

Points of Information – May 2014

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 18th August.

The reply date for acceptance of Round One offers will be Monday 25th 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 28th August. The reply date for acceptance of Round two offers will be Wednesday 3rd 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 2014 CAO handbook but for which application can be made, courses in the 2014 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.studentfinance.ie. Please apply ASAP to avoid any delays in processing your application.

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.

5TH YEAR STUDENTS:

STUDENT SUMMER EXPERIENCE @ MAYNOOTH

Student Summer Experience @ Maynooth (SEM) – is NUI Maynooth’s summer school. They aim to give students a great insight into their degree courses and what it’s like being a student at Maynooth. The SEM is open to all year groups; the earlier students consider their options, the better informed they’ll be when it comes to the CAO. They have a range of five daily *experiences* for you to choose from. The link below will give you more details.
<http://admissions.nuim.ie/studentssummerexperiencemaynooth.shtml>

Please speak to Ms Foley if you are interested in taking part.

UCD SUMMER SCHOOL

UCD provide a Summer School for 5th Year Students. This is suitable for students who know what discipline they want to pursue at university but do not know yet what path to take through their degree. Check out www.ucd.ie/myucd/summerschool for further updates.

HIGHER OPTIONS SEPTEMBER 2014

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 2014 by Wednesday 14th May.

Points of Information – November 2013

CAO

The CAO 2014 application process is open from 5th November on www.cao.ie. Students are encouraged to apply early and avail of the reduced fee of €25 if applying before the 20th January 2014. Remember that changes to choices can be made online free of charge until 31st January 2014 and again from 4th May to 1st July 2014.

I wish to draw students' and parents' attention to the fact that there are a number of fee paying colleges within the CAO system. However, there are also a small number of courses within colleges that generally operate under the free fees initiative but who now run one or a small number of fee paying courses. E.g. National College of Ireland (NCI) are generally not a fee paying college but run a BA Psychology for which they charge fees. This year All Hallows College, Dublin has introduced three new courses combining English Literature, Philosophy or Psychology to which fees are charged.

NUI MAYNOOTH OPEN DAY

NUIM will hold their Open Day on Saturday 30th November. A dedicated campus bus organised by NUI Maynooth is in operation for students who wish to attend this event. It will depart Crescent Quay, Wexford at 9.00am and depart NUI Maynooth at 3.30pm. The return fare is €8. For further information you can contact the bus operator, Ardcavan Coach Tours Ltd on

053 9122561. For further information about the open day please see www.gomaynooth.ie.

UCD AGRICULTURE, FOOD SCIENCE AND HUMAN NUTRITION

Access to the UCD Agri-Environmental Sciences programme has changed for 2014 entry and is now via CAO code DN272.

The UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science will hold an Information Evening for prospective undergraduate students and parents interested in finding out about Agriculture, Food Science and Human Nutrition programmes at UCD on the 20th of November 2013 at 7.30pm in the New Park Hotel, Kilkenny.

The Information Evening will provide an overview of each programme available to students entering in September 2014. In addition, information on entry requirements, career opportunities and subject choices will also be presented by UCD staff members and recent graduates and will be followed by complimentary refreshments and a Q&A session. Please find attached information flyer with details of this event.

Admission to the Information Evening is free, however pre-booking is essential. Attendees can register for this event by completing an online registration form at www.ucd.ie/agfood/eventsoutreach/

Further information regarding UCD Agriculture, Food Science and Human Nutrition programmes can be found at: <https://myucd.ucd.ie/courses/agriculture-food-nutrition.ezc> or you can download the UCD Agriculture, Food Science and Human Nutrition Undergraduate Prospectus which is available at: <http://www.ucd.ie/agfood/undergraduateprogrammes>

- TY students interested in this career should register to attend the TY Programme on 20th – 21st March, 2014
- 5th Year Students interested should register to attend the UCD Summer School on 4th June 2014.

