#### CAO & College

**Information Evening** 

### 6<sup>th</sup> year Parents Evening 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 Mary Finan

# Agenda



- Career Planning
- Options after Leaving Cert
- CAO application
- PLC choice
- Grants and Cost of College
- Student Accommodation
- Questions??

### **Career Planning & Decision Making**

- Generally what you like is what you will be successful at
- The longer one can stay in education the better
- Every decision involves possible risks and opportunities

# **Factors to Consider**

### <u>Self</u>

- -What suits me
- -Interest
- -Aptitudes
- -Personality
- -Values

### **Career**

- -What's out there
- -Opportunities
- -Level of entry
- -Training/Education
- -Career Development

# **Course Research**

- Educational or vocational
- Subjects studies (not only in 1<sup>st</sup> year)
- Optional subjects (languages etc)
- Hours per week
- Work placement options
- Location
- Recognition
- Duration of the course
- Postgraduate entry

### Where to get information

- CAO handbook
- Books, newspapers, prospectus
- Institutions themselves
- Contacts (family members or friends)
- Open days
- Career talks
- Internet, College Websites
- Guidance Counsellor

## **Options After Leaving Cert**

# Further/Higher Education CAO PLC UCAS

Training
Work
Year out

### **Qualification Framework**



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# **Qualification Levels**

- Level 10 PhD. . Doctorate (Post Grad)
- Level 9 Masters/ Higher Diploma (Post Grad)
- Level 8 Honours Degree (Under Grad)
- Level 7 Ordinary Degree (Under Grad)
- Level 6 Certificate from an IT / 2 Year PLC Course
- Level 5 PLC FETAC 1 Year Course
- Level 4 Leaving Certificate
- Level 3 Junior Certificate

# **Further Education**

### Universities

- Institutes of Technology
- Private College
- Post Leaving Cert Colleges
- U.K Colleges (UCAS)

# CAO

CAO processes applications to undergraduate courses in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

# Offers are issued and acceptances are recorded by CAO

Students apply online via the CAO website

Looks after all application for Level 6, 7 and 8 In 2015 77, 977 students applied There are 1,442 courses on offer through the CAO

# **The Application Process..**

- Students can choose up to 20 courses
  - -10 level 6/7
  - -10 level 8
- The choices on one list do not in any way affect the choices on the other list
- Students must apply on or before 1<sup>st</sup> February
- €40 application fee (€25 fee for early application before 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016)
- Students have the option of changing their mind up to the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.
- Courses offered are based on the points system and minimum entry requirements

Restricted course must be applied for by 1<sup>st</sup> Feb deadline. These courses are marked with a #

# **Minimum Entry Requirements**

### Students must:

Achieve college requirements

These are the basic subject and grade requirements for each HEI. These are known as the matriculation entry requirements

Achieve course requirements

Some courses have specific subject requirements and/or specific grades

### **Matriculation Requirements**

#### <u>NUI's</u>

Irish/English/3rd language (Maths)

O2HC3's and 4OD3's

#### <u>Trinity</u>

Cenglish/Maths/3rd language

○ 3HC3's and 3OD's

#### <u>UL/DCU</u>

Cenglish/Maths/3rd language

O2HC3's and 4OD3's

#### **Institutes of Technology**

- Level 8 2HC3's and 4OD3's
- Level 6/7 50D3's

For some courses these requirements are different e.g. 3<sup>rd</sup> language not required for NUI Engineering and Science

# **Points System**

- Points are based on a students best <u>6</u> grades in one sitting of the Leaving Cert
- Points for courses are based on supply and demand. The points are calculated from number of places available versus the number of students who apply
- All eligible applicants are then placed on a list, in order of academic merit, for each course that they applied for.
- The points do change from year to year and nobody know how to predict these changes
- Students need to aim for 10-20 points more than the previous year.

### **Calculating Points**

Grade %	<b>Higher</b>	Ordinary	
A1 90-100	100	60	LCVP
A2 85-89	90	50	Distinction 70
B1 80-84	85	45	Merit 50
B2 75-79	80	40	Pass 30
B3 70-74	75	35	
C1 65-69	70	30	
C2 60-64	65	25	
C3 55-59	60	20	
D1 50-54	55	15	
D2 45-49	50	10	
D3 40-44	45	5	

Honour Maths give students an additional 25 points to each grade

### **Order of Preference**

#### Students apply for courses in GENUINE ORDER OF PERFERENCE



#### **Dream Courses**

#### **Realistic Courses**

**Banker Courses** 

### **Example Level 8 Preference List**

Preference Rank	Course description	Points 2014
1	DCU Children's & Integ Nursing	475
2	UCD Children's & Integ Nursing	495
3	UCD General Nursing	425
4	DCU General Nursing	435
5	UL General Nursing	455
6	NUIG General Nursing	450
7	St. Angela's General Nursing	410
8	Letterkenny General Nursing	400
9	Dundalk IT General Nursing	405
10	St. Angela's Health & Disability	230

## How offers are managed

- In the week following the release of the Leaving Certificate results offers are issued by CAO
- Students check for and accept offers on the website.
- Students offer notice may contain an offer
  - for a Level 8 course
  - or a Level 7/6 course
  - or both
- If a student receives two offers at the same time they may only accept <u>one</u> of them.
- The offers must be accepted within the timeframe, normally 7 days.
- Round 2 and Round 3 offers then follow in the coming weeks
- A student <u>must</u> accept what they are offered to be considered for additional offer further up their preference list

