



Coláiste Éinde

CAO Information

December 2020

If you have any queries, please email:

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This presentation will cover:

- CAO Application
- HEAR & DARE
- SUSI Grants
- Post Leaving Certificate Courses
- Apprenticeships
- Other non-CAO options



CAO – General Information

The CAO is the centralised application system for Irish 3rd level institutions, including **fee-paying** colleges.

Every student has received a 2021 CAO Handbook – contains application and course information



It is most important that applicants:

- Make Informed Decisions
- Thoroughly Research Courses
- Be familiar with all aspects of the CAO application system:

Procedures, instructions, dates, fees, etc.

We strongly advise having a back-up plan



The Students Responsibility

- It is the student's choice and responsibility to apply to the CAO
- To thoroughly research and consider all modules & options taught on a course
- **Check the course and faculty Entry Requirements**

Useful Resources

To assist with course research / application



Publications

CAO Handbook 2021

College Prospectuses – 2021 Entry

Newspapers

The Irish Times

- Tuesdays - Education Section
- Early January Special College Supplement

The Independent

- Careers Articles

Useful Online Sites for Research:

- Qualifax – www.qualifax.ie Irish courses database
- CAO – www.cao.ie Contains links to course websites
- Careers Portal – www.careersportal.ie
- College websites (Addresses in CAO Handbook)

People:

- Relatives
- Past pupils
- Admissions/Academic staff of colleges,
- Virtual Open days

Guidance Counsellor:

- Guidance Interviews –all students have had a careers talk with one of the Guidance Counsellors in school

