

# DARE

Disability Access Route to Education

School Presentation  
**2023**

Would  
**YOU**  
like to  
go to  
college?

Where  
would  
**YOU**  
like to go?

How do  
**I**  
get there?

How do  
**I**  
apply?

Have you  
heard of  
**DARE?**

# Where can I go to college?

- ATU, Donegal
- ATU, Sligo
- St. Angela's College, Sligo.

- TUS, Athlone

- ATU, Galway
- University of Galway

- Mary Immaculate College
- University of Limerick
- TUS, Limerick

- MTU, Kerry campus

- SETU, Carlow and Wexford

- SETU, Waterford

- Dundalk Institute of Technology

- Maynooth University
- Pontifical University

- Dublin City University
- Institute of Art, Design & Technology, Dún Laoghaire
- Marino Institute of Education
- NCAD
- National College of Ireland
- RCSI
- Trinity College, Dublin
- TU Dublin
- University College Dublin

- MTU, Cork campus
- University College Cork

# Where can I go to college?

[www.accesscollege.ie/dare/participating-colleges/](http://www.accesscollege.ie/dare/participating-colleges/)



There is  
something for  
**YOU**  
in college.





Arts...  
Science...  
Business...  
Engineering...  
Health Sciences...  
Medicine...  
IT...



## **Clubs & Societies...**

Athletics.....Gaelic Football....

Mountaineering.....Drama....

Film....Dance...

**Volunteer...Make a difference.**

# What is DARE?

The **Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)** is a third level alternative admissions scheme for school-leavers whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education.

DARE offers reduced points places to school leavers who as a result of having a disability have experienced additional educational challenges in second level education.

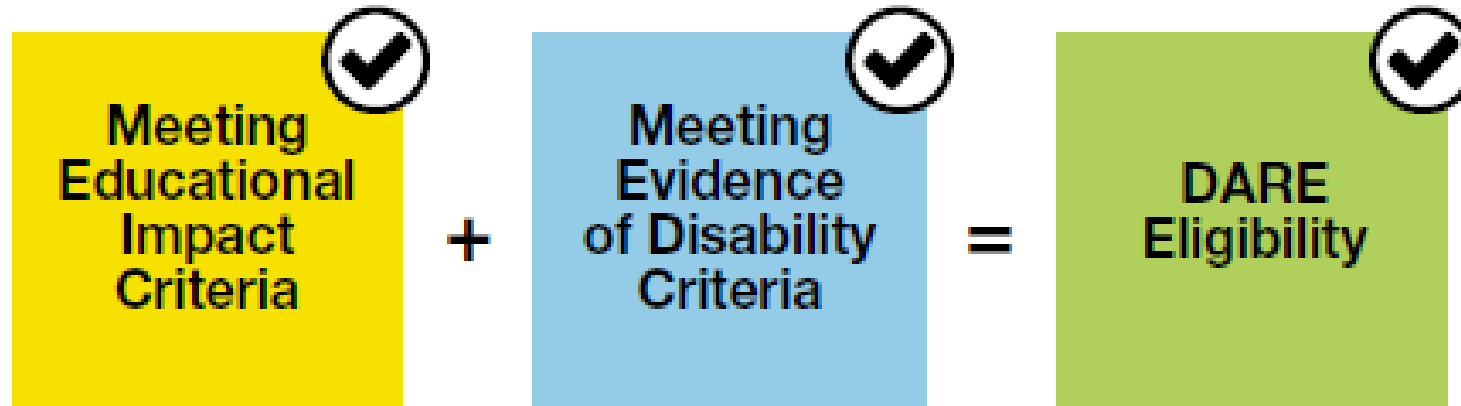
# Should I apply?

- If your disability has had a negative impact on your educational performance in school.
- You may not be able to meet the points for your preferred course due to the impact of your disability.
- You are under 23 years of age as at **1 January 2023**.

