

DARE | **DISABILITY ACCESS ROUTE TO EDUCATION**

School Presentation for applying
to DARE in 2025

What is DARE?

The **Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)** is a third level alternative admissions scheme for school-leavers whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education.

DARE offers reduced points places to school leavers who as a result of having a disability have experienced additional educational challenges in second level education.



Where can I go to college?

- ATU, Donegal
- ATU, Sligo
- St. Angela's College, Sligo

TUS, Athlone

- ATU, Galway
- University of Galway

- SETU, Carlow and Wexford

- TUS, Limerick
- Mary Immaculate College
- University of Limerick

- MTU, Kerry Campus

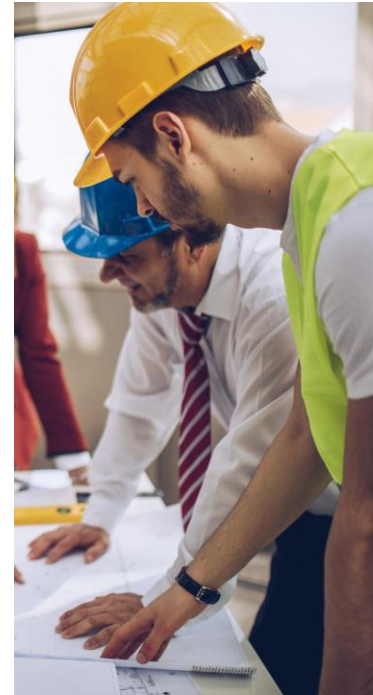
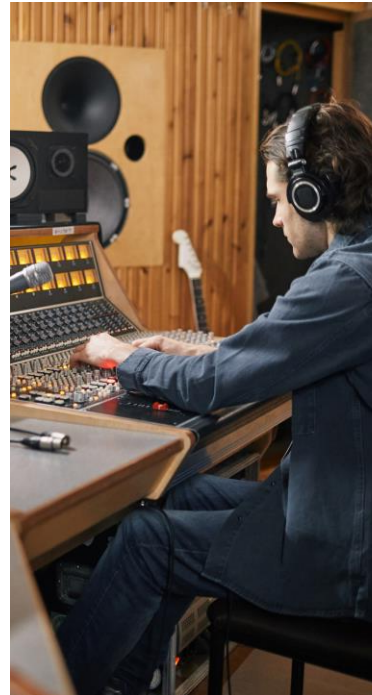
- Maynooth University
- Pontifical University

- Dublin City University
- Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Institute of Art, Design & Technology, Dún Laoghaire
- Marino Institute of Education
- National College of Ireland
- NCAD
- RCSI
- Trinity College, Dublin
- TU Dublin
- University College, Dublin

- SETU, Waterford

- MTU Cork Campus
- University College Cork

There is something for you in college.



Should I apply?

- If your disability has had a negative impact on your educational performance in school.
- You may not be able to meet the points for your preferred course due to the impact of your disability.
- You are under 23 years of age as of **1 January 2025**.

