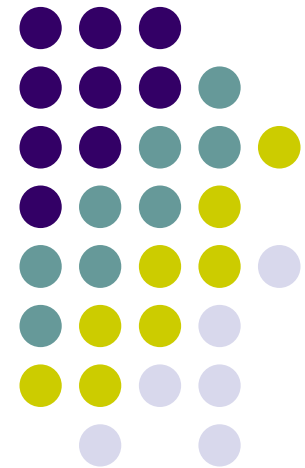


Parents Presentation

Nov 2014


Mary Lynch





Content

- ❖ **What to consider?**
- ❖ **UCAS**
- ❖ **CAO**
- ❖ **Attendance statistics**
- ❖ **Support**



‘While the economy cannot be ignored students are always encouraged to follow a third- level and career path that suits their abilities’ – Mc Grath

It is highly competitive. Employers are looking for individuals that are brighter, ambitious and have a proven track record.

(Mark Byrne, IT Manager at Brightwater Recruitment Agency)

Despite the difficulties in the job market, Byrne and Mc Grath agree that a third-level qualification is crucial for job seekers. It’s almost a standard say’s Byrne.....

It shows an aptitude for learning and dedication.

Even if you do get a role straight out of school there’s a marked difference in salary in the long term.

The Sunday Times – 20-09-2009 –
Supplement – University Guide 2010

Employers View of 3rd Level Qualifications



- **Self-motivated - work on one's own initiative**
- **Responsibility**
- **Ability to meet deadlines**
- **Ability to source information / check details**
- **Prioritise what requires immediate attention**
- **The era of on-going learning / training....**

Self-directed learning!



Who are you?

How do you learn?

What are your
strengths?

Ideas?

Research?

Attention to detail?

Facts?

Mathematics?

Problem Solving?

Practical?

Humanities/Arts – Reading / Essay Writing



Psychology

**Greek & Roman
Civilisation**

Philosophy

English

Sociology

History

Anthropology

Geography



Medieval Irish & Celtic Studies

Factual / Technical



Mathematical Studies

Music

Economics

Mathematical
Physics



Law

Business

Accounting

Computer
Science

Finance

Engineering



Languages / Literature



Greek
Latin

Nua Ghaeilge

French (HC3)



German

Spanish

Chinese Studies

What is the role of UCAS?



- **UCAS is the central organisation through which applications are processed for entry to full-time higher education courses in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland**





Why consider UCAS?

- More choices available in certain subject areas that may be limited in Ireland e.g. OT, Physiotherapy
- Don't have honours Irish, an entry requirement for primary school teaching in Ireland
- Subject areas that have had a tradition of high points in Ireland e.g. medicine, physiotherapy, dietetics
- And other



When considering UCAS?

- A lot of courses will require an interview at the university. Will you travel to that interview?
- Sterling exchange
- Scotland, England, Wales, overseas, further to travel,
- How accessible are these universities to Ireland?
- Is the qualification you earn recognised here? E.g. Does the Teaching Council recognise your degree for teaching purposes here?

Commitment



The UCAS system takes a lot of time and commitment on the student's behalf.