# Disabilities eligible for consideration

- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Asperger's Syndrome)
- ADD/ADHD
- Blind/Vision Impaired
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- DCD – Dyspraxia
- Dyslexia/Significant Literacy Difficulties
- Dyscalculia/Significant Numeracy Difficulties
- Mental Health Condition
- Neurological Condition (Incl. Brain Injury & Epilepsy)
- Physical Disability
- Speech & Language Communication Disorder
- Significant Ongoing Illness

# DARE Eligibility Criteria



- To be eligible for DARE you must meet **both** the DARE **educational impact** criteria and **DARE evidence of disability criteria**.

Applicants must provide the required evidence of their disability and provide an Educational Impact Statement from their school to be considered for DARE.

# Educational Impact

Has your disability impacted on a combination of the following?

1. Have you received **intervention or supports** in post-primary school?
2. Has it **impacted on your attendance** or regularly disrupted your school day?
3. Has it affected your **school experience and well-being**?
4. Has it impacted on **your learning or exam results**?
5. Has it caused any **other educational impact**?
6. Required for applicants with Dyslexia/Significant Literacy Difficulties or Dyscalculia/Significant Numeracy Difficulties: is it severely impacting on your **literacy or numeracy skills**?

# Benefits of DARE

## Reduced Points

- An example: If the Leaving Certificate points for a course are 366 points, an eligible DARE applicant could be offered a place with a lower points score e.g. 356 points.
- Applicants need to **meet entry** and **programme requirements** to be **considered for a DARE reduced points offer**.
- The amount of points a particular course is reduced by is dependent on:
  - The overall number of places on the course
  - The number of reserved DARE places on the course
  - The number of DARE eligible applicants competing for these reserved places.
- The reduction in points for DARE places can vary every year.