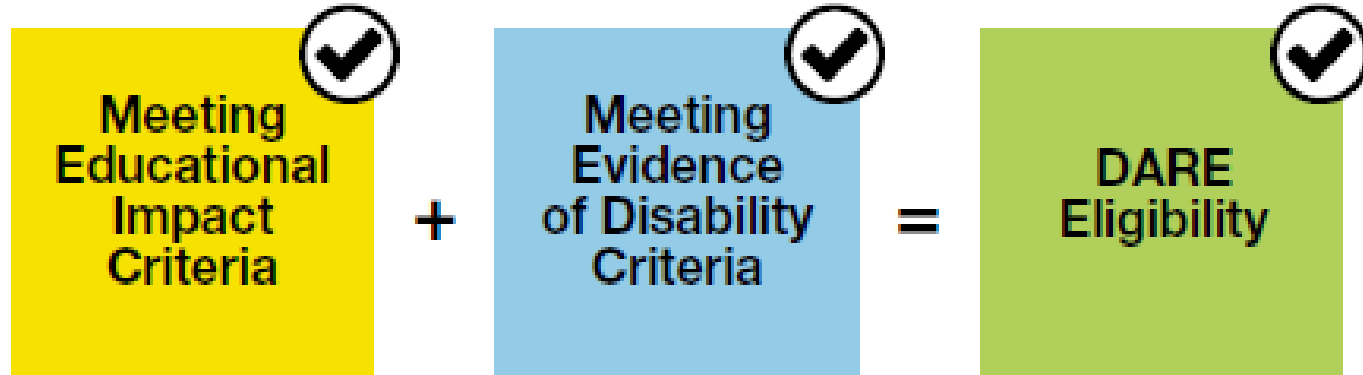


Disabilities eligible for consideration

- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Asperger's Syndrome)
- ADD/ADHD
- Blind/Vision Impaired
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- DCD – Dyspraxia
- Dyslexia/Significant Literacy Difficulties
- Dyscalculia/Significant Numeracy Difficulties
- Mental Health Condition
- Neurological Condition (Incl. Brain Injury & Epilepsy)
- Physical Disability
- Significant Ongoing Illness
- Speech & Language Communication Disorder



DARE Eligibility Criteria



- To be eligible for DARE you must meet **both** the DARE **educational impact** criteria and **DARE evidence of disability criteria**.
- Applicants must provide the required evidence of their disability and provide an Educational Impact Statement from their school to be considered for DARE.

Educational Impact

Has your disability impacted on a combination of the following?

1. Have you received **intervention or supports** in post-primary school?
2. Has it **impacted on your attendance** or regularly disrupted your school day?
3. Has it affected your **school experience and well-being**?
4. Has it impacted on **your learning or exam results**?
5. Has it caused any **other educational impact**?
6. Required for applicants with Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties or Dyscalculia/ Significant Numeracy Difficulties: is it severely impacting on your **literacy or numeracy skills**?

Benefits of DARE

Reduced Points

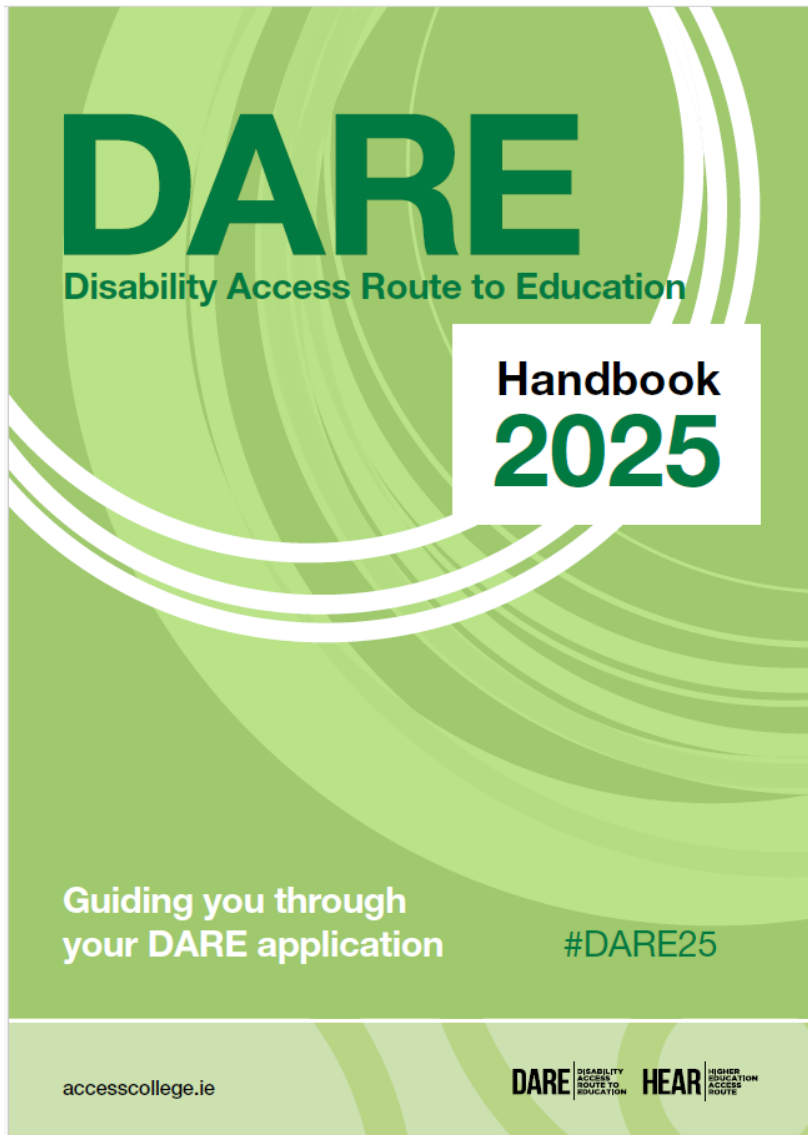
- An example: If the Leaving Certificate points for a course are 366 points, an eligible DARE applicant could be offered a place with a lower points score e.g. 356 points.
- Applicants need to **meet entry** and **programme requirements** to be **considered for a DARE reduced points offer**.
- The amount of points a particular course is reduced by is dependent on:
 - The overall number of places on the course
 - The number of reserved DARE places on the course
 - The number of DARE eligible applicants competing for these reserved places.
- The reduction in points for DARE places can vary every year.