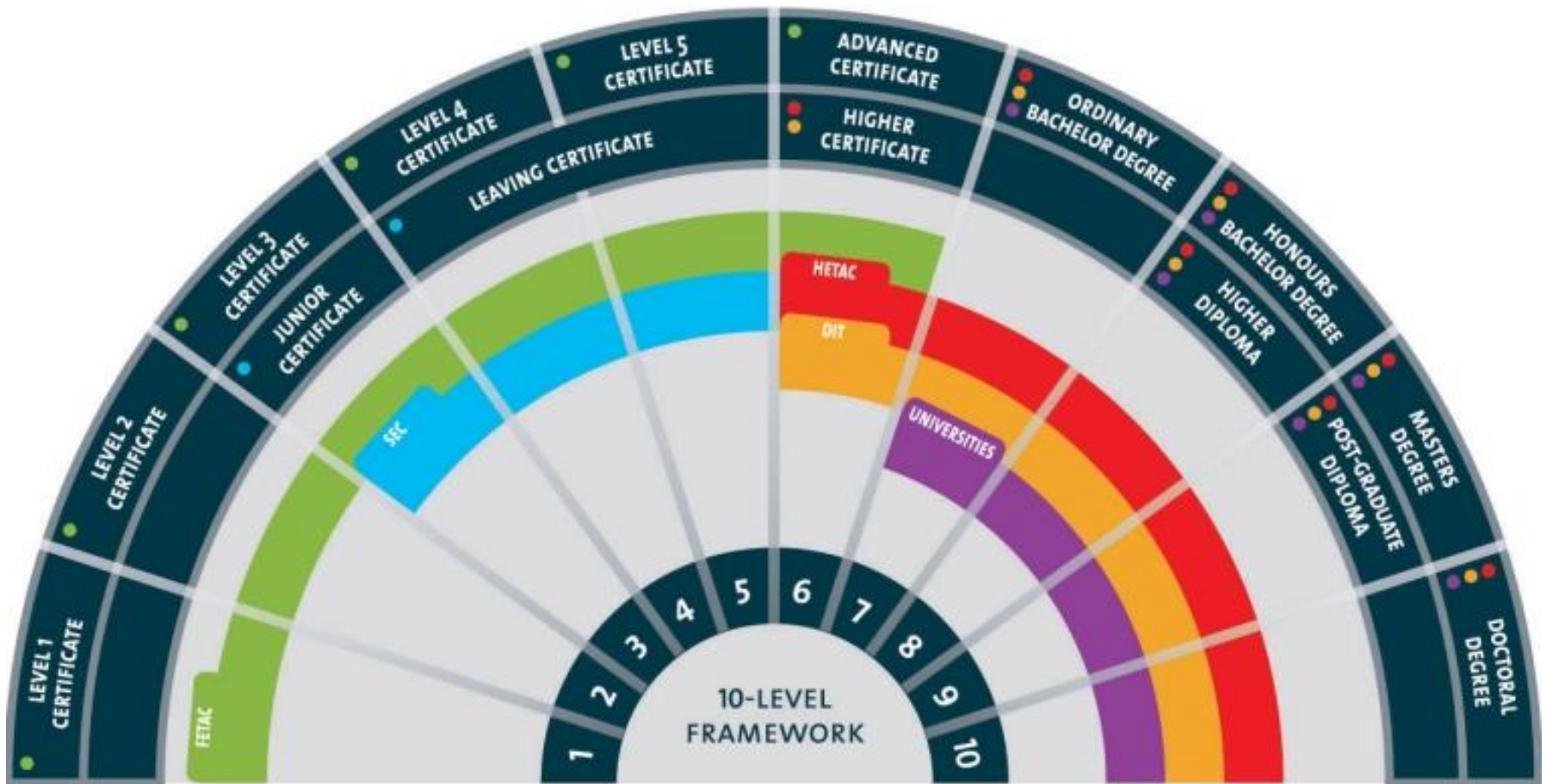
Application Dates and Fees CAO 2021

CAO opened for applications on 5th November 2020

ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE	FEE	CLOSING DATES
Normal Application	€45	1 st Feb 2021 (17:15)
Online Discounted Rate	€30	20 th Jan 2021(17:15)
Late online application	€60	1 st May 2021 (17:15)
Exceptional online late application	€60	1 st May 2021 (17:15)
Change of Mind (opens 5 th May 2021)	Nil	1 st July 2021 (17:15)

CAO – General Information

Since 2005 there are now 3 types of CAO courses students can apply for under the National Framework of Qualifications



Explanation of the levels in NFQ



- Level 3 –Junior Certificate
- Level 5 –Leaving Certificate or PLC (Post Leaving Cert Colleges) courses
- Level 6 - PLC, Apprenticeship, Higher Certificate (in IT *colleges)
- Level 7 –Ordinary Degree (in IT* colleges)
- Level 8 – Honours Degree (Available in IT* colleges & Universities)

*ITs – Institutes of Technology

CAO Choices

There are 3 levels of courses to choose for CAO

Higher Certificates (6) I.T.'s
Ordinary Degrees (7) I.T.'s

Up to 10 Course Choices

Honours Degrees (8)
University & I.T.'s

Up to 10 Course Choices

The courses are clearly labelled in the CAO Handbook

**N.B. – Care must be taken with courses marked
“Restricted”**



Restricted Entry Courses

Some courses have interviews/Aptitude tests/ Portfolio/ Auditions

Medicine – HPAT test (separate application)

These courses are called “Restricted Entry”

Application must be made to CAO by the 1st
February 2021

Details of all restricted entry courses are in
CAO Handbook



CAO - 2 Applications in 1

- There are 2 course choice lists (Level 8 and Level 7/6) on the CAO form.
- Applicants may make up to 10 course choices on each list
- Your choices on one list do not in any way affect your choices on the other list.
- They may be considered as two separate applications on one form.
- It is possible to receive an offer on both lists. You may accept only ONE offer from either your Level 7/6 or your Level 8 offer.
- Alternatively, you might not wish to accept either offer.



Steps in the CAO Application

Go to www.cao.ie and click “Apply”. Fill in:

1. Personal Details
2. Qualifications
3. Online Payment
4. CAO number is given after payment. Keep it safe!!
5. Log in to account again using CAO number
6. Enter School details
7. Enter course choices
8. Summary of choices available



Important Information on CAO form

1. Tick box to state Irish Leaving Certificate 2021
2. Tick box for SUSI grant application, if eligible
3. Tick box for HEAR/DARE, if eligible

Applying for Courses




**Students should fill out both course lists in
GENUINE ORDER OF PREFERENCE**

The course an applicant would most like to do should be put down as number one on the list.

The course they would next like to do should be put down number 2, etc.

