

www.accesscollege.ie



Disability Access Route To Education

DARE

DARE is a 3rd 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.

Is DARE for me?

If you have one or more of the disabilities listed and your disability has had a negative impact on your second level education, then you should apply to DARE.

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

Reduced Point

If you apply to **DARE** and meet the application criteria (that is, are deemed eligible for DARE), you may be offered a place even if you do not have enough Leaving Certificate points for your preferred course.

Each participating college and university has a reserved number of places to offer eligible **DARE** applicants at lower or reduced Leaving Certificate points.



Reduced Point

An example of a **reduced points offer** is that the Leaving Certificate points for a particular course is 366 points.

An eligible **DARE** applicant could be offered a place with a lower points score, e.g. 356 points.

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 DARE reduced points offer.

The reduction in points for **DARE** places can vary every year.

Reduced Point

The number of points a particular course is reduced by is dependent on a number of factors, such as:

- 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.

Information on the number of reduced points places available per course and the method used by colleges for selecting eligible **DARE** students for those places is available on HEI websites and on each of the participating colleges' page on the **DARE** website.

Prioritisation of Applicants Eligible for both DARE & HEAR

Research has shown that students with disabilities from disadvantaged backgrounds face the greatest obstacles when it comes to progression to higher education. In order to increase the numbers of students facing this 'double disadvantage', colleges participating in **DARE** and **HEAR** have agreed to prioritise this group when allocating reduced points places.

**ACCESS
COLLEGE**

Prioritisation of Eligible DARE Applicants with a Physical or Sensory Disability

Research has identified that students with physical and sensory (Blind/ Vision Impairment and Deaf/ Hard of Hearing) disabilities are particularly underrepresented in higher education in Ireland relative to all students with disabilities. In order to increase the numbers of **DARE** students with physical and sensory disabilities being admitted to higher education, the **DARE** colleges have agreed to prioritise these two groups when allocating reduced points places.

College Supports

You don't have to be eligible for **DARE** to get support in college. All students with a verified disability, regardless of whether they come through **DARE** or not, can avail of a variety of academic, personal and social supports while studying at third level.

College supports may include:

- Orientation programmes
- Learning support
- Assistive technology
- Library support
- Exam accommodations
- Educational Support Worker
- Academic tuition

Participating Colleges

- **Athlone Institute of Technology**
- **Cork Institute of Technology**
- **Dublin City University**
- **Dublin Institute of Technology**
- **Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology**
- **Institute of Technology, Carlow**
- **Institute of Technology, Sligo**
- **Limerick Institute of Technology**
- **Marino Institute of Education**
- **Mary Immaculate College, Limerick**

Participating Colleges

- **Maynooth University**
- **National College of Ireland**
- **NUI Galway**
- **Pontifical University, Maynooth**
- **Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland**
- **St Angela's College, Sligo**
- **Trinity College Dublin**
- **University College Cork**
- **University College Dublin**
- **University of Limerick**



The types of disabilities DARE consider

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

Steps to making an application

When applying to DARE, applicants must:

- Apply to the **CAO** by **1 February**.
- No later than **1 March**, disclose your disability and/ or specific learning difficulty in your CAO application and complete **Section A** of the Supplementary Information Form (SIF).
- Download **Section B** Educational Impact Statement (EIS) and have your school complete the form. Return the EIS to the CAO to arrive by **1 April**.
- Download **Section C** Evidence of Disability, and have it completed by the appropriate medical professional (only if you do not already have a report verifying your disability that meets the DARE criteria). Return it to the CAO to arrive by **1 April**.

Your application

You will receive notification from **DARE** about the outcome of your DARE application by the end of June 2018.

If you are eligible for **DARE**

- You can compete for one of the reduced points places on offer in the colleges and universities taking part in DARE.
- All DARE course offers are made by the CAO.
- You must meet the minimum entry and course requirements to be considered for one of the reduced points places.
- Details of places available and minimum course entry requirements can be found on www.accesscollege.ie

Your application

If you are ineligible for DARE

- You will be informed why your application was ineligible.
- You can still get into college if you meet the entry requirements for the course of your choice.
- You can still avail of a variety of academic, personal and social supports while studying at third level.

DARE uses a **Review and Appeals** process to make sure that all DARE applicants are treated fairly and the assessment procedures have been applied consistently.

Further information on the review and appeals process is available at:

[http:// accesscollege.ie/dare/making-an-application/darereview-and-appeals/](http://accesscollege.ie/dare/making-an-application/darereview-and-appeals/)

For further information go to www.accesscollege.ie