

HEAR

Higher Education Access Route

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

Information
Leaflet **2018**

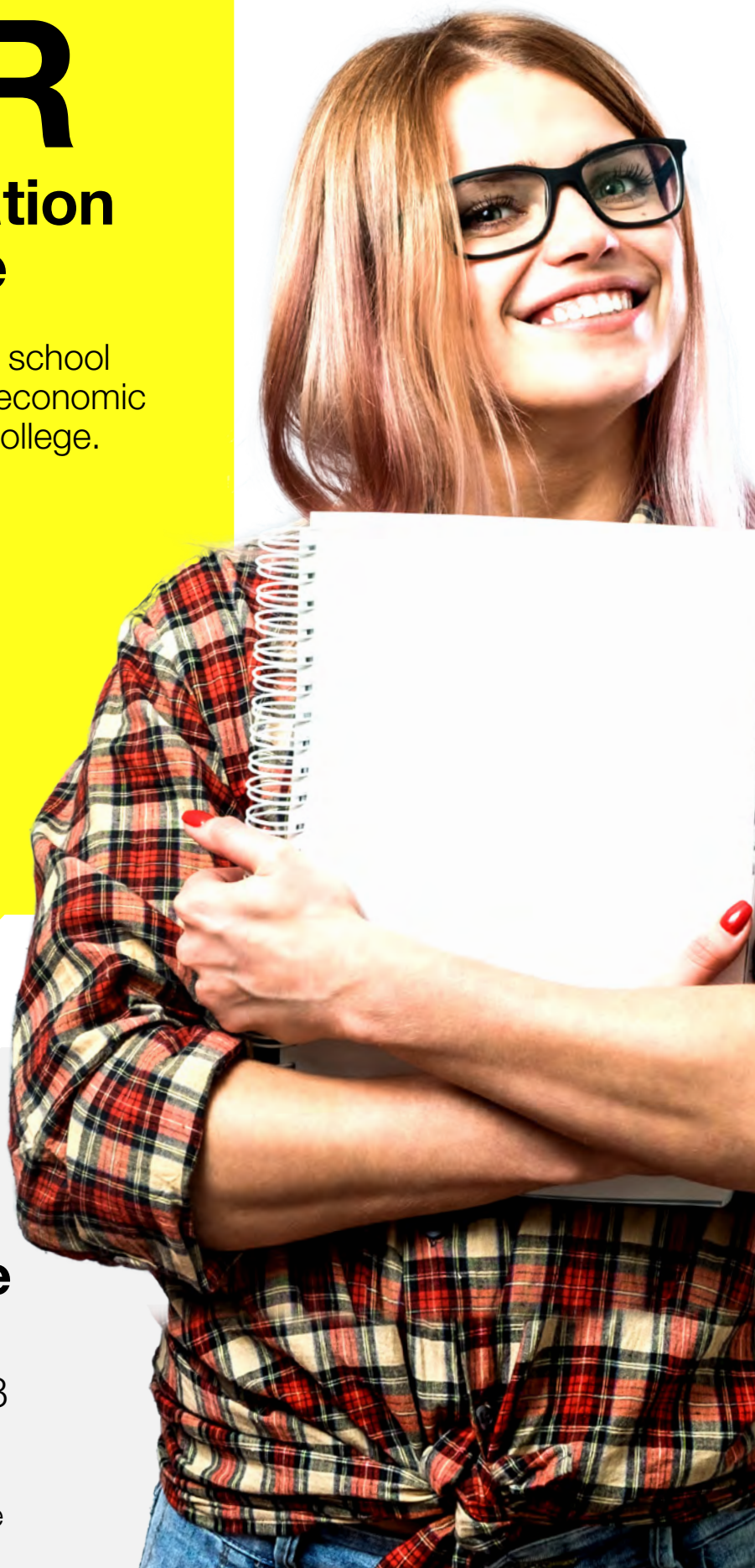
DARE HEAR Application Advice Clinics

Saturday 20 January 2018

For locations and times visit:

www.accesscollege.ie

www.facebook.com/accesscollege



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 2018 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 2018
2. Apply online to CAO by 17:15 on 1 February 2018. CAO applications open on 6 November 2017 at 12 noon.
3. No later than 17:15 on **1 March 2018, 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 2018.**

To complete your online HEAR Application you must:

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

Use the **HEAR 2018 Handbook** to help you answer all relevant questions on your online HEAR application.

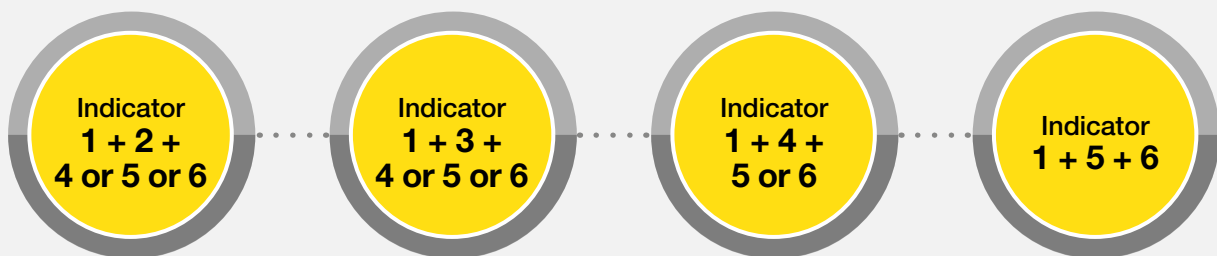
You can download the HEAR 2018 Handbook at **www.accesscollege.ie**.

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 2016.
2. **Medical / GP Visit Card:** Your family has a Medical Card / GP Visit Card that was in date on 31 December 2017.
3. **Means Tested Social Welfare:** Your family received a means-tested payment from the Department of Social Protection for at least 26 weeks in 2016.
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.

You must meet Indicator 1, the HEAR Income Limit, plus a correct combination of 2 other indicators to be eligible for HEAR. The combinations are:



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 income is equal to or less than the HEAR income limit.

Number of dependent children* in your family	HEAR Income Limit
Fewer than 4	€45,790
4-7	€50,325
8 or more	€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 dependent includes:

- + a sibling under the age of 16 years on 1 October 2017.
- + a sibling over the age of 16 years on 1 October 2017 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)

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/access	hear@dcu.ie
Dublin Institute of Technology	www.dit.ie/ace/access/	hear@dit.ie
Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology	www.iadt.ie	hear@iadt.ie
Institute of Technology, Sligo	www.itsligo.ie	hear@itsligo.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/	hear@nuim.ie
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	www.rcsi.ie/study	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

HEAR Application Timeline

From November 2017	<p>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 several weeks to issue.</p>
By 1 February 2018	Apply to CAO by 17:15.
By 1 March 2018	<p>Complete all elements of the online HEAR Application Form by 17:15. Gather all supporting documents relevant to your application.</p>
By 1 April 2018	<p>Submit copies of supporting documents to CAO, Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway by 17:15. Put your name and CAO number on all documents.</p>
April-June 2018	HEAR Application Assessment.
In late June 2018	Applicants notified of outcome of HEAR Application.
End June Early July 2018	HEAR Review and Appeals Application.
August 2018	<p>Leaving Certificate exam results. HEAR offers made by CAO. Accept CAO offer. Accept HEAR offer of extra college supports.</p>
Late August Early September	Attend mandatory HEAR orientation programme.

Remember to check your email account regularly for important CAO notifications in relation to your application.