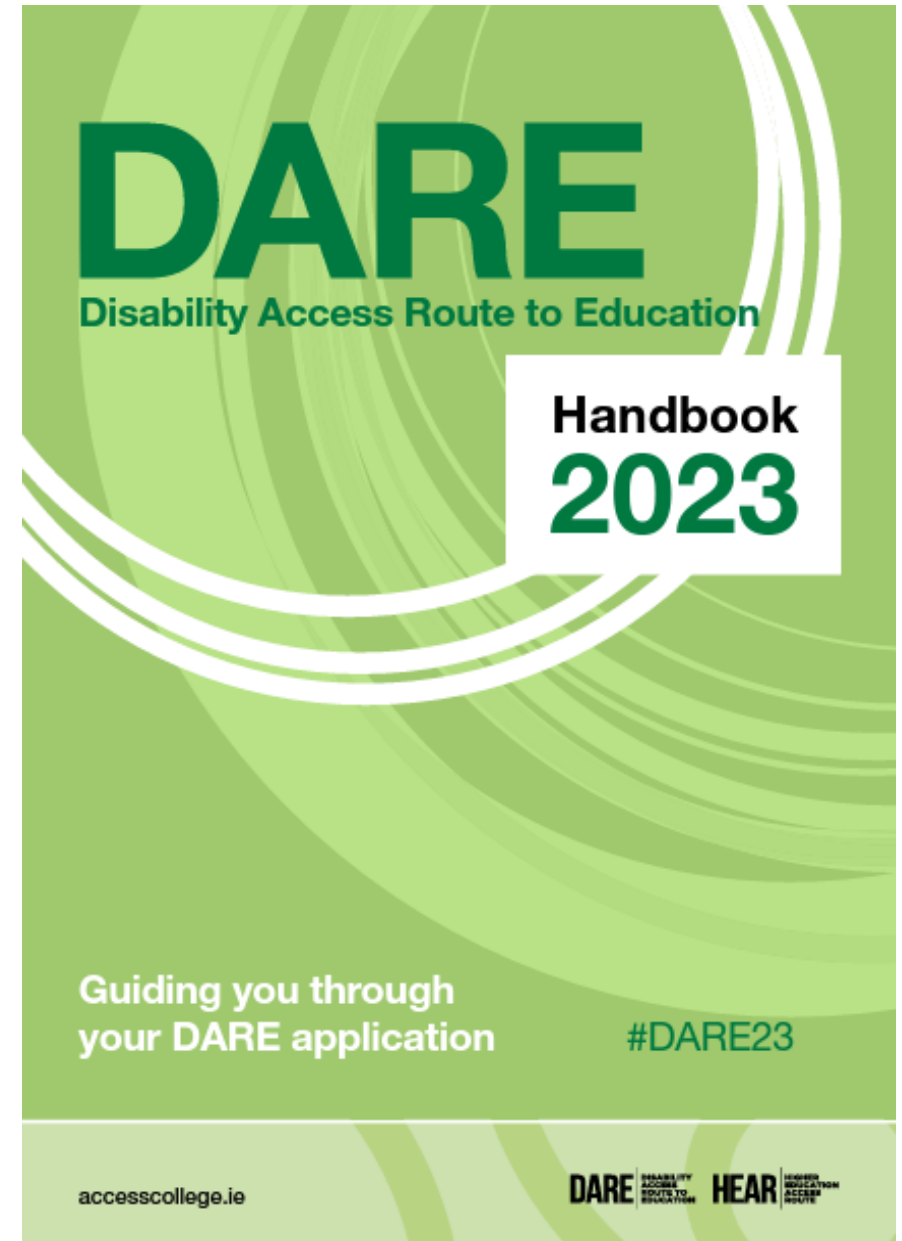
# Benefits of DARE

- Orientation Programmes
- Learning Support
- Assistive Technology
- Library Support
- Exam Accommodations
- Educational Support Worker
- Academic Tuition

- You don't have to be eligible for DARE to get support in college.
- A needs assessment is conducted to identify your specific support requirements.

# How do I apply?

1. Apply to CAO at [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) by **1 February 2023**.
2. Review your DARE Handbook with your parents or guardians.
3. Complete Section A of the Supplementary Info Form and apply to DARE by answering **Yes** to **Question 1** by **1 March 2023**.
4. You should start gathering your documentation in a timely fashion, i.e. before 15 February.
5. Submit the Educational Impact Statement and Evidence of Disability to CAO by **15 March 2023**.



# Supplementary Information Form (SIF)

## Section A: Applicant Information

- Completed by you by **17:00** on **1 March 2023**.
- Answer **Yes to Q1** to apply to DARE and fully complete Questions 1-5. **OR**
  - Answer Yes to Q1(b) to apply to carry forward your DARE eligibility.

## Section B: Educational Impact Statement

- Educational Impact Statement completed by your school. Send to CAO by **15 March 2023**.

## Section C: Evidence of a Disability

- Completed by the appropriate professional. Send to CAO by **15 March 2023**.

## Section D: School Statement

- Where applying under the Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties category, applicants who do not have a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia should submit **Section D**. Send to CAO by **15 March**.

# Section B: Educational Impact Statement

**Provides information on how your disability has impacted on your second level education.**

- Download form.
- Complete the Applicant Checklist with your school.
- Your school will complete the rest following on from your responses to the Applicant Checklist.

# Section B: Educational Impact Statement

This form needs to be completed by either your:

- Guidance Counsellor
- Learning Support Teacher
- Year Head
- Visiting Teacher or
- Principal/Deputy Principal
- The form **MUST BE** signed and stamped by school Principal/Deputy Principal.
- You must return to the CAO by **15 March 2023**.

# Section C: Evidence of Disability

**Provides verification of your disability and helps to determine 3rd level supports.**

- You can provide an **existing report** **OR**
- Complete Section C **Evidence of Disability Form 2023**.

Get the form **completed, signed** and **stamped** by the **appropriate professional** or accompanied by their **business card** or **headed paper**.

