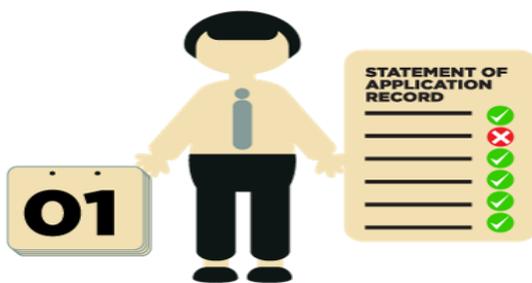


CAO BULLETIN

CAO Newsletter for Guidance Counsellors, Teachers and Staff

This week, we will post communication to Guidance Counsellors in advance of our mailing to all CAO applicants in early May.

The documents that you will receive will help you to guide your students through the upcoming phases of the application process, including the careful review of the 'Statement of Application Record'.



The Statement of Application Records are currently in print and will be distributed to students in early May. Just a reminder to note that, as per 2016, there will be no Change of Mind form provided with this year's mailing. We will only be providing the paper Change of Mind form by request, as the majority of applicants will use the online Change of Mind facility.

We ask that you advise your students to check that the following information is recorded completely and correctly on their statement:

1. Date of birth, place of birth (Ireland Yes or No), telephone number and CAO application number.
2. Course codes - please ensure that all Level 8 and Level 7/6 course codes are correct and recorded in the desired order of preference.
3. Details of any Irish or third language exemptions and all relevant examinations taken, or to be taken, have been recorded by type, year, number and (for exams already taken) subjects/levels/grades.

If there are any errors or omissions identified in the document, applicants must indicate the changes on the Statement of Application Record and return it to CAO immediately at CAO, Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway. Applicants are also advised to obtain a certificate of posting.

Applicants who have applied using the Late Application facility will receive their Statement of Application Record before the end of May. If they do not receive this document by this date they must contact CAO via the 'Contact' facility at www.cao.ie. **The Late Applications facility closes on 1st May at 5:15pm.**

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New Common Points Scale

The new Common Points Scale, introduced by the HEIs in partnership with the Department of Education and Skills, will come in to affect this Summer 2017. It is important to note that all applicants in 2017, including those applying on the basis of a previous year's Leaving Certificate results, will be scored by the same criteria.

Additional information can be found in the 'Information for Schools' section of www.cao.ie.

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

Bonus Points for Mathematics

25 bonus points will continue to be awarded in 2017 for higher level mathematics, at grades H6 and above.

Matriculation Requirements

From 2017, a Higher Level E grade will contribute to the new basic matriculation requirements, which the universities and institutes of technology have introduced to take account of the new grading scheme.

2017 Matriculation Requirements

2 H5 and 4 O6/H7 grades

5 O6/H7 grades

3 H5 and 3 O6/H7 grades

Pre-2017 Leaving Cert grades required

2 HD1 and 4 OD3/HE grades

5 OD3/HE grades

3 HD1 and 3 OD3/HE grades

New Leaving Certificate Grading Bands

The new broader grade bands are expected to ease the pressure on students to achieve marginal gains in examinations and encourage more substantial engagement with each subject.

Currently, the majority of students receiving a given grade are within 3 percentage marks of a higher grade, and therefore 5 extra points, creating pressure towards rote learning and using the marking scheme to gain those few additional marks.

The new 8-point grading scale will replace the current 14-point scale at both Higher and Ordinary levels.

New Grades	% Marks
H1 / O1	90 - 100
H2 / O2	80 < 90
H3 / O3	70 < 80
H4 / O4	60 < 70
H5 / O5	50 < 60
H6 / O6	40 < 50
H7 / O7	30 < 40
H8 / O8	0 < 30

Pre-2017 Grade Scheme	New Grade Scheme from 2017
A1	H1 / O1
A2	H2 / O2
B1	H3 / O3
B2	H4 / O4
B3	H5 / O5
C1	H6 / O6
C2	H7 / O7
C3	H8 / O8
D1	
D2	
D3	
E	
F	
NG	


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Points Calculator

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To calculate your points score based on Irish Leaving Certificate results, select the exam year and then enter your results by level and grade.