They should not put down courses on the basis of their predictions of next years cut-off points or their own points scores.

POINTS SYSTEM

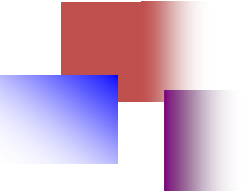


A selection system is needed to match the no. of qualified applicants to the no. of course places

Selection system used in Irish 3rd Level Colleges is the **POINTS SYSTEM**

- The points are calculated from ONE sitting of the Leaving Certificate
- Points total is calculated from **SIX** best subjects
- Entry Requirements can be satisfied over more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate
- Bonus points are awarded for Honours Mathematics 25 points extra at every level from H6 to H1.

Leaving Certificate Points System



Higher Level Grade	Points	Ordinary Level Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0



CAO Points Calculator

This is a link to the CAO points calculator which students can use to work out their CAO points:

http://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=points_calc&bb=studentresources



3 Criteria for CAO

In order for CAO to offer a place on a course, 3 criteria must be fulfilled:

1. The student must meet the **Minimum Entry Requirement** of the course (this differs between colleges)
2. The student must meet the **Specific Entry Requirements** of a course
3. The students must have attained enough **Points** for the course



Level 6 & 7 Minimum Entry Requirements

- Passes in 5 subjects (O6 or H7) for most level 6 & level 7 courses including Irish **OR** English **AND** Maths
 - F2/O6/H7 in Maths is accepted
- some colleges e.g. GMIT require Minimum 140 points
- Level 6 & 7 courses are Institute of Technology courses
 - Ladder System in I.T.'s – you can start at level 6 and work up to level 8



Level 8 Minimum Entry Requirements

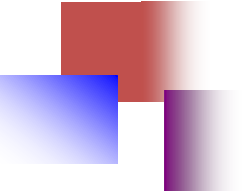
- Six subjects of which : 2 H5 or Higher and 4 O6/H7
- Different entry requirements for different colleges
- NUI Colleges (UCD, UCC, NUIM , NUIG,RCSI and St Angela's Sligo) have a 3rd language requirement (e.g. French or German)

N.B. Some exceptions on language for Science, Engineering and Agricultural Science Courses.

- All University courses & some I.T. courses are level 8

Specific Entry Requirements

- Check College websites for details



Pharmacy in
UCC & TCD

- H4 in Chemistry & a
second Science Subject

Primary School Teaching -
Physiotherapy in
Trinity College

H4 in Gaeilge
- H4 in two science
subjects

Human Nutrition &
Dietetics in (TU)

-
H4 in Chemistry

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

must be satisfied **before** points are considered.

1. Minimum Entry Requirements:

eg. NUIG

At least 2 H5 & 4 O6/H7 with
Passes in:

- ✓ Irish
- ✓ English
- ✓ Another Language*
- ✓ Mathematics*
- ✓ Science Subject*

* Not for all courses

2. Specific Subject Requirements:

a) Engineering (NUIG)
- H4 Maths

b) Veterinary
Medicine (UCD)
- H5 Chemistry

c) Commerce International
French (NUIG) - H3 French

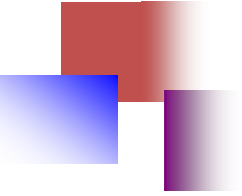
**If all Entry Requirements are met → applicant is deemed
'Qualified' to apply.**

CAO CHOICES

All course codes on CAO handbook 2021
Here's an example of a student's choices:

	Level 8		Level 6/7
1	GY 201	1	GA 170
2	GA 182	2	LC 230
3	TR 060	3	GA 176
4	GY 204	4	GA 174
5	CM 001	5	GA 172
6	LM 044	6	GA 173
7	GY 101	7	TU 651
8	GY 103	8	GA 160
9	DL 822	9	LY 408
10	GA 185	10	GA 375

After Applying

- 
- Students receive CAO number after payment
 - Students receive Statement of Course Choices by end of May 2021
 - Some students called for extra assessments.
 - Change of Mind facility from 4th May until 1st July 2020
 - August 2021, Leaving Cert. Results are sent to CAO.
 - Places are allocated and offered by post & online.
 - Students accept, reject or defer offered places.
 - Further rounds of offers are made until all course places are filled.