Applicants with **Dyslexia/Significant Literacy Difficulties** or **Dyscalculia/Significant Numeracy Difficulties** are asked to provide a **full psychological assessment** of any age completed by an appropriately qualified psychologist instead of the Section C Evidence of Disability form. Where applying under the Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties category, applicants who do not have a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia should submit Section D.

## **GP Verification**

Your GP may be in a position to complete Section C Evidence of Disability, if they have the appropriate information on file from the Consultant/Specialist.

# Section C: Evidence of Disability

## Age of Reports

It is important to note that applicants applying under the following disability categories must **provide a report that is less than 3 years old**, i.e. dated after **1 February 2020**.

- ADD/ADHD
- Mental Health Condition
- Significant Ongoing Illness



# Section C: Evidence of Disability

## Psychological Assessment

Applicants with **Dyslexia/Significant Literacy Difficulties** or **Dyscalculia/Significant Numeracy Difficulties** must provide a full **Psychological Assessment Report of any age** completed by a psychologist.

Where applying under the Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties category, applicants who do not have a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia should submit Section D: School Statement in support of their application.

## **AND**

Applicants with **Dyslexia/Significant Literacy Difficulties** **MUST** also have two literacy attainment scores at or below the 10th percentile (Standard Score of 81 or below).

**Applicants with Dyscalculia/Significant Numeracy Difficulties** **MUST** also have one numeracy attainment score at or below the 10th percentile (Standard Score of 81 or below).

# Section C: Evidence of Disability

## Continued.

These attainment scores can be from one (or a combination) of the following sources:

- 1) Scores from school-based attainment testing
- 2) Scores from attainment tests carried out by a psychologist.

Testing must have been carried out after **1 February 2021** and all applicants must submit an EIS completed by their school.

# Section C: Evidence of Disability

**Check out the information on providing evidence of your disability on**

[www.accesscollege.ie/dare/providing-evidence-of-your-disability](http://www.accesscollege.ie/dare/providing-evidence-of-your-disability)

# Section D: School Statement

**If you are applying under the Dyslexia / Significant Literacy Difficulties Category but you do NOT have a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia, then Submit section D: School Statement.**

**Ensure that this is signed and stamped by the appropriate staff at your school.**

<http://accesscollege.ie/dare/making-an-application/handbooks-forms/>

# Helpful Tips

- Study the DARE Handbook carefully with your parents / guardians.
- Select **Yes to Question 1 on the SIF** before **5pm on 1 March**.
- Ensure you speak to your Teacher early about the Educational Impact Statement.
  - Request the required supporting documentation early.
  - Send good quality copies of all pages of the correct documents.
  - Submit all supporting documents requested by **15 March**.
- Keep proof of postage.
- Deadlines!

# Common Mistakes that affect DARE Eligibility

- Where the Section C form (Evidence of Disability) is completed by GP **BUT** the required copy of report by appropriate professional confirming diagnosis was not provided.
- Reports out of date
- Reports not confirming diagnosis of condition by consultant
- Incorrect professional completing Section C/report
- Test details missing (for example the name of the test, date or who conducted the test)
- Forgetting to complete Question 1 of the Supplementary Information Form by 17:00 on 1 March

# Applying for a grant

DARE is **NOT**  
the SUSI grant.

If you apply to DARE ,  
you should also apply to SUSI  
if you think you may be eligible.