UCAS applications in St. Clare's 2010

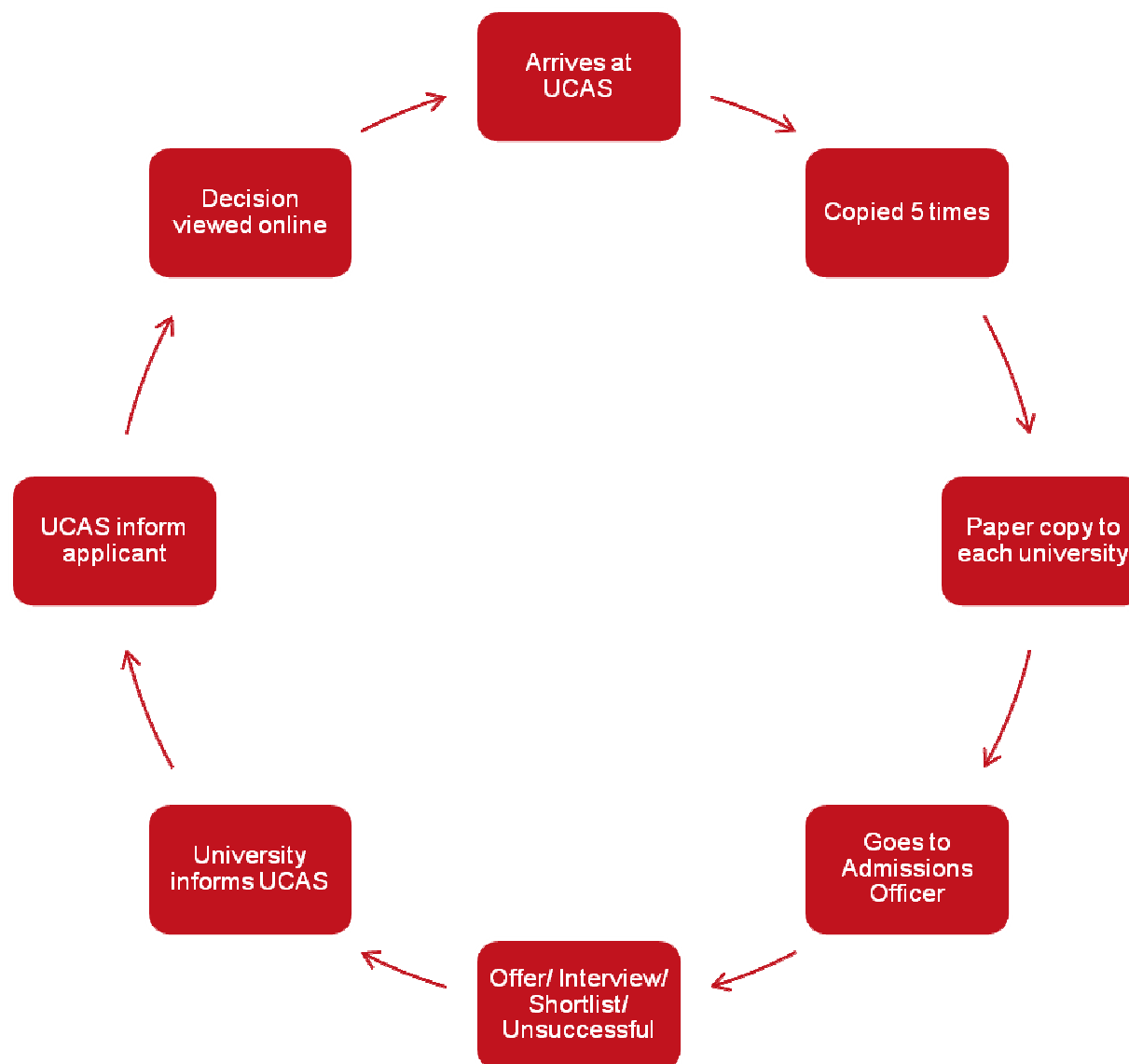
- 44 originally initiated an application
- 26 completed the application process
- 9 offered places.

2013 Applications

- 30 initiated an application
- 22 completed the application process
- 2 Accepted places



What happens to the form?





Processing Applications

- **Applications are forwarded by UCAS to the 5 Colleges for processing/consideration**
- **Students may receive offers usually conditional on achieving specific Leaving Cert. results**
- **One Firm Acceptance and one Insurance Acceptance must be selected**

Track/Extra/Clearing/Adjustment



- **Students may follow their application on Track system which is available on UCAS**
- **UCAS Extra Where a student has not received any offer they may apply through UCAS Extra for further colleges without having to wait for clearing**
- **Clearing System used to fill programmes that still have vacancies**
- **Adjustment where students may have achieved higher grades than expected. They have a limited amount of time to research another course requiring higher qualifications**

