



Franciscan College Gormanston



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Contents



- **Role of Parents**
- **Student Options after school**
- **CAO System**
 - General Information
 - Before Applying
 - The Application Process
 - Key Dates
- **Grant & Access (HEAR/DARE) Programmes**
- **PLC Info.**



Role of Parents



- **Parents play a key role in a students' decision making**
 - **CAO Form – choices**
 - **Key Dates**
 - **HEAR / DARE applications**

Student Options



1. Third Level Course:

–CAO course in University/IT

–FETAC (Post Leaving Cert Course) PLC

2. Apprenticeship

3. Employment



Commonly asked question!



What is the main difference between CAO courses and a PLC?

CAO courses are generally a higher qualification course – apply through the CAO system – points based

PLC – generally one or two year courses – apply to the course provider – interview based but may have additional requirements

1. The CAO System



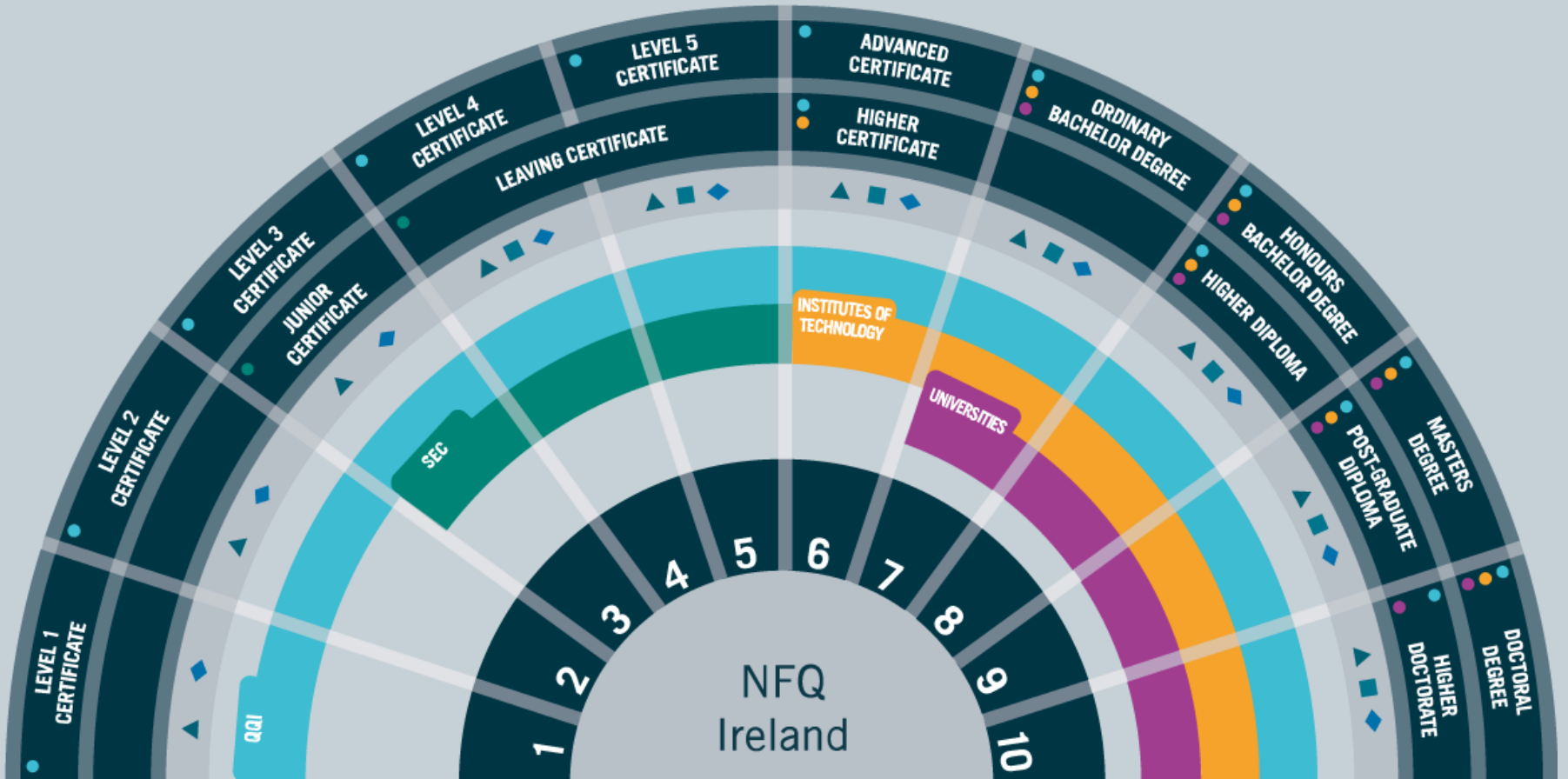
- **•CAO = Central Applications Office**
- **•Deals with applications to undergraduate courses in Higher Education Institutions (HEI's)**
- **•Deals with Offers and Acceptances**
- **•Does not make decisions on places**
- **CAO WEBSITE: [PARENTS SECTION](#)**