CHANGES TO HPAT IRELAND TEST FOR ENTRY TO UNDERGRADUATE MEDICINE IN 2014

The weightings of the three sections in this test have been revised. The new weightings apply from 2014, with sections 1 and 2 each accounting for 40% and section 3 accounting for 20%.

The results of HPAT Ireland examinations sat in 2013 and subsequent years will only be valid for a single year for admission to undergraduate medical courses. This means that it will not be possible to present results achieved in the 2013 sitting of the HPAT Ireland test for admission to undergraduate medical courses in 2014.

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN FEASIBILITY STUDY IN ADMISSIONS

In 2014 Trinity College will pioneer a feasibility study in admissions to see if there is a better and fairer way to identify and admit applicants who are enthusiastic and passionate about learning, motivated and suitable for their chosen courses. The new admissions route will be used to fill 10 places in History (TR003), 10 places in Law (TR004) and 5 places in Ancient and Medieval history and culture (TR028). Further details are available on page 26 of the Undergraduate prospectus and on the TCD admissions website at www.tcd.ie/admissions/undergraduate.

UCC QUERCUS TALENTED STUDENTS' PROGRAMME

In 2014 UCC are introducing the Quercus Talented Students' Programme aimed at supporting and promoting excellence in academia, sport, creative and performing arts, active citizenship and innovation/entrepreneurship. For further information please see www.ucc.ie/quercus.

Points of Information week beginning Monday, 14 October 2013

MENTAL HEALTH EVENTS 2013

In order to promote Positive Mental Health among our student body the following events have been organised:

- Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th October – All 5th Year students will attend an 80 minute talk from Aware – 'Beat the Blues' Programme.
- Friday 18th October – All 4th Year students will attend a three hour workshop with SOAR.
- Friday 15th November – All 6th Year students will have a Stress Management Day

RCSI MINI MED SCHOOL

Any Fourth Year student who is interested in taking part in the South Eastern Region Mini Med School run by Waterford Regional Hospital in conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons please speak to Ms McDonald or Ms Foley **by Thursday 24th October**.

This event takes place for a four day period from Tuesday 18th February to Friday 21st February 2014 in Waterford Regional Hospital and Waterford Institute of Technology. It includes hands on clinical skills laboratories as well as interactive lectures and discussions on various aspects of medicine. There is a charge of €100 for each participant to cover lunch, a course t-shirt and other course expenses.

NATIONAL CAREER SKILLS COMPETITION 2014

This competition run by www.careersportal.ie is open to all students who have undertaken work experience. Students from Loreto will be eligible to apply under either Transition Year or Leaving Cert/LCVP strands. The student prizes are very generous with an Apple MacBook Air

laptop as first prize in each category and cash prizes for the winning schools. The prize giving ceremony will be held in the Department of Education and Skills and the prizes will be awarded by the Minister. Closing date is **22nd April 2014**.

ROTARY IRELAND LEADERSHIP COMPETITION

The school round of the Rotary Ireland Leadership Competition will take place on Monday 21st October from 10am.

HEAR AND DARE ACCESS SCHEMES

Promotional materials for the DARE and HEAR schemes for entry to college in autumn 2014 are now available from Ms Foley. These materials have been prepared to assist students with their CAO application to these schemes. Further guidance is available from www.accesscollege.ie, from www.cao.ie or from HEAR or DARE representatives in the participating colleges.

An Application Advice Clinic will be run on Thursday January 16th 2014 in the Ferrycarrig Hotel from 3-8pm to assist students and their parents.

Since 2009, 7,500 students have entered college through DARE and HEAR. These schemes present a fantastic opportunity to eligible students to progress to and succeed in higher education.

SCHOLARSHIPS

All 6th Year students are encouraged to investigate what types of scholarships are available in their chosen institution. Some require application forms to be submitted, e.g. sporting scholarships or UCD's Ad Astra. However, many institutions are awarding Academic Scholarships to students who achieve 525+ points in their Leaving Certificate examinations. The threshold required differs from one institution to another. These scholarships typically are worth €1,000 plus many have on-campus accommodation secured for the scholar.

