **after 1st February 2009**.
 - Applicants with DCD-Dyspraxia/Dysgraphia must also submit a report from an Occupational Therapist/Neurologist.
- For other disabilities, if submitting a report instead of the Evidence of Disability form:
 - Must have been completed by the accepted Medical Consultant / Specialist
 - Must have been completed within the appropriate timeframe
 - Must contain the same detail as the Evidence of Disability Form



Section C – Evidence of Disability

- The form **MUST BE STAMPED** by the accepted Medical Consultant/ Specialist or accompanied by the Medical Consultant/ Specialist's business card or headed paper
- If the form is not verified as outlined above **IT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED and you will be ineligible for DARE.**
- Evidence from a General Practitioner/ family doctor or support organisation will not be accepted as verification of a disability
- It is your responsibility to ensure that all sections of the form are completed.
- The Evidence of Disability must be returned to the CAO **by 1st April 2012**



Disability	Accepted Consultant or Specialist	Age of Report
Asperger's Syndrome/ Autism	Appropriately qualified Psychiatrist OR Psychologist OR Neurologist OR Paediatrician who is a member of his or her professional or regulatory body	No Age Limit
ADD/ ADHD	Appropriately qualified Psychiatrist OR Psychologist OR Neurologist OR Paediatrician who is a member of his or her professional or regulatory body	Less than 3 years old (i.e. must be dated after 1st Feb '09)
Blind/ Vision Impaired	Ophthalmologist OR Ophthalmic Surgeon	No Age Limit
Deaf/ Hearing Impaired	Professionally qualified Audiologist	No Age Limit
DCD-Dyspraxia/Dysgraphia	Psycho-educational assessment from an appropriately qualified Psychologist AND a report from an Occupational Therapist OR Neurologist who is a member of their professional or regulatory body	No Age Limit
Mental Health Condition	Psychiatrist	Less than 3 years old (i.e. must be dated after 1st Feb '09)
Neurological Conditions (incl. Brain Injury, Speech & Language Disabilities)	Neurological Conditions: Neurologist or other relevant Consultant. Speech & Language Disabilities: Speech and Language Therapist	No Age Limit



Disability	Accepted Consultant or Specialist	Age of Report
Physical Disability	Orthopaedic Consultant or other relevant Consultant appropriate to the disability/condition.	No Age Limit
Significant Ongoing Illness	<p>Epilepsy: Neurologist</p> <p>Diabetes Type 1: Endocrinologist or Paediatrician</p> <p>Cystic Fibrosis (CF): Consultant Respiratory Physician or Paediatrician</p> <p>Gastroenterology Conditions: Gastroenterologist</p> <p>Others: Relevant consultant in area of condition or Consultant Registrar/Registrar</p>	Less than 3 years old (i.e. must be dated after 1st Feb '09)
Specific Learning Difficulty (Dyslexia & Dyscalculia)	Psycho-educational assessment from an appropriately qualified Psychologist	Less than 3 years old (i.e. must be dated after 1st Feb '09)



Final Section - Supplementary Admissions Routes

- **You must 'opt in' (Question 5) to be eligible for consideration under DARE**
- You must do this **by 1st March 2012**
- If you do not 'opt in' you will not be considered under DARE
- If you do not 'opt in' you can still avail of supports in college



Review How To Apply

- **Step 1**

Apply to the CAO at www.cao.ie by **1st February 2012**.

- **Step 2**

By **1st March 2012** you must disclose your disability and/or specific learning difficulty in your CAO application and complete **Section A** of the Supplementary Information Form (the SIF is a part of your CAO application).

If you wish to be considered for the DARE scheme, you must indicate this on **Section A** of the fully completed SIF by ticking **"Yes" to Question 5** by **1st March 2012**.

- **Step 3**

You must return the fully completed Second Level Academic Reference (Section B) and Evidence of Disability (Section C) to the CAO by **1st April 2012**.



How are applications screened for eligibility?

- Applications to DARE are assessed by professionals in participating HEIs who have expertise of the impact of disability on educational attainment.
- To assess an applicant's eligibility for DARE, specific criteria have been developed to determine the significance of each disability and the impact on educational attainment.
- The criteria used for assessing the impact of disability were developed by Disability Advisory Boards, which included HEI professionals and representatives from expert external organisations.
- Eligibility criteria are available on accesscollege.ie and the CAO website



