

Career Guidance 2014/2015

7 May 2015

Points of Information - May 2015

6TH YEAR STUDENTS:

CAO

All 6th Year students should have received the following information from CAO directly:

STATEMENT OF APPLICATION RECORD

This contains a summary of all your applicant information, ID, Course Choices, Examinations/Qualifications. Please check this information carefully and follow the instructions given.

Do not assume course choices are correct – check the course codes against the CAO handbook and ensure they are in the desired order of preference.

Ensure that you provide the details of any exams taken this year or if repeating last year also.

Is your examination number correct? Check it against the number you have been provided with by the school.

If you are seeking exemption from minimum entry requirements such as Irish or a Modern language you should contact the admissions office of the Higher Education Institutions you are applying to (in the case of NUI institutions see www.nui.ie for details.)

If you have been granted exemption from NUI Irish and/or third language requirement and there is no reference to it on the Statement of Application record please notify CAO immediately.

If all of the information on the Statement of Application Record is correct you need take no action.

If there is **any** error or omission on the Statement, notify CAO **immediately**.

CHANGE OF MIND

The Change of Mind facility becomes available from 5th May at 12.00 to 1st July at 5.15pm. CAO request the students make any changes online at www.cao.ie in preference to the paper form.

Please consider all of your choices carefully.

You must list **all** of your course choices for the particular category (level 8 and level 7/6) in which you are making changes.

If you use the Change of Mind facility you will receive a revised Statement of Course Choices to enable you to verify your new list of course choices. If you do not receive this by 7th July please contact CAO immediately.

OFFERS

Round one offers will appear on the CAO website from 6am on Monday 17th August.

The reply date for acceptance of Round One offers will be Monday 24th August.

Please note that some HEI's will contact you if they have offered you a place rather than waiting on the reply date. This is because registration and orientation will commence as early as September 1st in some HEI's. Further details regarding individual college opening arrangements will be available on their own websites in the summer. Please keep an eye on them.

Round two offers will be available online from 6am on Thursday 27th August. The reply date for acceptance of Round two offers will be Wednesday 2nd September.

CONTACTING CAO AT THE OFFER STAGE

At the offer stage it can be very difficult to contact CAO by telephone. Enquires should be made by email using the Contact Us facility on the CAO website. You will also be provided with an Enquiry Form which you can use if you want to submit your query by post. Normally, all email enquiries are responded to within one working day.

IMPORTANT CHANGES

You will also receive a list of important changes of courses, including Courses not in the 2015 CAO handbook but for which application can be made, courses in the 2015 CAO handbook which have been cancelled and other miscellaneous changes. Please check all details carefully. These changes are also available on www.cao.ie in the alert lists section as shown in class.

STUDENT GRANTS

You are now able to make online application for your student grant via SUSI on www.susi.ie. Please apply ASAP to avoid any delays in processing your application.

5TH YEAR STUDENTS:

UCAS

All students in 5th Year have received a detailed presentation on the opportunities to study in the UK or Northern Ireland and the UCAS application process.

Any 5th Year student who is interested in applying to UCAS must begin the process now and begin working on their personal statement and organising relevant work experience for this summer (if not already completed.) Some courses require separate registration for aptitude tests which may be completed during the summer holidays, so careful research must be

undertaken in order to avoid missing deadlines. For any further information please see Ms Foley or Ms Kelly.

SUMMER SCHOOLS

A number of Universities provide Summer schools for 5th Year students to sample college life and course content. Details are available on each universities websites. Any 5th Year who would like further information please speak to Ms Foley or Ms Kelly.

HIGHER OPTIONS SEPTEMBER 2015

5th Year students are reminded to bring in €10 for their ticket to the Higher Options Conference in RDS Dublin which will be held in September 2015 on Wednesday 13th May. Please bring the money and permission slip to Anne's office at 1.11pm.

21 October 2014

Points of Information – October 2014

CAO Applications

CAO Applications may be made online from 5th November at 12 noon. Students are encouraged to register as early as possible in order to be familiar with the system. The courses that you select now can be amended up to 31st January for no extra charge and students who apply online before 5.15pm on 20th January 2015 may avail of the discounted application fee of €25. Students are reminded that you may download for free the CAO APP which is a very helpful resource. This is available for free on Apple and Android devices.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM (SIF) – DISABILITY OR SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTY

Applicants with a disability or specific learning difficulty will be able to complete their own section of the SIF when they apply online. Applicants who wish to be considered for the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) scheme must complete this form and indicate on the form that they wish to be considered for DARE. They will then print the sections to be completed by the school and by a consultant and return these to CAO. Please see the CAO handbook for details. A guide and instructions will be available on the CAO website in November.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS ROUTE (HEAR)

Applicants who are socio-economically disadvantaged may complete a special section of the online application form and submit certain documentation to be considered for supplementary entry and post-entry supports. Supplementary entry means entering a course on lower points than was required in the usual competition for places. Please see the CAO Handbook for details. A full guide will be available on the CAO website in November.