Benefits of DARE

- Orientation Programmes
- Learning Support
- Assistive Technology
- Library Support
- Exam Accommodations
- Educational Support Worker
- Academic Tuition

You don't have to be eligible for DARE to get support in college.

A needs assessment is conducted to identify your specific support requirements.



How do I apply?

1. Apply to CAO at www.cao.ie by **1 February 2025**.
2. Review your DARE Handbook with your parents or guardians.
3. Complete Section A, the online Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and apply to DARE by answering **Yes to Question 1** by **1 March 2025**.
4. You should start gathering your documentation in a timely fashion, i.e. before 15 February.
5. Submit the Educational Impact Statement and Evidence of Disability to CAO by **15 March 2025**.

Supplementary Information Form (SIF)

Section A: Applicant Information

- Completed by you **online** by **17:00** on **1 March 2025**.
- Answer **Yes to Q1** to apply to DARE and fully complete Questions 1-5. **OR**
 - Answer Yes to Q1(b) to apply to carry forward your DARE eligibility from 2024 to 2025.

Section B: Educational Impact Statement (EIS)

- Educational Impact Statement completed by your school. Send to CAO by **15 March 2025**.

Section C: Evidence of a Disability (EOD)

- Completed by the appropriate professional. Send to CAO by **15 March 2025**.

Section D: School Statement

- Where applying under the Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties category, applicants who do not have a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia should submit **Section D School Statement**. Send to CAO by **15 March 2025**.

Section B: Educational Impact Statement (EIS)



Provides information on how your disability has impacted on your second level education.

- Download form.
- Complete the Educational Impact Statement (EIS) Checklist with your school.
- Your school will complete the rest following on from your responses to the EIS Checklist.

Section B: Educational Impact Statement (EIS)



This form needs to be completed by either your:

- Guidance Counsellor
- Learning Support Teacher
- Year Head
- Visiting Teacher or
- Principal/Deputy Principal
- The form **MUST BE** signed and stamped by school Principal/Deputy Principal.
- You must return to the CAO by **15 March 2025**.

Section C: Evidence of Disability (EOD)

Provides verification of your disability and helps to determine 3rd level supports.

- You can provide an **existing report**
- **OR**
- Complete Section C **Evidence of Disability Form 2025**.

Get the form **completed, signed and stamped** by the **appropriate professional** or accompanied by their **business card or headed paper**.

Applicants with **Dyslexia/Significant Literacy Difficulties** or **Dyscalculia/Significant Numeracy Difficulties** are asked to provide a **full psychological assessment** of any age completed by an appropriately qualified psychologist instead of the Section C Evidence of Disability form. Where applying under the Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties category, applicants who do not have a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia should submit Section D School Statement.

GP Verification

Your GP may be in a position to complete Section C Evidence of Disability, if they have the appropriate information on file from the Consultant/Specialist.

Section C: Evidence of Disability (EOD)

Age of Reports

It is important to note that applicants applying under the following disability categories must **provide a report that is less than 3 years old, i.e. dated after 1 February 2022.**

- ADD/ADHD
- Mental Health Condition
- Significant Ongoing Illness



Section C: Evidence of Disability (EOD)

Psychological Assessment

Applicants with **Dyslexia/Significant Literacy Difficulties** or **Dyscalculia/Significant Numeracy Difficulties** must provide a full **Psychological Assessment Report of any age** completed by a psychologist.