General Information



- **Lots of choice available for students**
- **45 3rd Level institutions**
- **More than 1200 3rd level Courses**
- **3 types of courses on the NFQ :**
 - **Level 6/7/8**
- **What is the NFQ?**

NFQ



Course Choices



- **•2 Course Choice lists:**

- Level 8 and Level 6/7

- **10 selections can be made in each list**

- Choices are made using a **Code:**

E.g. Arts in NUI Maynooth = **MH 101**

- Level 8 choices **do not affect Level 6/7 Choices**

- It is possible to **receive an offer on both lists**

- Only **one offer can be accepted**

CAO
Record of Application Information

Application No:	
Name:	
Address:	

RECORD OF COURSE CHOICES

This space is provided so that the applicant may keep a record of the courses for which she has applied and current year examination numbers.

Level 8

Pref	Course Code
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Level 7/Level 6

Pref	Course Code
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

CURRENT YEAR EXAMINATION CANDIDATE NUMBERS	
Leaving Cert.	
GCE/GCSE N. Irl	
FETAC (Level 5/6)	



**Place your course
choices in
genuine order of
preference!**

Change of Mind



- **A Change of Mind Form comes with the Statement of Application Record**
- **Possible to change course choices:** Can be done by post or online
- **No limit on changes**
- **Final decision by 1 July 2018**

The Offer Process



1. CAO checks **Minimum Entry Requirements**
2. Calculates **points** (best 6 subjects)
3. Receive offer if you meet Entry Requirements and Points
4. Places are allocated and offered by post and on line
5. Students may accept, reject or defer offered places
6. Further rounds/offers are made

Demand Based Points system



- Entry to college courses is points based
- A students **best 6** subjects are used to calculate their LC points
- Accounting and Finance DCU

Year	Points
2014	475
2013	460
2012	450

New Points System



Higher		Ordinary	
Grade	Points	Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0

**Note: 25
bonus points
for grade H6
or above on
higher level
Mathematics
paper**

Before Applying



- The process begins **now**
- Students needs to **research thoroughly**
- **E.g.**
 - Course Requirements
 - Course Contents
 - Duration
 - Qualification/Learning outcomes
 - Progression

Before Applying



- **How can students research?**
- Guidance Counsellor and careers classes
- College Websites/Prospectus'
- www.cao.ie
- www.careersportal.ie
- www.qualifax.ie
- Visit Open days
- Telephone colleges
- Talk to parents/current students etc

How to Apply



- Can apply by **post or online**
 - Only make **one application**
 - Must **apply before 1 Feb 2018**
- (NB Restricted courses must be applied before this date. E.g. Medicine/NCAD)**
- **Late application - May**
 - **Final application by 1 July 2018**
 - Applicants are encouraged to **apply online**

How to Apply



3 Steps Involved:

1. Log onto www.cao.ie
2. Create your account (click on Apply)
3. Log in and enter details (Click on My Application)

NB

- **Keep proof of sending application**
- print receipt /certificate of postage/email
- Keep record of log in details

HEAR



- Higher Education Access Route is a third level admission scheme for school leavers from lower socio-economic backgrounds
- Each college has a quota of places on a reduced points basis for **HEAR** students
- Information from www.cao.ie and www.accesscollege.ie
- You must have an active email address to apply and you will have to send on documentary proof of entitlement.