ALERT LISTS

While 6th Year students have received their CAO Handbook 2014 with a list of courses they can apply for, it is important to recognise that changes can be made to these courses, i.e. courses may be cancelled, new ones added, changes to course names or content and changes to entry requirements. Such changes are available throughout the year on www.cao.ie/alertlists. It is therefore very important that students regularly check for any updates about courses of interest.

UCC DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

4th, 5th and 6th Year students interested in pursuing a career in Drama or Theatre are invited to attend UCC's Drama and Theatre Studies Open Day on Saturday 16th November from 10am to 2pm. This will provide students with an opportunity to hear about the range and flexibility of the courses, to see the facilities, to get to know the lecturers and meet some existing students by participating in a selection of drama workshops. Further details of the event are available from Ms Foley. Students are also required to RSVP before Friday 25th October.

OPEN DAYS

The following Open Days will be taking place between Mid-Term Break and Christmas:

- All Hallows College – 6th November
- UCD Medicine Visiting Programme – 6th November
- DKIT – 8th and 9th November

- IT Carlow - Wexford Campus – 8th November
- UCD – 9th November
- NCAD Portfolio Brief Information Sessions for Entry in 2014 – 9th, 12th and 13th November
- UCD Chemistry Open Evening – 12th November
- Letterkenny IT – 13th November
- IT Carlow - Carlow Campus – 15th November
- Athlone IT – 15th and 16th November
- DCU – 15th and 16th November
- St Patrick's College, Drumcondra – 16th November
- Marino Institute of Education – 16th November
- Mater Dei Institute of Education – 16th November
- UCD Computer Science Open Evening – 19th November
- Cork IT – 22nd November
- Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology – 22nd and 23rd November
- Cork IT School of Music – 23rd November
- UCD Geology Workshop – 23rd November
- UCD Mathematical Science Open Evening – 26th November
- National College of Ireland (NCI) – 27th November
- NUI Maynooth – 29th and 30th November
- Pontifical University St. Patrick's College, Maynooth – 29th and 30th November
- DIT – 6th and 7th November
- Trinity College Dublin – 7th November
- Waterford IT – 10th December

Students from 5th and 6th Year are encouraged to attend the open day of colleges of interest.

Points of Information – October 2013

STUDY SKILLS

If there are any 6th Year Students who would be interested in taking part in a study skills seminar by *Student Enrichment Services Ltd* on a Saturday morning in the near future could they please let Ms Foley or Ms Kelly know by **Wednesday 2nd October**. This is being offered to students who did not avail of the study skills seminar that was offered to them last year while in 5th Year.

At present we are merely trying to ascertain if there would be enough students interested to allow the seminar to go ahead. The number of students attending will determine the cost per student. The seminar would take place in the school building.

We would like to remind parents of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year students that a Study Skills talk for parents will be held by *Study Focus Ltd* in the school on **Tuesday 8th October at 6pm**. This talk is free of charge.

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION

Any 5th Year student who would like to enter the Rotary Youth Leadership Development Competition should speak to Ms Foley **before Wednesday 2nd October**. The competition is designed to assist students with their future career. Many participants report that it has influenced their attitudes and future development.

Firstly you complete your own personal Nomination Form downloaded from www.rotary.ie/youth and submit it to Ms Foley. If you are chosen (on the basis of your nomination form) you will proceed to an interview selection process in school, with the possibility to become a School Winner. Winners at the school stage advance to Rotary Club finals, and then on to the Area Finals. Twenty four students from across Ireland are selected at the Area Finals to participate

in a week long Leadership Development Programme (LDP). LDP Week consists of three days in Belfast and Dublin before setting off for the European Parliament in Strasbourg to play a part in the Euroscola Programme early next year. The winners debate major EU issues in the European Parliament Building with 600 other students from most countries across the European Union.