Where applying under the Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties category, applicants who do not have a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia should submit Section D School Statement in support of their application.

AND

Applicants with **Dyslexia/Significant Literacy Difficulties** **MUST** also have two literacy attainment scores at or below the 10th percentile (Standard Score of 81 or below).

Applicants with **Dyscalculia/Significant Numeracy Difficulties** **MUST** also have one numeracy attainment score at or below the 10th percentile (Standard Score of 81 or below).

Section C: Evidence of Disability (EOD)

Continued.

These attainment scores can be from one (or a combination) of the following sources:

- 1) Scores from school-based attainment testing
- 2) Scores from attainment tests carried out by a psychologist.

Testing must have been carried out after **1 February 2023** and all applicants must submit an EIS completed by their school.

Section C: Evidence of Disability (EOD)

Check out the information on providing evidence of your disability on:

www.accesscollege.ie/dare/providing-evidence-of-your-disability

- You must post Evidence of Disability documentation to the CAO by **15 March 2025**.
- Please keep a copy of all documents that you post to CAO.

Section D: School Statement

If you are applying under the Dyslexia / Significant Literacy Difficulties Category but you do NOT have a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia, **then** submit Section D School Statement.

Ensure that this is signed and stamped by the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Teacher and countersigned by the Principal/Deputy Principal.

<http://accesscollege.ie/dare/making-an-application/handbooks-forms/>

- You must post Section D School Statement to the CAO by **15 March 2025**.

Helpful Tips

- Study the DARE Handbook carefully with your parents / guardians.
 - Select **Yes to Question 1 on the SIF** before **5pm on 1 March**.
 - Ensure you speak to your Teacher early about the Educational Impact Statement.
 - Request the required supporting documentation early.
 - Send good quality copies of all pages of the correct documents.
 - Submit all supporting documents requested by **15 March**.
- Keep proof of postage.
 - Deadlines!

Common Mistakes that affect DARE Eligibility

- Where the Section C form (Evidence of Disability) is completed by GP **BUT** the required copy of report by appropriate professional confirming diagnosis was not provided.
- Reports out of date
- Reports not confirming diagnosis of condition by consultant
- Incorrect professional completing Section C form or Evidence of Disability Report
- Test details missing (for example the name of the test, date or who conducted the test)
- Forgetting to complete Question 1 of the Supplementary Information Form by 17:00 on 1 March

Applying for a grant

DARE is NOT the SUSI grant.

If you apply to DARE, you should also apply to
SUSI if you think you may be eligible.



SUSI: Key Eligibility Criteria



- Nationality: Irish, EU, EEA, Swiss nationals or have specific leave to remain in the State.
- Residency: 3 of last 5 years in Ireland, EU, EEA or Switzerland.
- Progression in education – NFQ levels 5-10.
- Approved College/Course
- 'Reckonable' Income (Class - Dependent/Independent)

www.susi.ie/undergraduate-income-threshold-and-grant-award-rates/

SUSI: Key Eligibility Criteria



- Check the website: www.susi.ie
(Use Eligibility Reckoner)
- CAO form: Tick the SUSI option to share your college acceptance
- Apply early: April 2025
- Return requested documentation: complete and on time

Website: www.susi.ie

Email: support@susi.ie

Facebook: [facebook.com/susisupport](https://www.facebook.com/susisupport)

Twitter: twitter.com/susihelpdesk

Telephone helpdesk: 0818 888 777

DARE and HEAR Timelines

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| DARE & HEAR closing date: | 1 March 2025 at 17:00 |
| Supporting documents closing date: | 15 March 2025 |
| Notification of eligibility: | Late June 2025 |
| Review and Appeals Application: | Early July 2025 |
| HEAR/DARE offers: | August 2025 |
| College Orientation: | Late Aug /Early Sept 2025 |



Remember... **Submit it! Check it! Send it!**



Remember... You can apply to both DARE & HEAR

Applicants who are both DARE and HEAR eligible will be prioritised by colleges when allocating reduced points places.