Place Allocation

- When Leaving Cert examination results are released they are entered into the CAO computer.
- The computer checks each applicant's results.
- For each course the applicant has applied for, the computer first determines if the applicant has the minimum entry requirements for the course.



Place Allocation

- If the applicant meets the minimum entry requirements for the course, the applicant's points are calculated for this course choice
- All eligible applicants are then placed on a list, in order of academic merit, for each course that they applied for
- **Minimum Entry Requirements + Points Score = Position on Order of Merit List**



Place Allocation

- The admissions officers of the Higher Education Institutions(Universities & IT's) tell CAO how many places are to be offered on each course.
- CAO then makes offers to the required number of applicants on each course, starting with the applicant with the highest points and working down until enough places have been offered

Science – NUIG
100 places to be offered

Applicant Position	Points Score
1	560
2	535
3	525
4	520
5	510
6	509
7	505
8	499
9	490
--	--
--	--
15	455
16	445
17	440
18	435
19	420
20	410
21	403
--	--
--	--
98	340
99	335
100	330
101	325
102	315
103	310
104	305
105	295
--	--
--	--
182	265

**Allocation
of Places**

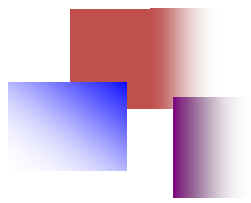
**Course
Merit
Lists**

← Last
place to
be filled

Science – Maynooth
100 places to be offered

Applicant Position	Points Score
1	560
2	535
3	525
4	520
5	511
6	510
7	504
8	500
9	490
--	--
--	--
15	455
16	447
17	440
18	435
19	420
20	411
21	405
--	--
--	--
98	345
99	340
100	335
101	335
102	335
103	315
104	310
105	305
--	--
--	--
182	265

← Random
Selection to
be used



Place Allocation

- Should some applicants decline to accept their offers these places become available in the next round of offers.
- They will be offered to the next applicants on the Order of Merit list. This process continues until all of the places on the course are filled or until all of the eligible applicants on the Order of Merit list have been offered places.



Random Selection Entry

- If two or more candidates on the same points and there are not enough course places for them then:
 - Random number given to each application by CAO
 - Highest random number gets the place
 - Points are shown by an *
 - For example 364* means not every candidate with 364 points was offered a place but everyone with 363 was.

1
DN077
600
595
590
580
**
**
**
**
**
495
480
470
465
460
460
460
455
455
450
450
450
450
445
435
**
**
**
**
280
275
275

ROUND 1

7 round one places not accepted

← Last place to be filled - Round 1

← Last place to be filled - Round 2

2
TR032
560
535
525
520
**
**
**
**
**
485
480
475
465
460
455
445
440
435
420
410
405
405
405
400
**
**
**
**
325
315
310

5 round one places not accepted

← Last place to be filled - Round 1

← Last place to be filled - Round 2

Round 2 cut off points - 455



Change of Mind

- You may use this facility to change the order of your course choices and/or to introduce new courses, subject to the restrictions detailed in the handbook.
- The Change of Mind **4th May 2021** and **closes** on the **1st of July 2021** at 5:15pm.

Additional Info on CAO form

- SUSI – Maintenance fee/grant application
- Exemptions from Minimum Entry Requirements (i.e. Irish/3rd language)...NUI colleges, UL & Mary I have additional forms to fill in.

Check Statement of Records in May to ensure exemption(s) have been recorded by CAO

- Disability/Specific Learning Difficulty (DARE)
- Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)

HEAR & DARE must be indicated on CAO form by 1st Feb 2021

Deadline for online forms 1st March 2021

Additional documentation with CAO by 15th March 2021

SUSI –Student Universal Support Ireland (The Grant)

- Opens April 2021 for applications www.susi.ie
- To be eligible for student funding, you must meet the following Eligibility Criteria:
 - [Residency](#) and [Nationality](#)
 - [Income](#)
 - [Maximum period](#) of grant assistance available
 - [Previous Education and Progression](#)
- Approved course in an approved institution. Select your student type (for example, PLC Student) from the buttons below to find out more.
- To see if you are eligible for funding, use the eligibility reckoner below:

<https://susi.ie/eligibility-reckoner-app-irish/index.html>



HEAR

- application is through CAO form

Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) - is an admission scheme for students from backgrounds who for cultural & economic reasons do not traditionally go to college.