# SUSI: Key Eligibility Criteria



- **Nationality:** Irish, EU, EEA, Swiss nationals or have specific leave to remain in the State.
- **Residency:** 3 of last 5 years in Ireland, EU, EEA or Switzerland.
- **Progression** in education – NFQ levels 5-10.
- **Approved College/Course**
- **'Reckonable' Income** (Class - Dependent/Independent)

[www.susi.ie/undergraduate-income-threshold-and-grant-award-rates/](http://www.susi.ie/undergraduate-income-threshold-and-grant-award-rates/)

# SUSI: Key Eligibility Criteria



- **Check the website:** [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie)  
(Use Eligibility Reckoner)
- **CAO form:** Tick the SUSI option to share your college acceptance
- **Apply early:** April 2023
- **Return requested documentation:** complete and on time

**Contact SUSI**

- **Website:** [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie)
- **Email:** [support@susi.ie](mailto:support@susi.ie)
- **Facebook:** [facebook.com/susisupport](https://www.facebook.com/susisupport)
- **Twitter:** [twitter.com/susihelpdesk](https://twitter.com/susihelpdesk)
- **Telephone helpdesk:** 0818 888 777

# DARE and HEAR Timelines

<b>DARE &amp; HEAR closing date</b>	○	<b>1 March 2023 at 17:00</b>
Supporting documents closing date	○	15 March 2023
Notification of eligibility	○	Late June 2023
Review and Appeals Application	○	Early July 2023
HEAR/DARE offers	○	August 2023
College Orientation	○	Late Aug /Early Sept 2023

# Remember



Submit it!



Check it!



Send it!