From November, applicants and parents with questions about completing the HEAR or SIF/DARE sections of the form can consult the published guides and phone CAO if they cannot find answers to their questions. Questions on how applicants will be assessed and how offers are to be determined should be directed to the Access and Disability Offices in Higher Education Institutions and not CAO. The website www.accesscollege.ie is also a good source of information.

In Mid-November, you will be able to view the demonstration version of the online application form to see for yourself how the entire 2015 online application form is set out, including the SIF/DARE and HEAR sections. A number of additional video resources are available on the CAO website in the 'Student Resources' section.

BETTER OPTIONS 2014

A college fair for students with disabilities and specific learning difficulties will take place in National College of Ireland, Mayor Street, IFSC, Dublin 1 on Monday 24th November from 10am to 1pm. Students can visit exhibition stands from colleges nationwide and attend interactive seminars on: Getting the most from your disability service, looking after your mental health in college, college 101- surviving freshman year. This event is free and there is no need to register. For further information please check www.ahead.ie.

HPAT IRELAND

Any 6th Year student who is applying for Medicine and is interested in taking a HPAT Preparatory course please speak to Ms Foley for details on the variety of courses available.

ROTARY LEADERSHIP COMPETITION

The school interviews for 5th Year students in the Rotary Leadership competition will take place on Thursday 23rd October at 11.30am. Students involved please call to see Ms Foley before Wednesday.

ALERT LISTS

6th Year students should be aware that colleges are publishing changes to their courses for 2015. These may indicate new courses to be introduced for next year or courses that will be cancelled. There may be changes to course titles. All students should note changes to entry requirements that will be notified for entry in 2016/2017. This is especially important for students in 4th Year who will be selecting subjects for their Leaving Certificate after Christmas. These are available on www.cao.ie under Alert Lists.

WIT TRY HEALTH PROMOTION FOR A DAY

WIT is offering 4th, 5th and 6th Year students the opportunity to 'Try Health Promotion for a Day'. Interested students will be facilitated sitting in on a range of health promotion classes across various year groups. If you are interested in taking part please speak to Ms Foley to arrange.

MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES IN LORETO

Each year Loreto Wexford's Student Care Coordination Team organises a number of initiatives to promote positive mental health among the student body.

- Friday 17th October- all 6th Years participate in a full day of Stress Management, with input from Peadar Maxwell, Psychologist and five workshops on Art Therapy, Yoga, Dance Fitness, Brazilian Zamba Drumming and Mindfulness.
- Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st October – all 5th Year students take part in 'Aware's Beat the Blues' programme which aims to build resilience and introduces the 'Coping Triangle'.
- Tuesday 11th November – all 4th Year students will take part in Soars focusing on increasing self-awareness, direction, self-belief, empathy, peer respect, leadership, resiliency and recognising their core strengths and passions.

STUDY SKILLS

All 5th Years participated in a Study Skills Seminar delivered by Student Enrichment Services Ltd. during September. All 2nd Years students are taking part in a Study Skills seminar delivered by Study Focus Ltd. on 22nd October. These initiatives teach students how to set goals, develop good time management skills, how to take notes effectively, enhance memory technique etc. Students and their parents need to revisit the material given at these courses on a regular basis and put into practice the techniques illustrated. **A Study Skills talk for Parents/Guardians of all students** will be delivered by Claire Commins from Study Focus Ltd on Wednesday 22nd October at 5.45pm.

CAREERS NIGHT

A Careers Night for all 5th and 6th Year students was held in Loreto Secondary School on Thursday 9th October from 7-9pm. 76 volunteers from 60 different professions took part. Students were able to speak one to one with the volunteers learning more about their profession and the career path they may take into this field. It was a very valuable experience for students and was enjoyed by all.

OPEN DAYS

Students from 4th, 5th and 6th Year are encouraged to attend Open Days of Universities and Colleges that they are interested in on Saturdays where possible. A full list of dates for these events is available on www.qualifax.ie, each institution's website and on www.cao.ie.

GUEST SPEAKERS

A School Liaison Officer will speak to all 6th Year students on the following dates in the Concert Hall:

- Wednesday 5th November @ 2.11pm – DCU
- Monday 10th November @ 9.31am – St. Pats, Drumcondra
- Monday 17th November @ 9.31am – NUI Maynooth

- Tuesday 18th November @ 10.12am – University of Limerick
- Tuesday 25th November @ 10.12am – IT Carlow
- Thursday 4th December @ 10.12am – NUI Galway
- Monday 12th January @ 9.31am – NCI
- Wednesday 14th January @ 2.11am - DIT