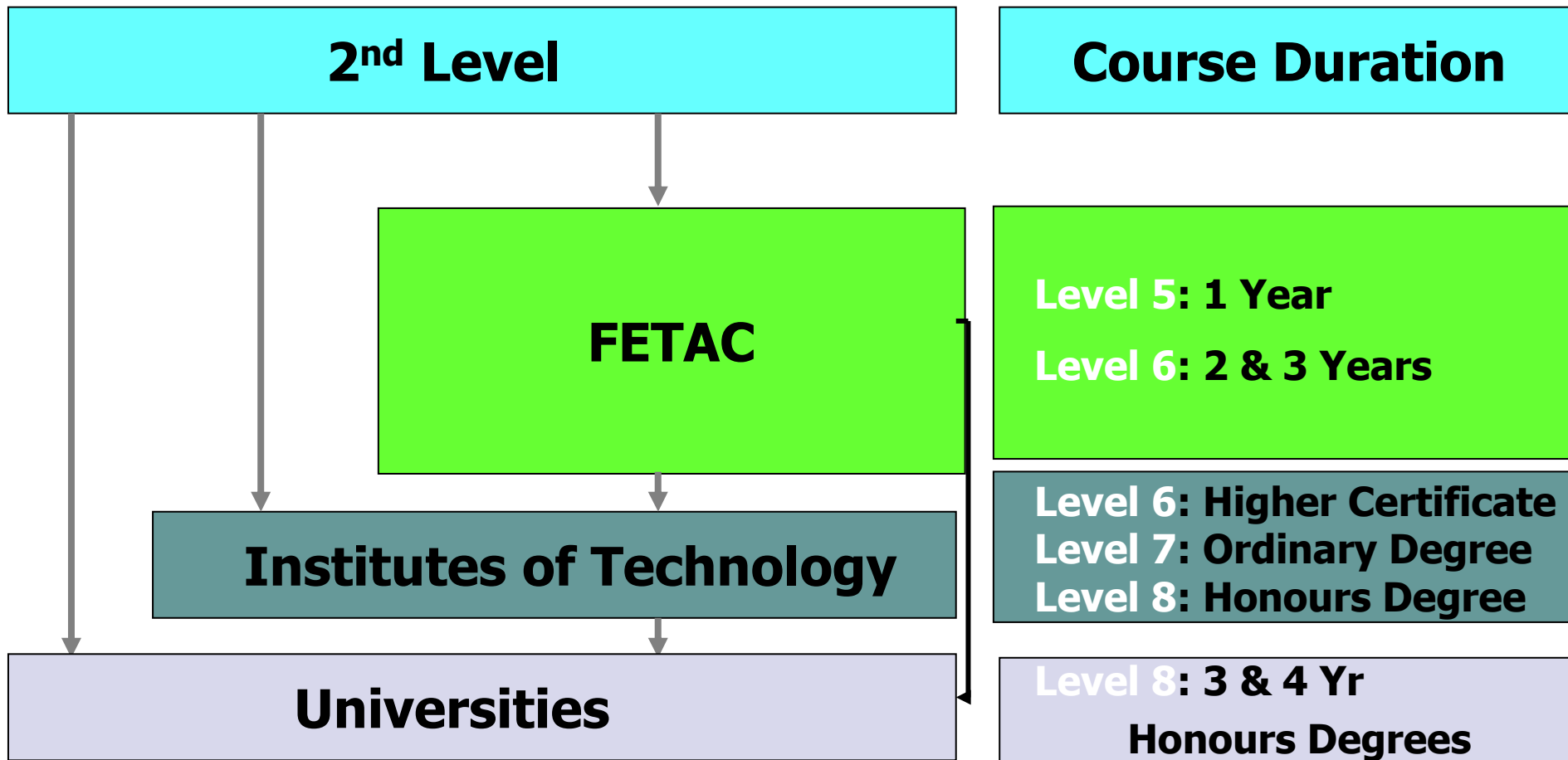
CAO



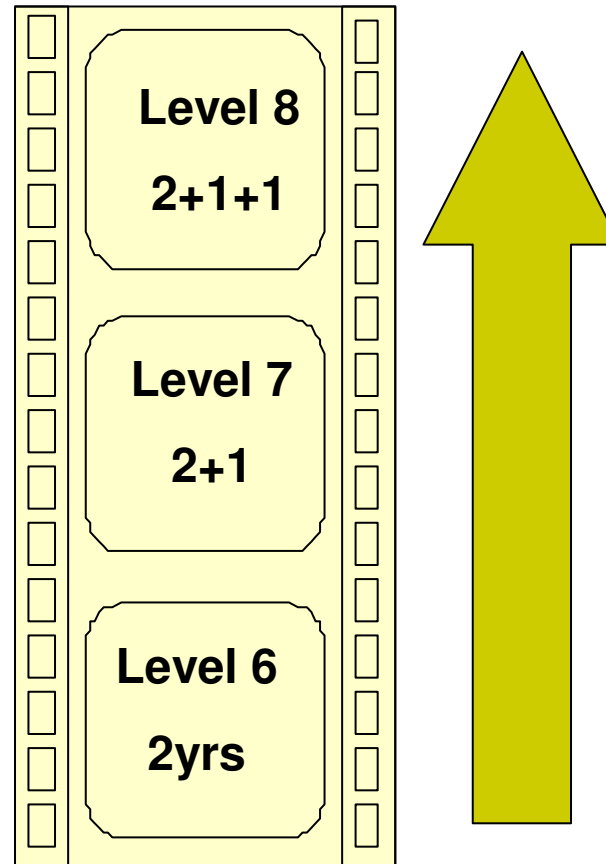
Central Application Office

- 14 Institutes of Technology
- 7 Universities
- Teacher Training Colleges
- Private Colleges

3rd Level in Ireland



Ladder System





The 5 Selection Criteria

- Age 17 on year of Entry
- EU citizen
- Institution Requirements

Level 6/7 = 5 subject leaving Cert

Level 8= 6 subject Leaving Cert 2HC+4OD3

And Other

- Faculty Requirements

Specific subjects at specific grades

- Points (final selection criteria)

Points Chart



% in LC	Grade	H Level	H Math	O Level
90-100	A1	100	125	60
85-89	A2	90	115	50
80-84	B1	85	110	45
75-79	B2	80	105	40
70-74	B3	75	100	35
65-69	C1	70	95	30
60-64	C2	65	90	25
55-59	C3	60	85	20
50-54	D1	55	80	15
45-49	D2	50	75	10
40-44	D3	45	70	5
25-39	E	-	-	-
10-24	F	-	-	-
0-9	No grade	-	-	-



LCVP link modules

% Obtained	Grade	Points
80-100	Distinction	70
65-79	Merit	50
50-64	Pass	30



Example

Subject	Level/Grade	Points	Best six
Irish	OB2	40	
English	OB2	40	40
Maths	HC1	95	95
French	OC2	25	
Biology	HA2	90	90
Construction	HA1	100	100
History	HB2	80	80
LCVP	Merit	50	50
			455

CAO Application



- **2 lists of 10 choices**
- **Level 8 and Level 6/7**
- **Restricted Application courses**
- **Strict order of preference**
- **Study ALL preferences carefully**

Choices



- 10 level 8
- 10 level 6/7
- What you most want first?
- Try to full as many choices as possible.