HEAR applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural indicators (criteria) to be considered for a reduced points place and extra college support. There is a list of all the HEAR indicators on the HEAR booklet(next slide).

As well as receiving a “**reduced points**” place, HEAR Students may also receive a variety of academic, personal and social supports while studying at third level.

www.accesscollege.ie



HEAR

HEAR applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural indicators (criteria) to be considered for a reduced points place and extra college support.

You must meet indicator 1 plus a correct combination of 2 other indicators to be eligible for HEAR

1. Income: Less than 47, 590 for family of less than 4 children
2. Medical/GP Visit Care
3. Means Tested Social Welfare
4. Socio-economic group
5. DEOS School Attendance (Colaiste Einde is a DEIS school)
6. Area Profile: You live in an area where there is concentrated disadvantage



HEAR Information Booklet

Please click on link to access the HEAR information booklet:

<http://www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/2021/HearInformationLeaflet2021.pdf>



DARE

Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) - is a college and university admissions scheme that offers places on “reduced points” to school leavers with disabilities.

DARE is for school who have a disability and is aimed at students who have experienced educational impact as a result of having a disability.

Meeting Educational Impact Criteria + Meeting Evidence of Disability Criteria = DARE Eligibility

www.accesscollege.ie



DARE

- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder(ADHD)
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Asberger's Syndrome)
- Blind/Vision Impaired
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD)-Dyspraxia, Dysgraphia
- Mental Health Condition (including Brain injury & Epilepsy)
- Physical Disability
- Significant On-going illness
- Speech & Language Communication Disorder
- Specific Learning Difficulty (including Dyslexia and Dyscalculia)



DARE Information Booklet

Please click on the link to access the DARE Information booklet:

<http://www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/2021/DAREInformationLeaflet2021.pdf>

If DARE eligible, Guidance Counsellors will help student fill in Section B – Educational Impact Statement (EIS) form.



What does "reduced points" mean?

Students who are eligible for HEAR and/or DARE may get a place in college with less than the full CAO points:

e.g. a course which needs 366 Leaving Certificate points through the CAO may be offered to a HEAR/DARE student with 356 points.

NB. This applicant would also, like all other applicants applying to college, need to meet the **minimum entry requirements and any specific programme requirements** before being considered for a HEAR/DARE reduced points offer.

HEAR & DARE info: www.accesscollege.ie

CAO Summary



Research courses thoroughly

Apply as early as possible

Apply online

Pay by debit/credit card

Put courses in **genuine order of preference**

Back-Up Plan: Fill in both tables

Obtain / retain proof of application

Be careful with change of mind

Non - CAO Options

- 
- Apprenticeships-:
www.apprenticeships.ie and www.solas.ie
 - ESB, Bord Gáis & Bus Éireann also have apprenticeships. Check their websites February 2021
 - Defence Forces- www.military.ie
 - Gardaí- www.garda.ie
 - www.ucas.com for UK & NI colleges
 - www.eunicas.com for European colleges
 - Tourism/Service Industry www.failteireland.ie
 - Direct to Employment

Post Leaving Certificate Colleges(PLC's)



Post Leaving Certificate Courses (PLC colleges)

There are 2 PLC colleges in Galway:

www.gti.ie

www.galwaycc.ie

Applications are made DIRECTLY to the colleges through college website.