### How offers work..

<b>Preference</b>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Course</u>
1	340	Arts UCD
2	350	Arts NUIM
3	340	Arts UCC
4	325	Arts Mary I
5	300	Arts NUIG
6	325	Arts St Pats

### LC Points 350 LC Points 330

### **Applications for Medicine**

- Students must achieve MINIMUM ENTRY POINTS of 480
- Students who achieve more than 550 points receive 1 point for every 5 points achieved above 550
- An Aptitude Test is taken called HPAT Ireland worth 300 points. Average score is 160-180.
- The Leaving Cert Points and the HPAT points are added
- HPAT is completed in February and the results are given in mid June.

# **Additional Entry Aids...**

#### **DARE (Disability Access Route to Education)**

- The DARE is a supplementary admissions scheme for school leavers with disabilities. School leavers who meet the eligibility criteria compete for a quota of places allocated to applicants on a reduced-points basis.
- DARE is for school leavers who have the ability to benefit from and succeed in higher education but who may not meet the points for their preferred course due to the impact of a disability.

#### **HEAR (Higher Education Access Route)**

 The HEAR is a third-level admissions scheme for school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. School leavers who provide satisfactory evidence relating to their socioeconomic circumstances and meet the Irish Leaving Cert., matriculation or minimum entry and subject requirements are eligible to compete for a quota of places allocated to applicants on a reduced points bases.

### **Post Leaving Cert Courses (PLC)**

- FETAC level qualification
- Pathways available in to College/University
- Direct application process usually in March/April
- Interviews take place
- I year duration with potential further study
- Very useful to consider if a student is unsure about what to do or if they will get the points

# UCAS

- This is the UK college applications system
- It is not based on points but on an extensive application process including predicted grades, an academic reference and personal statement
- Students are given conditional offers based on the above and/or an interview and/or a aptitude test.

# **Applying for the Grant**



### Under the student grant scheme New grant authority Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) studentfinance.ie

- Parents income dictates whether you get a grant or not. Also factored in now are available capital assets (land, other property)
- Also considered if a student works (legally and paying tax during the summer or while studying)
- Applications open in May and close in August

# **Application Process**

- Re-assessed each year
- Grant are available for students attending post leaving cert course (PLC) but there are specific requirements
- You must fill out the correct information online and provide ALL the necessary documentation to prevent delay
- The grant isn't usually paid on repeat years unless you can prove that illness caused you to repeat
- The grant is paid into students bank account each month
- Each case is assess individually

### **Maintenance Grant**

The standard rate is full (100%) or part (75%, 50%, 25%)

The maintenance grant is paid depending on the adjacent rate (living near college) or a non-adjacent rate (more than 45km away)

# **Student Contribution Element**

The student contribution charge for 2014-2015 is  $\in 2,750$ . The charge is payable by all students. If you are entitled to the grant, you maybe eligible for a full (100%) or part (50%) contribution to this charge. Students also have to pay a student levy fee of  $\in 230$  in most HEIs.

# **Scholarships and Bursaries**

- Naughton Scholarship
- JP McManus Scholarship
- Specific Scholarships (music, sport etc) (DCU and UCD offer elite sports scholarships)
- Most University has a bursary for students who achieve over 500/550 points.
- Credit Union offers bursaries also.

### **Accommodation Options**

#### Dig:

common choice for 1<sup>st</sup> year students. A list of approved digs is available through the college accommodation office.

#### Renting a room/house:

- Getting a reasonably priced, well equipped apartment or house close to college and the town centre is what it's all about.
- Often an option for 2, 3, 4<sup>th</sup> year. Can make project work easier

### **On-Campus Accommodation**

- Students must register there interest and be placed in the system. Each college is different.
   Some work on a first come first served bases whereas other operate a lottery system.
- All require a deposit to be pay approx €250 with €150 being refundable if the place is not taken up.
- Applying for some college beings are early as February and March.
- Check University websites for details.

# What if????

 <u>Deferring</u>- this means accepting ones offer but a student defers their place until the following September

 <u>Available places</u>: these are places available on the CAO website on courses which did not fill up. Points requirements are not considered but specific subjects are needed

### <u>Re-checks</u>



- <u>Maths Exam</u>: Some of the Universities offer a second chance Maths exam, for students who did not meet the maths requirements of the course.
- The exams take place the week after the leaving cert results come out and the universities tailor the exam to meet their course requirements.
- Cork IT, DIT, NUIM, NUIG, UL and Waterford IT.

# **Useful Websites...**

- www.qualifax.ie
- <u>www.cao.ie</u>
- www.ucas.com
- www.careersportal.ie
- www.nui.ie
- University of Limerick Aiming Higher

### **Key Dates to Remember:**

- 20<sup>th</sup> Jan early online CAO closing date
- 1<sup>st</sup> Feb CAO closing date
- March/April Tests/Interviews/Portfolio
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May CAO change of mind opens
- 1<sup>st</sup> July Change of mind closes
- Mid August Leaving Cert Results
- 22<sup>nd</sup> August Round 1 offers (expected date)
- 31<sup>st</sup> August Round 2 offers
- Early September college registration begins