- “Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.”
- All choices should not be reliant on one thing in the Leaving Cert.
- Aim high but have a back up plan
- Check all details – recognised by professional bodies, exam exemptions for further study etc....

Genuine order of preference



- WHAT YOU MUST WANT FIRST
- You will get offered the course highest on your list that you have enough points for in both the Level 8 and the level 6/7
- You keep one OR not
- If you have not been offered your first choice in round one whether you accept or reject your offer should you become eligible for one of your higher up choice you will still be offered it. You can then decide if you want to keep your original offer or take your new one.



Offers - Example

Jane's Leaving Cert results = 480 points/best six

English	HB1	85
Irish	OC2	25
Maths	HB3	100
History	HA2	90
Biology	HB3	75
French	OB3	35
Home Economics	HB2	80
LCVP	Merit	50



Points for Jane's Courses

Level 8	
DC200	490
DC195	485
DT025	480
DN077	460
DN078	480
GY401	320
GY405	315
GY413	300
LM073	480

Points for Jane's Courses

What she will get offered



Level 8
DC200
DC195
DT025
DN077
DN078
GY401
GY405
GY413
LM073

Jane may be offered either of these if the points drop in round 2

490
485
480 **Offer**

460
480
320
315
300
gone

480

The same system operates for Jane's level 6/7 choices. She gets the two offers but can only accept one. By accepting one she automatically loses the other.