UCAS DEADLINE

This is a very important reminder to any 6th Year student who is interested in applying to UCAS to study Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary or study in Oxford or Cambridge. The above courses and colleges have a deadline of **October 15th** 2013 for entry in 2014.

Any student who is interested in applying to another faculty area or college in the UK must speak to Ms Foley asap in relation to their application.

Applications are already underway by a number of sixth year students who are interested in applying for college courses in UK or Northern Ireland.

CAO PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

A CAO Information Evening for parents of 6th Year students will be delivered by Ms Foley in school on Monday 21st October at 6pm. This presentation will assist parents to understand the CAO process, college entry requirements, student grants, scholarships and access schemes as well as looking at other options such as PLC courses, UCAS and apprenticeships that your daughter may wish to undertake.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- WIT – Monday 30th September at 9.31am in Concert Hall.

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 2014 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 2014 online application form is set out, including the SIF/DARE and HEAR sections.

Points of Information - September 2013

STUDY SKILLS

All 5th Years students participated in a half day Study Skills Seminar on Thursday 12th September. This valuable talk given by Student Enrichment Services Ltd. helped the students to further enhance their study techniques as they begin the Leaving Certificate programme.

A Study Skills talk for parents entitled, "Study Skills and your Child" will be held on Wednesday 18th September at 6pm in the school. This talk is aimed at parents of 4th, 5th and 6th Year students. It is free of charge and all are invited to attend.

A Study Skills Seminar for 3rd and 2nd Year students will be held on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th October respectively given by Study Focus Ltd. These two hour talks will assist the students be more effective in the use of their valuable study time.

A Study Skills talk for parents of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year students will be held on Tuesday 8th October at 6pm in the school. It is also free of charge.

HIGHER OPTIONS

All 6th Year students will attend the Higher Options Conference in the RDS, Dublin on Wednesday 18th September. This event allows the students to meet with representatives of all Universities, Institutes of Technology, a large number of PLC colleges from around the country as well as colleges from Northern Ireland and the UK. The students can attend career talks on specific industry areas as well as general talks on the CAO and UCAS application systems.

UCAS APPLICANTS

Any 6th Year Student who is interested in making a UCAS application must go to TM1 on Thursday 19th September at 1.11pm for a very important meeting with Ms. Foley. Please bring all your research and the first draft of your personal statement with you as outlined in 5th Year.

Those students whose application must be accompanied by an aptitude test, e.g. UKCAT or BMAT are reminded to ensure they have registered for these before the relevant closing dates.

CAO HANDBOOKS 2014

The CAO Handbooks for 2014 have arrived and are currently being distributed to all 6th Year students during Careers class. The opening date for CAO 2014 application is Tuesday 5th November 2013.

GUEST SPEAKERS

The following guest speakers have been invited to speak with all 6th Year students.

- UCD – Tuesday 17th September at 10.12am in Concert Hall
- NUI Maynooth – Tuesday 24th September at 10.12am in Concert Hall
- DIT – Tuesday 8th October at 10.12am in Concert Hall

OPEN DAYS

The following Open Days will be taking place between now and Mid-Term Break:

- Kildalton Agricultural College – Friday 4th October
- NUI Galway – Saturday 5th October
- Carlow College – Thursday 10th October
- UCC – Saturday 12th October
- Mary Immaculate College, Limerick – Thursday 17th October and Friday 18th October
- Limerick IT - Thursday 17th October and Friday 18th October
- University of Limerick - Thursday 17th October and Friday 18th October
- Shannon College of Hotel Management – Friday 18th October
- Galway-Mayo IT – Saturday 19th October
- UCD Science Open Evening – Sunday 20th October
- National Maritime College of Ireland – Tuesday 22nd October
- IT Sligo – Thursday 24th October
- St. Angela's College, Sligo – Thursday 24th October.