

www.accesscollege.ie

higher education
access route

hear

for entry autumn 2010

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



DCU



MAKINO



MDI



NUI MAYNOOTH



UCC





Who is it for?

School leavers who have the ability to benefit from and succeed in higher education and who come from socio-economic groups in Irish society that are under-represented in third level education.

What is the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)?

The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a third level admissions scheme for school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Research shows that socio-economic disadvantage has a negative impact on leaving cert results and on progression to higher education.

Places Available Through the HEAR Scheme

Each participating college has allocated a quota of places on a reduced points basis for students entering through HEAR. All HEAR applicants must provide evidence relating to their socio-economic circumstances and meet the minimum entry requirements of the colleges to which they apply. Applicants will then compete for a quota of places based on their Leaving Certificate results.



Post-entry Support

Students who secure a place through HEAR are offered a variety of academic, personal and social supports while at college. Details of the various post-entry supports for HEAR entrants can be found on the website of each of the participating colleges. The following are examples of the type of supports available:

- An orientation programme to introduce students to university/college
- Extra tuition if required, study skills, exam preparation
- One-to-one meetings with student advisors, social gatherings, mentoring
- Financial assistance when available, advice regarding grants and scholarships

Making a HEAR Application

All applicants must meet a combination of criteria relating to their social, cultural and educational circumstances in order to be eligible for the scheme. School leavers who wish to be considered for the HEAR scheme must:

- apply online at www.cao.ie as part of the CAO application process by 1 February 2010.
- indicate their wish to be considered for HEAR in the appropriate section of the CAO application form by 1 February 2010.
- complete a number of additional questions relating to:
 - his/her family's financial situation;
 - employment status of parents;
 - school(s) attended.
- submit supporting documentation (e.g. P21, Notice of Assessment etc) by 1 April 2010.

Where can I find information on HEAR?

Full details of all aspects of the HEAR scheme can be found on www.accesscollege.ie

The HEAR Application Guide 2010 is available directly from guidance counsellors and participating colleges. The guide will also be available to view or download from the following websites:

www.accesscollege.ie | www.cao.ie | www.qualifax.ie

Contact Details for Participating Colleges:

Dublin City University	www.dcu.ie/students/access	orla.conlan@dcu.ie
Dublin Institute of Technology	www.communitylinks.ie/access	kieran.houlihan@dit.ie
NUI Galway	www.nuigalway.ie/access	hear@nuigalway.ie
NUI Maynooth	http://access.nuim.ie	martha.brandes@nuim.ie
Trinity College Dublin	www.tcd.ie/trinity_access	grace.edge@tcd.ie
University College Cork	www.ucc.ie/uccplus	uccplus@ucc.ie
University College Dublin	www.ucd.ie/access	fiona.sweeney@ucd.ie
University of Limerick	www.ul.ie/access	access@ul.ie
Church of Ireland College of Education	www.tcd.ie/trinity_access	kotoole@tcd.ie
Froebel College of Education	www.tcd.ie/trinity_access	kotoole@tcd.ie
Marino Institute of Education	www.tcd.ie/trinity_access	kotoole@tcd.ie
Mary Immaculate College, Limerick	www.mic.ul.ie/access/	maura.moore@mic.ul.ie
Mater Dei Institute of Education	www.materdei.ie	admissions@materdei.dcu.ie
St. Angela's College, Sligo	www.stangelas.ie	cgallagher@stacs.edu.ie
St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra	www.spd.dcu.ie/access	vivienne.byrne@spd.dcu.ie