Whether she accepts or rejects either offer if she becomes eligible for a higher up choice she will be offered it. She can then decide to accept the second offer or keep the first she was offered.

Important Dates



- 5th Nov On-line application process opens
- 20th Jan discounted closing
- 31st Jan closing date for free change of course choices
- 1st Feb application closing date
- Mar/April tests, interviews portfolios etc for restricted courses
- 5th May online change of mind available
- 1st July CAO closes



HEAR/DARE/HPAT

- HEAR The Higher Education Access Route
This is a third level admissions scheme for school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds
- DARE Disability Access Route to Education
This is an access route for students who have a disability/specific learning difficulty
- HPAT Health Professionals Aptitude Test
- Must be sat by anyone considering a career in medicine
- Registration Oct/Nov Testing Feb
- Register early on HPAT Website and order practice test
- **CHECK DEADLINES AND DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE IF APPLICABLE TO YOU**

Statement of Application Record

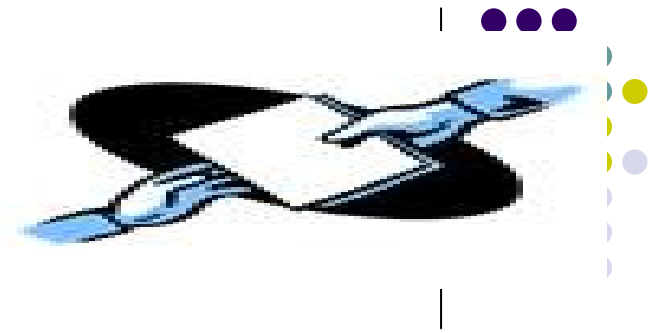


- You will be sent this as a final acknowledgement and to verify that all information has been recorded accurately.

(Have you an official exemption from Irish and have they a record of this)

**IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THIS BY 1ST JUNE
CONTACT TO CAO IMMEDIATELY!**

Offer of places



- Round 1 One week after LC (18th Aug)
- Round 2 late Aug/early Sept (25th Aug approx)
- After offers will be issued as necessary to fill remaining places
- Regardless if you accept or reject a round one offer if you become eligible for a higher up offer you will be made an offer.
- You may get the chance to receive a higher up course than your first offer but you will never receive an offer on a lower course choice



Deferred Entry

- This can only be dealt with by the institution involved.

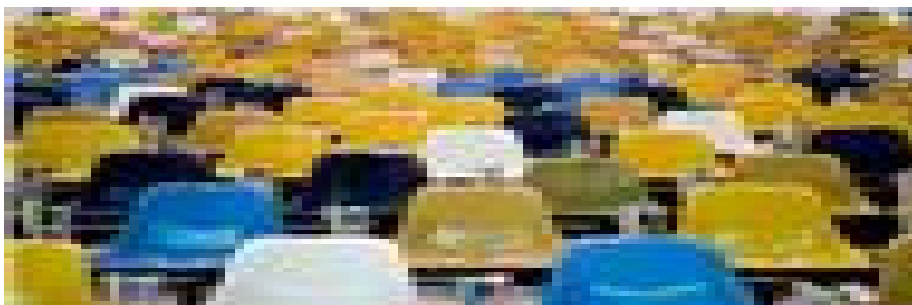
Procedure

- Confirm that the HEI operates deferred entry
- On receipt of an offer notice **Do not accept in the usual way**
- Write/email **IMMEDIATELY** the Admissions office stating the reasons for deferral
- Mark “**DEFERRED ENTRY**” clearly on the envelope
- Attach your offer notice to the letter
- This must arrive in the admissions office **at least two days before the reply date**
- The HEI will communicate the decision to you
- **Deferrals are dealt with by the Admissions Office NOT CAO**



Vacant Places

- Advertised on www.cao.ie under the heading Available/Vacant Places
- These are courses that have not been filled through the round of offers



Random Number



- Is only used when a number of applicants with the exact seem points are competing for the last few places on a course
- The applicants with the highest Random number will be offered the places.
- It is very rarely used!



