

HEAR | HIGHER
EDUCATION
ACCESS
ROUTE

Application Advice Clinics
Nationwide Saturday 21 January 2017
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HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS ROUTE

**HEAR
DARE**
CELEBRATING
20,000
COLLEGE
ENTRANTS

2017
INFORMATION
LEAFLET

**An admission scheme for
school leavers facing social and
economic challenges in
accessing college**

HEAR | HIGHER
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DARE | DISABILITY
ACCESS
ROUTE TO
EDUCATION



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What is the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)?

The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a college and university scheme which offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds who are resident in the Republic of Ireland.

HEAR has been set up by a number of colleges and universities as evidence shows that long-term poverty can have a negative effect on how well a student does at school and whether they go on to college.

HEAR applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural indicators to be considered for a reduced points place and extra college support.

What are the benefits of filling in a HEAR Application?

Reduced Points Places: Each participating college has a reserved number of places to offer eligible HEAR students at lower Leaving Certificate points.

Extra College Support: If you get a place through HEAR you will receive a variety of academic, personal and social supports while at college.

Examples of extra college supports may include:

- An Orientation Programme to introduce you to college life.
- Extra tuition if required, study skills and exam preparation.
- One to one meetings with student advisors.
- Social gatherings/mentoring.
- Extra financial assistance when available/advice regarding grants and scholarships.

What HEAR is not

HEAR is not your maintenance grant. The maintenance grant is the main source of financial assistance available from the Irish State for students in full-time Post Leaving Certificate Courses (PLCs) and full-time higher education undergraduate courses.

HEAR is an admissions scheme to help students who may not traditionally go on to third level. Students applying to HEAR are encouraged to find out more information on the maintenance grant by logging on to **susi.ie**. Additional information on financial assistance for third level students is available at **www.studentfinance.ie**.

Who can apply to HEAR?

HEAR is for school leavers under the age of 23 as of 1 January 2017 who are resident in the Republic of Ireland. HEAR applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural indicators to be considered for a reduced points place and extra college support.

How do I fill in a HEAR application?

Applicants applying for HEAR must:

1. Be under the age of 23 as of 1 January 2017
2. Apply online to CAO by 17:15 on 1 February 2017. CAO applications open on 4 November 2016 at 12 noon.
3. No later than 17:15 on **1 March 2017, indicate in your CAO application that you wish to apply for the HEAR scheme and fully and correctly complete all elements of the online HEAR application form**. Once you have completed the HEAR application form you will get a checklist which tells you which documents you need to supply.
4. **Post your supporting documents** to arrive in CAO no later than 17:15 on **1 April 2017**.

To complete your online HEAR Application you must:

Get assistance from your parent(s)/guardian(s).

Use the **HEAR 2017 Handbook** to help you answer all relevant questions on your online HEAR application. You can download the HEAR 2017 Handbook at **www.accesscollege.ie**.

Should I apply?

HEAR applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural indicators (criteria) to be considered for a reduced points place and extra college support. Here is a list of all the HEAR indicators:

1. **Income:** Your family income falls on or below the HEAR Income Limit for the year 2015.
2. **Medical / GP Visit Card:** Your family has a Medical Card / GP Visit Card that was in date on 31 December 2016.
3. **Means Tested Social Welfare:** Your family received a means-tested payment from the Department of Social Protection for at least 26 weeks in 2015.
4. **Socio-economic Group:** You belong to a group that is under-represented in higher education based on the occupation and employment status of your parent(s) or guardian(s). The under-represented groups are the Non-manual Workers Group and the Semi and Unskilled Manual Workers Group.
5. **DEIS School Attendance:** You completed five years in a second level school that takes part in the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) scheme run by the Department of Education and Skills.
6. **Area Profile:** You live in an area where there is concentrated disadvantage – in other words an area where, for example, there is high unemployment and poverty and where only a small proportion of adults have attained third level education.

INDICATOR	INDICATOR	INDICATOR	INDICATOR
1 plus 2 plus 4 or 5 or 6	1 plus 3 plus 4 or 5 or 6	1 plus 4 plus 5 or 6	1 plus 5 plus 6

Indicator 1, the HEAR Income Limit, is calculated by:

- How many children there are in your family;
- How many people in your family are in full time education;

Use the table to estimate if your family's income is less than the HEAR Income Limit for the year 2015.

Number of dependant children* in your family	HEAR Income Limit
Less than 4	€45,790
4-7	€50,325
More than 8	€54,630

Add €4,670 to the total family/household income for every sibling/parent enrolled in a full time college, university or post leaving certificate course.

*A dependant includes:

- a sibling under the age of 16 years on 1 October 2016.
- a sibling over the age of 16 years on 1 October 2016 who is either:
 - attending post primary education.
 - attending a full time course in FET or higher education.
 - medically certified as permanently unfit for work.
- a parent attending a full time course in FET or higher education.

Disability Access Route to Education (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.

You should apply to both DARE and HEAR if they are relevant to you. Applicants who apply and are deemed eligible for both DARE and HEAR will be prioritised by the participating colleges and universities when offering their reduced points places.

For more information on DARE see www.accesscollege.ie

HEAR contact Details

Higher Education Institution	Website	Email
Dublin City University	www.dcu.ie/students/access	hear@dcu.ie
Dublin Institute of Technology	www.dit.ie/ace	hear@dit.ie
Marino Institute of Education	www.mie.ie/access	hear@mie.ie
Mary Immaculate College, Limerick	www.mic.ul.ie	hear@mic.ul.ie
National College of Ireland	www.ncirl.ie	hear@ncirl.ie
NUI Galway	www.nuigalway.ie/access	hear@nuigalway.ie
Maynooth University	www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office	hear@nuim.ie
Pontifical University, Maynooth	www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office www.maynoothcollege.ie/pontifical-university/hear-scheme-2/	hear@nuim.ie
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	https://www.rcsi.ie/ugcoursefinder	hear@rcsi.ie
St Angela's College, Sligo	www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie	hear@stangelas.nuigalway.ie
Trinity College Dublin	www.tcd.ie/trinity_access	hear@tcd.ie
University College Cork	www.ucc.ie/uccplus	hear@ucc.ie
University College Dublin	www.ucd.ie/all	hear@ucd.ie
University of Limerick	www.ul.ie/access	hear@ul.ie

CAO Helpdesk	Email CAO by clicking Contact Us at www.cao.ie	091 509 800	www.cao.ie
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From November 2016	Review the HEAR Handbook with your parent(s)/guardian(s). Make a CAO application at www.cao.ie . Fill in the online HEAR Application at www.cao.ie . Gather your supporting documents. Remember, they can take more than 8 weeks to issue.
By 1 February 2017 By 1 March 2017	Apply to CAO by 17:15. Complete all elements of the online HEAR Application Form by 17:15. Gather all supporting documents relevant to your application.
By 1 April 2017	Submit copies of supporting documents to CAO, Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway by 17:15. Put your name and CAO number on all documents.
April – June 2017 In Late June 2017	HEAR Application Assessment. Applicants notified of outcome of HEAR Application.
End June Early July 2017	HEAR Application Recheck.
August 2017	Leaving Certificate exam results. HEAR offers made by CAO. Accept CAO offer. Accept HEAR offer of extra college supports.
Late August/Early September	Attend mandatory HEAR orientation programme.