For applicants presenting pre-1992 Leaving Certificate results please [click here](#).

Applicants can calculate their points score using the Points Calculator on the CAO website - www.cao.ie

CAO 'Change of Mind' Facility

The CAO 'Change of Mind' facility opens on 5th May at 12 noon. This facility, which is free of charge, will be available to all applicants (with the exception of some restricted-category applicants) up to 1st July at 5:15pm.

The 'Change of Mind' facility will remain open after the close of the 2017 Leaving Certificate examinations, however CAO advises students to be careful about making changes to their application based on assumptions about examinations results as the courses registered on July 1st at 5:15pm are final.

Applicants will receive a revised Statement of Course Choices to confirm their new course choices. If this statement does not arrive by July 7th, applicants must contact CAO immediately.


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CAO Video Guides

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Please watch and share these video resources about the CAO Application process. You must read the CAO Handbook and follow the instructions provided in the application form before submitting an application.



A video guide to the 'Change of Mind' facility is available to view on the CAO website - www.cao.ie

AUTUMN 2017 CONFERENCES

Cork

Tuesday, 7th November
Rochestown Park Hotel

Kilkenny

Wednesday, 8th November
Ormonde Hotel

Maynooth

Thursday, 9th November
Glenroyal Hotel

Monaghan

Tuesday, 14th November
Hillgrove Hotel

Galway

Wednesday, 15th November
Clayton Hotel

Conference Registration

Advance registration for this year's conferences will be compulsory.

To register please go to the **Information for Schools** section of the CAO website.

Registration will open in September 2017.



CAO 2017 Statistics

A total of **76,213** applications were received by CAO by the February 1st closing date; 272 of these applicants were Advanced Entry applicants only.

From 2015, the CAO processes applications for entry to years 2, 3 and 4 of undergraduate courses in some HEIs. This entry route is known as Advanced Entry.

There was a total of 9,707 applications from applicants over 23 years of age – down 573 applications from 2016. Included in the figure for mature applicants are 108 applicants aged 23 years or over who applied for Advanced Entry only.

The data provided at this stage is interim data and is subject to change when Late Applications are taken into account, and when the 'Change of Mind' facility closes on July 1st at 5:15pm.

For a breakdown of statistics by subject area go to the 'Media and Statistics' page of www.cao.ie and click on the 'Applicant Statistics' tab.

The Offers Stage

A letter accompanying the Statement of Application Record will be sent to all applicants in early May providing advice for the final stages of the application process.

Please remind students to keep this letter for future reference as it contains the following dates and information:

- Round One Offers will appear on the CAO website from 6.00am on Monday 21 August.
- Also on that day, the minimum points required for entry to each course will be published on the CAO website (www.cao.ie), in national newspapers and some online news websites.
- It is the intention to post Round One offers to arrive with applicants on Monday 21 August.
- The Available Places facility will become available on Tuesday 22 August at 12 noon - a video guide explaining the 'Available Places' facility is available in the 'Student Resources' section of www.cao.ie.
- The Reply Date for acceptance of Round One offers will be Monday 28 August.
- Please note that some HEIs will contact the applicants who have been offered places rather than waiting until after the reply date. This is because registration and orientation will commence as early as 1 September in some HEIs.
- Registration and Orientation: Applicants who intend taking up a place should note that they will be required to attend registration and/or orientation.
 - HEIs have different registration and orientation dates and applicants may be required to attend at any time from 1 September. Further details will be available on HEI websites in the summer.

A step-by-step video guide to viewing and accepting an offer online is available in the Student Resources section of www.cao.ie

CONTACT US

If there are any items that you would like to see included in a future edition of CAO Bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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 Tel: 091 509800 | Email: communications@cao.ie
 Web: www.cao.ie