Features

- **Deadline**
- Number of choices
- **Other information required**
- Tests
- **Offer based on**
- Offer made by
- **Offer received**
- Decision made
- **Structure**

UCAS

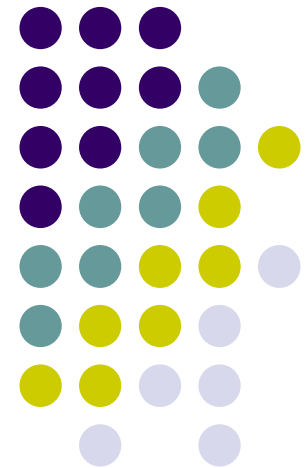
- **15 Oct/15 Jan**
- 5 reduced to 2
- **Personal statement/Reference**
- UKCAT/LNET
- **Expected grades**
- Admissions Officer
- **Jan – May**
- May
- **Flexible**
- **Rewards loyalty**
- **Will accept dropped grades for many subjects**

CAO

- **01 Feb**
- 20 (10+10)
- **Personal Contact Details Only**
- HPAT
- **Points achieved**
- Computer
- **August**
- August
- **Set**

Post Leaving Certificate Courses (PLC's) FETAC AWARDS now QQI

An option other than CAO/UCAS
or Repeating the LC.



PLC's



PLC's courses offer an alternative route to a third level qualification. PLC courses are available through Further Education Centres nationwide. They meet the needs of a large amount of Leaving Certificate students who are not catered for within the CAO system.



Why?

May be considered for the following reasons:

- Students who are more practical than academic
- Students who don't want to commit themselves to $\frac{3}{4}$ years of third level study
- Students who want to improve their skills in preparation for further study e.g portfolio preparation pre-engineering
- Students who can only find the course they want within the PLC system.
- Students who wish to confirm that this is the area of study they wish to pursue.

Progression to Higher Level -1



Courses lead to a FETAC Level 5 award and in some cases you can progress within this award via The Higher Education Links Scheme to a third level course.

3.333 points for a Distinction

2.222 points for a Merit

1.222 point for a Pass

The best 8 components are scored and applicants are ranked accordingly. To a maximum of 120 credits or 400 points

Progression to third level - 2



Most Higher Level course places are open to FETAC applicants along with Leaving Certificate applicants.

The scoring system enables a FETAC certificate holder to achieve up to a maximum of 400 points

Maximum Credit Value = 120credits or 400 points

120 credits = 7 Distinctions = 45 = $360 \times 10 \div 9 = 400\text{pts}$

Note: Applicants are advised at all times to confirm linked awards, any additional module requirements, application processes and scoring systems with the Admission Offices of the participating higher education institutions or visit www.cao.ie

Courses may have pre-requisite FETAC component or certificate requirements.



Application

- Application forms are available on-line
- Application should be made as early as possible in the new year.
- Further applications can be made in August but places in the more popular courses tend to be filled.
- Application forms take less than 10 minutes to fill out.
- There may be an application fee.
- Interviews are normally held in May or after the Leaving Cert.



Learning Style

- Continuous assessment as well as final exams.
- Usually a work experience module
- Tutors who teach also mark assessments and set and correct exams under the guidance of FETAC.



Information

- www.cao.ie
- www.ucas.com
- www.qualifax.ie
- www.careersportal.ie
- www.studentfinance.ie
- www.accesscollege.ie
- All 3rd level institutions have a website

**All these
websites can
be accessed
through the
careers section
of the school's
website**

Attendance Statistics and Points



Points	Average days Absent	Equivalent in school weeks
>500	7.5	1.5 weeks
>400	11.7	2.3 weeks
>300	17.3	3.4 weeks
>200	26.4	5.2 weeks
>100	40	8 weeks
<100	116	23.2 weeks



What you can do

- Ensure your child is ready for school
- Good night's sleep
- Healthy Diet
- Monitor their study habits
- Help them manage their time effectively
- Support the school's initiatives that are put in place so that all student's can reach their potential.

Concerns



**Make contact with the
school**

**THANKS FOR
LISTENING!**



Any Questions?