Find out how you can access Higher Education in Ireland



HEAR HIGHER
EDUCATION
ACCESS
ROUTE

A higher education admissions scheme for Leaving Certificate students (under 23) whose economic or social background are underrepresented in higher education

[Find out more about HEAR](#)



DARE DISABILITY
ACCESS
ROUTE TO
EDUCATION

A higher education admissions scheme for Leaving Certificate students (under 23) whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education

[Find out more about DARE](#)

Further Information: www.accesscollege.ie



In person Application Information Days

Saturday

11 January 2025

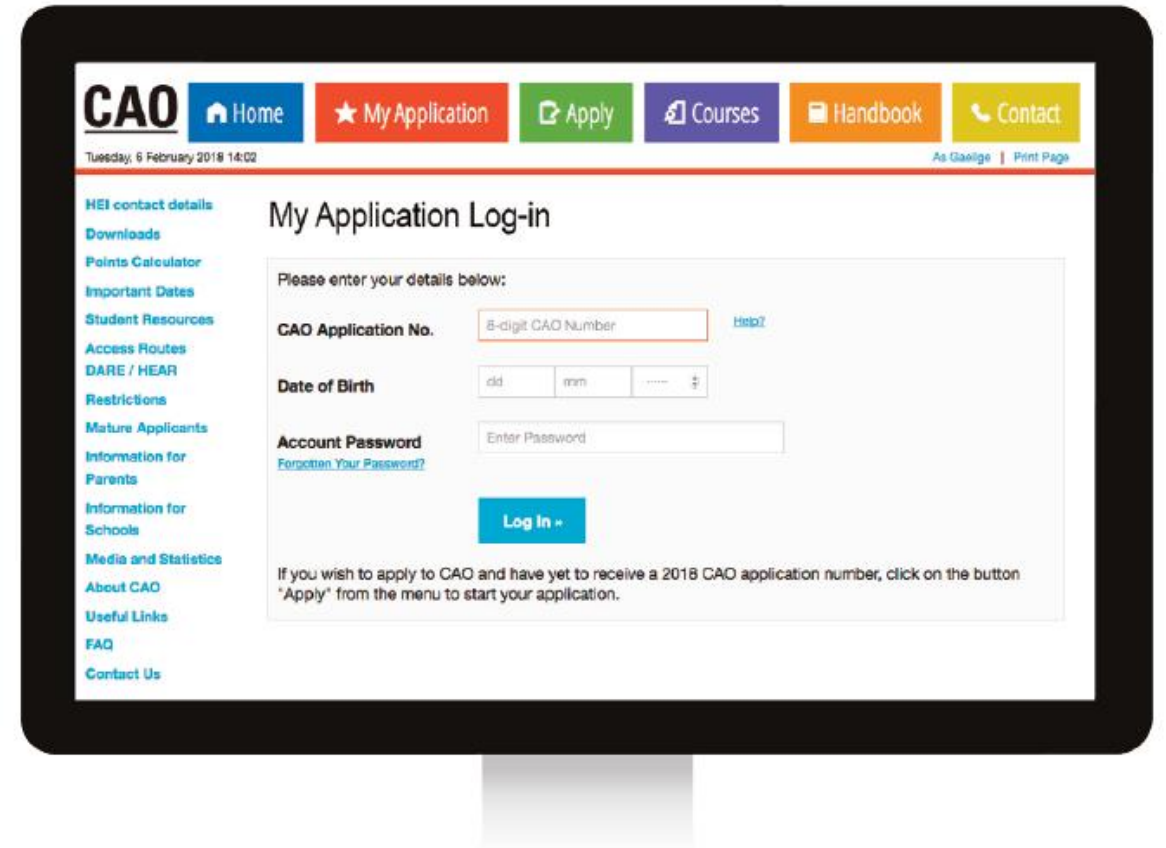
10am - 2pm

Visit the **Access College website** to see
which local college is open for you to attend!

DARE Application Outcome

You will receive an **email notification** about your DARE application outcome once the Leaving Certificate examinations are over **in late June.**

Log into your CAO application to view your **DARE Application Outcome.**



Further Information

- cao.ie
- susi.ie
- qualifax.ie
- www.accesscollege.ie



HEAR | HIGHER
EDUCATION
ACCESS
ROUTE

DARE | DISABILITY
ACCESS
ROUTE TO
EDUCATION

www.accesscollege.ie