SAMPLE Screening Criteria – Dyslexia

Accepted Medical Consultant/Specialist	Appropriately qualified Psychologist.
Evidence of Disability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1. A full psycho-educational assessment, as described here (link to 'DARE acceptable report content for diagnosis of specific learning difficulty'). 2. 2. If information / scores are missing, you can ask the Psychologist to also complete this Summary Form (link to Psycho-Educational Assessment – Summary Sheet). 3. Summary Sheet will be compulsory from 2013
Age of Report	The report must be less than 3 years old i.e. dated after 1st February 2009.
Acceptable tests	<p>A minimum of two literacy areas from reading, reading comprehension, reading speed, spelling, written expression, writing speed, pseudoword decoding, which should be assessed from the following list (link to 'Suitable Tests for the Assessment of Specific Learning Difficulties in Higher Education').</p> <p>Reading attainment should include reading accuracy, fluency, reading speed and ability to extract information from text.</p> <p>Spelling attainments should be identified using a standardised and age appropriate spelling test with additional information from a piece of free writing, which will also yield information about written expression, writing speed and legibility of handwriting</p> <p>Performance should be reported as standard scores and percentile points; age equivalent scores are not acceptable.</p>
DARE Eligibility	<p>We will consider your application for DARE where the report states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •general ability falls at or above a standard score of 90 •attainment in two literacy areas fall at or below the 10th percentile/SS 81 •there is a significant discrepancy with general ability. <p>All tests used must be current, valid, reliable and age appropriate. Age equivalencies are not acceptable. Performance should be reported as standard scores and percentile points; ranges alone and age equivalent scores are not acceptable. Where ranges or age equivalents alone are reported this may make the candidate ineligible.</p>
Other Disabilities/Medical Conditions	Submit an Evidence of Disability Form for each disability / medical condition to be considered (link to Evidence of Disability Form)

SAMPLE Screening Criteria – Deaf/Hearing Impaired

Accepted Medical Consultant/Specialist Evidence of Disability	<p>Professionally qualified Audiologist.</p> <p>Complete the Evidence of Disability Form.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Submit an existing report completed by the appropriate professional which contains the same detail as the Evidence of Disability Form.</p> <p>All applicants must also enclose a Bilateral Audiogram from a qualified Audiologist. It is recommended where possible that audiograms include details on air & bone conduction. Failure to include the audiogram will result in you being made ineligible for DARE.</p>
Age of Report	While there is no age limit on diagnostic evidence submitted it is advisable to submit a recent report.
DARE Eligibility	We will consider your application for DARE once the audiogram provided by the appropriate professional shows a bilateral moderate to profound hearing loss (i.e. anything above 40dB).
Other Disabilities/Medical Conditions	Submit an Evidence of Disability Form for each disability / medical condition to be considered (link to Evidence of Disability Form)
Personal Statement and Academic Reference	<p>Your personal statement should outline the impact of disability on your academic and educational experience to date.</p> <p>Your academic reference gives background information on your educational experience, including the impact your disability has had on your education. It also describes the supports and adaptations you will need in third level.</p> <p>Your Academic Reference can be completed by your school OR by the Department of Education and Science Visiting Teacher service</p>

Next steps in the application process

- You will be informed of your DARE status in June 2012.
- If you are not eligible for DARE you will be informed of the reasons for your ineligibility.
- If you believe that your ineligibility was brought about by an administrative error you can request that your application is rechecked.
- **If you are not eligible for DARE you can still get into college through the CAO if you meet the entry requirements for your course of your choice.**



What college places are available?

- Each participating HEI has allocated a quota of places on a reduced points basis for students entering through DARE.
- The quota of places available through DARE differs from one institution to another.
- You must matriculate and meet specific course requirements.
- Details of quotas and admissions policies can be found on individual HEI websites and accesscollege.ie



Common errors from 2011

- Not disclosing a disability on the CAO application form
- Not applying to DARE
- Not submitting documentation by specified date
- Documentation completed by inappropriate professionals

**See Top Tips and Common Mistakes and Checklist on
www.accesscollege.ie**



Common errors from 2011

- Documentation out of date
- Evidence of Disability form not stamped
- Deaf/Hearing Impaired – No audiogram
- Evidence of Disability– Missing Information

**See Top Tips and Common Mistakes and Checklist on
www.accesscollege.ie**



Post-entry supports for students with disabilities

- All students with a disability can register with the Disability Support Service, irrespective of whether they come through DARE or not.
- A needs assessment is conducted to identify your specific support requirements.
- Supports may include:
 - Orientation Programmes
 - Learning Support
 - Assistive Technology
 - Library Support
 - Exam Support
 - Note-taking/Support Worker
 - Academic Tuition



DARE 2012 Timeline

By 1st February 2012	You must apply to the CAO at www.cao.ie
By 1st March 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.As part of your CAO application you must indicate that you have a disability/specific learning difficulty2.You must complete Section A (Questions 1-4) of the Supplementary Information Form3.You must indicate your wish to be considered for DARE by ticking 'Yes' to Question 5
By 1st April 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. You must return the completed Second Level Academic Reference (Section B) to the CAO2. You must return the completed Evidence of Disability (Section C) to the CAO
April – June 2012	Screening of DARE applications
June 2012 (after Leaving Certificate exams)	Applicants notified of eligibility
July 2012	DARE Application Recheck
August 2012	Leaving Certificate Exam Results CAO Offers to eligible DARE applicants Accept CAO offer



More information for students...

- www.accesscollege.ie
- www.cao.ie
- DARE Flyer and DARE Application Guide – sent to every school September 2011
- Better Options Events
 - Wednesday 30th November 2011, 10.30 to 2pm National College of Art and Design, Dublin
- HEAR/DARE Information Sessions
 - Nationwide, Saturday 14th 2012
- Individual HEI websites





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