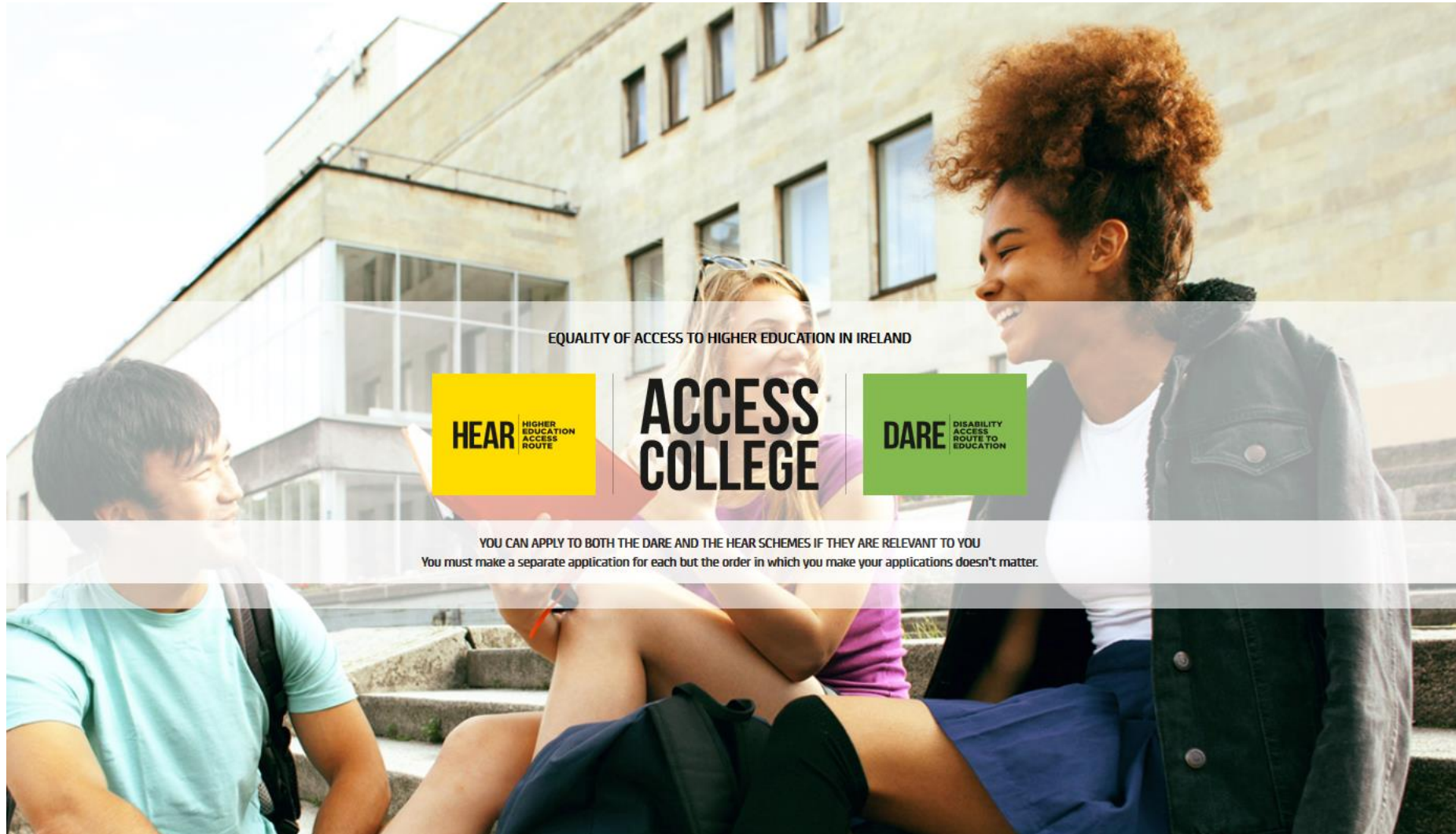
# Remember

**You can apply to both**

# **DARE & HEAR**

Applicants who are both DARE and HEAR eligible will be prioritised by colleges when allocating reduced points places.

# Further Information: [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)



# Virtual Application Information Days

Saturday

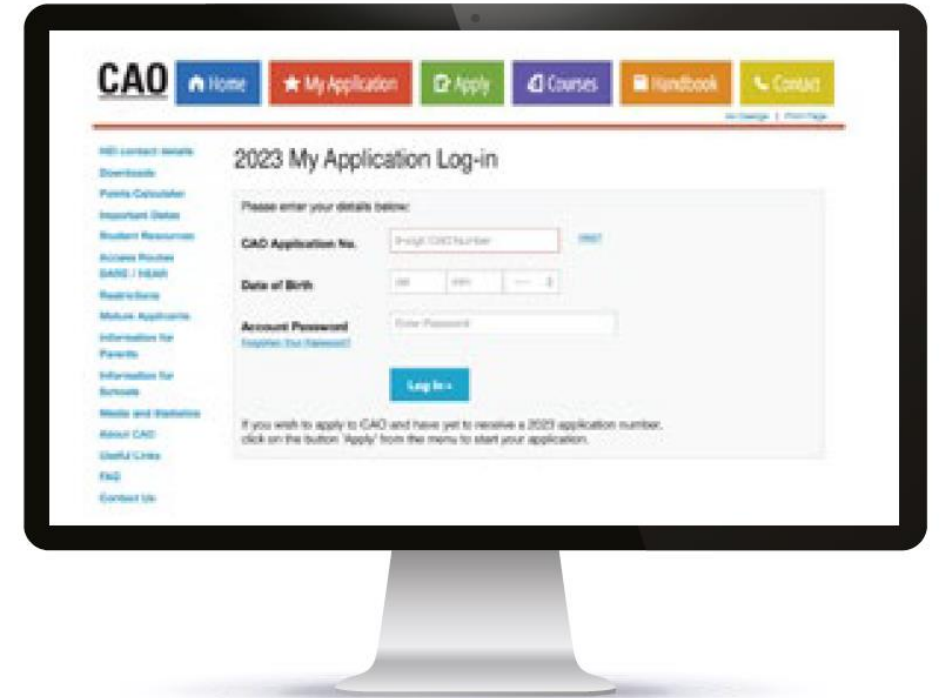
**14 January  
2023**

10am -2pm

# DARE Application Outcome

You will receive an **email notification** about your DARE application outcome once the Leaving Certificate examinations are over **in late June.**

Log into your CAO application to view your **DARE Application Outcome.**





# Further Information



cao.ie



susi.ie



qualifax.ie

Follow us on....

[www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)