DARE



- Disability Access Route to Education is a supplementary admission scheme for school leavers with disabilities or specific learning difficulties and can mean reduced points
- For those with academic ability but who may not be able to meet points due to impact of the disability
- You will require proof of disability including consultant's report and school reference
- Information on www.cao.ie and www.accesscollege.ie

DARE Considerations



- Attention Deficit Disorder / Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Vision impairment
- Hard of Hearing
- Developmental Co-ordination Disorder
- Mental Health Condition
- Physical Disability
- Neurological Condition
- Significant ongoing illness
- Speech and Language Communication Disorder
- Specific Learning Difficulty (Dyslexia and Dyscalculia)

HEAR/DARE Key Dates



- HEAR DARE Nationwide Application Advice Clinics: Saturday 20th January 2018

- For location and times visit:

www.accesscollege.ie

www.facebook.com/accesscollege

Important Information



- If a student has exemption from Irish and/or third language they must complete an **NUI Exemption Form** to ensure you meet the entry requirements of UCD, UCC, NUI Maynooth and Galway and other NUI Colleges.
- Visit **www.accesscollege.ie** for further information

2. PLC Route



- PLC courses are a flexible option
 - Prepare students for the world of work
 - Stepping stone to transfer to 3rd level
 - Excellent route of accessing HEI's
- **www.plccourses.ie**
- Apply directly to the college itself

PLC Route



- Generally interview based (may have additional requirements / specific subjects)
- Interviews can begin as early as Feb – can still apply in summer 2018
- Late applications after LC results

PLC Colleges Dublin



- Colaiste Dhulaigh College (Coolock)
- Colaiste Ide (Finglas)
- Crumlin College of further Ed
- Kylemore College of further Ed (Ballyfermot)
- Killester College of Further Ed
- Liberties College
- Marino College of Further Ed
- Plunket College (Whitehall)
- Whitehall College of further Ed

FETAC Link Scheme



- HEI's reserve places for FETAC Students
- Eg. DIT: 330 places on 65 courses



FETAC Link Scheme



- Science
- **1. Pre University Science Colaiste Dhulaigh**
- –Gain an overall Merit (65%)
- –Places reserved on the following (examples):

- **DCU - Dublin City University BSc. in Analytical Science (DC161) BSc. in Bio-Technology (DC181) BSc. in Common Entry into Science (DC201)**

- **DIT - Dublin Institute of Technology BSc. in Forensic and Environmental Science (DT213) BSc. in Clinical Measurement (DT229) BSc. in Physics Technology (DT222)**

Key Points for PLC



- PLCs are ideal for a student who does a lot of OL subjects
- As a backdoor for any student into their careers path / Plan B
- Begin to research the colleges and courses now by visiting their website / email them for a prospectus / go to their **open day (NB for all colleges / Universities)**
- Apply directly to the college

Student Grant



SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) is Ireland's national awarding authority for all higher and further education grants.

SUSI offers funding to **eligible** students in approved full-time third-level education in Ireland and also, in some cases, funding for students studying outside the State

www.susi.ie

Summary



- **Begin the research courses now!**
- **CAO Opens first week in November – register and begin process.**
- **Rank in order of preference**
- **Are you eligible for HEAR / DARE?**
- **Be aware of closing dates and deadlines**
- **Attend college open days**
- **PLC's: apply directly to the college**

Important Dates



- CAO – Opened November 6th - apply by 1st Feb
- Hear / Dare : Indicate on CAO form by 1st Feb – all documentation by 1st March



Useful Websites



www.cao.ie

www.accesscollege.ie

www.plccourses.ie

www.susi.ie

www.careersportal.ie

www.qualifax.ie

www.fetchcourses.ie



Don't forget....



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Any questions?
Thanks for listening