

Undergraduate Applicants

Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)

The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) is a supplementary admissions scheme for school leavers with disabilities which operates on a reduced points basis. DARE has been established by a number of higher education institutions as clear evidence shows that disability can have a negative impact on educational attainment at school and progression to higher education. The following HEI's are part of the DARE process:

- Athlone Institute of Technology
- Dublin City University
- Dublin Institute of Technology
- Mater Dei Institute of Education
- National College of Ireland
- NUI Galway
- NUI Maynooth
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Dublin
- University College Cork
- University of Limerick

The following disabilities are eligible for consideration under DARE:

| |
|---|
| Asperger's Syndrome / Autism |
| ADD/ADHD |
| Blind/Vision Impaired |
| Deaf/Hearing Impaired |
| Dyspraxia |
| Mental Health Condition |
| Neurological Conditions (incl. Brain Injury, Speech and Language Disabilities) |
| Ongoing Medical Condition |
| Physical Disability |
| Specific Learning Difficulty (incl. Dyslexia) |
| Other Disabilities |

What criteria must applicants to DARE satisfy to obtain a DCU place?

- A completed CAO Supplementary Information form is returned to the CAO
- Specific disability documentation provided is deemed acceptable. See *guidelines* www.accesscollege.ie*
- Applicants are deemed eligible for supplementary admissions based on established criteria. See www.accesscollege.ie*
- Applicants must achieve the University's general entry requirements (Grade C3 in two higher level subjects and Grade D3 in four ordinary or higher level subjects including Maths and English or Irish) and any relevant specific programme requirements.
- Applicants must also meet any specific point's threshold set by individual Faculties.
- It should be noted that applicants cannot always be guaranteed entry at this level for programmes in high demand.
- A number of course places are available – up to, but not exceeding 5% of individual programme places – for DARE applicants. Where demand for places exceeds the number of places available, places are awarded on merit.

School leavers who wish to be considered for DARE must apply via the Central Applications Office (CAO) by 1 February 2010, indicating their wish to be considered for DARE. Applicants will be asked to complete a supplementary information form, which requests additional information on the applicant's disability and/or specific learning difficulty. All applicants to Supplementary Admissions Route must complete this part of the application *online* at www.cao.ie **as part of the CAO application process.**

Closing Dates:

This Supplementary Admissions Route for Applicants with a

Disability requires a significant degree of processing on the part of the CAO and the participating higher education institutions. In order to allow adequate time for the completion of this work the following closing dates apply:

By 1 February 2010: Complete all elements of online Supplementary Admissions Route application as part of the CAO application process

By 1 April 2010: Submit relevant evidence related to the disability or specific learning difficulty to the CAO
Further information on the Supplementary Admissions Route is available from your school Guidance Counsellor or DCU, Disability and Learning Support Service.

Information can also be found on:

*www.accesscollege.ie (coming soon)