Application opens in late February 2021



Maintenance Grants (SUSI)

Higher Education Grants

Applies to Level 6, 7 & 8 Courses, Post Leaving Certificate courses and some Private Colleges

Log on to www.susi.ie for information

Open for applications April 2021

Check for eligibility on www.studentfinance.ie

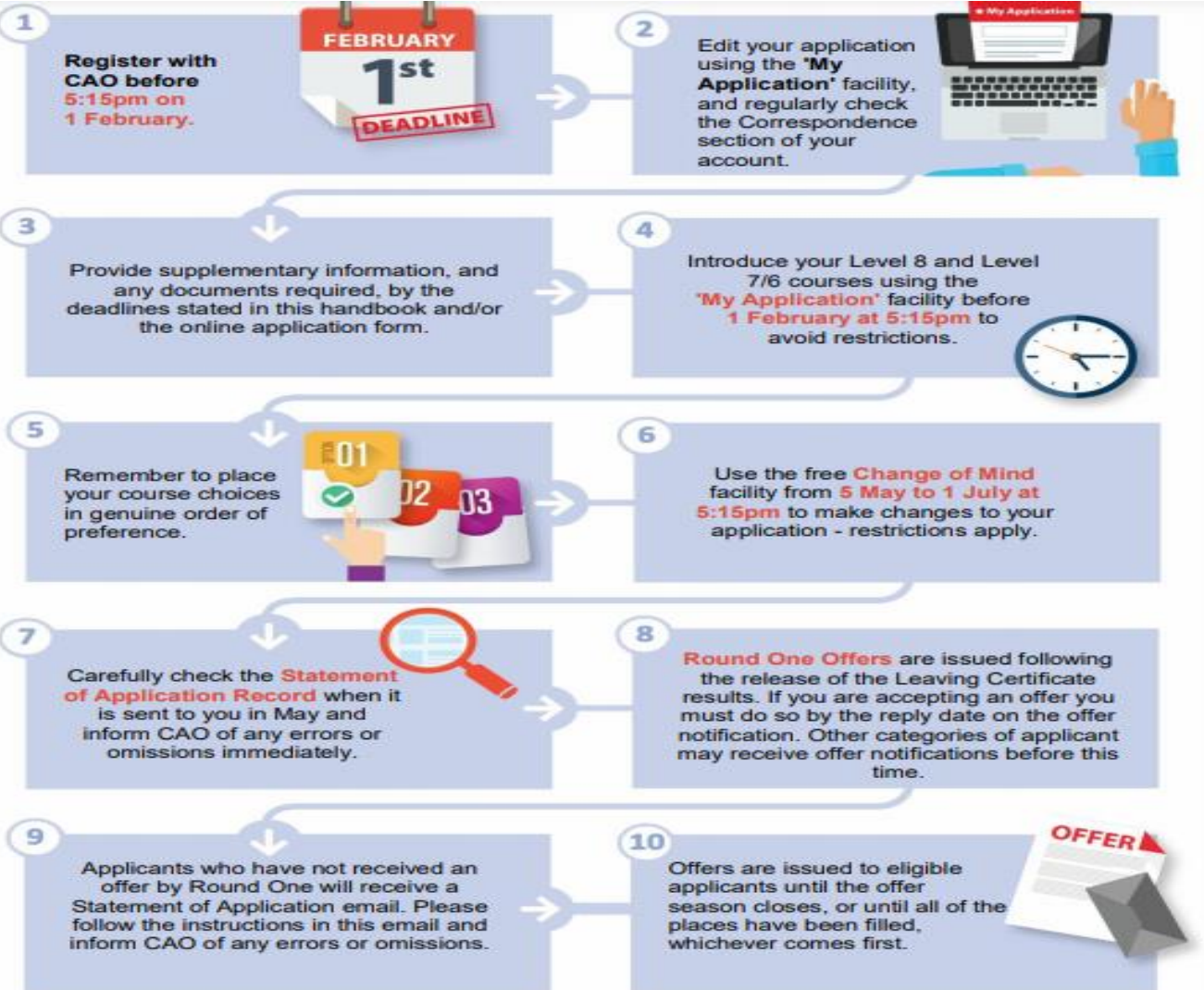


Other CAO information

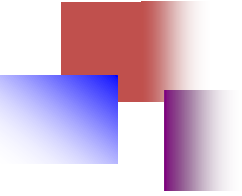
- The CAO also have a presentation on their website on the application process.

- Here is the link:

<http://www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/2021/Applying to CAO 2021.pdf>



Finally.....



Thank you for your attention to this very important information. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact

Yulando Uí Dhomhnaill or

David McNeive

Guidance Counsellors, in Coláiste Éinde.

Our email addresses are on the first slide