

## Changes to the DARE eligibility criteria

### Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD)

This document outlines the changes to the DARE eligibility criteria for Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) for entry-2019 onwards.

These changes are based on the recommendations of the DARE DCD Working Group. The DCD Working Group consisted of Psychologists and Occupational Therapists with expertise in the area of DCD, and of representatives of DARE HEAR, the CAO, and the participating Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The DCD Working Group was formed with the goal of examining the existing DARE criteria for DCD and bringing them in line with international best practice in the area.

The changes were ratified by the Access Steering Group for HEIs on 19 April 2018.

#### **Change 1: A report from an Educational Psychologist is no longer a requirement**

A General Ability or IQ score is no longer necessary for the purposes of DARE. Consequently, a report from an Educational Psychologist is no longer a requirement for applications under the category of DCD. Supporting documentation completed by an Occupational Therapist OR Chartered Physiotherapist OR Neurologist OR Paediatrician is sufficient as sole evidence of disability for the purposes of DARE.

#### **Change 2: Stand-alone diagnosis of “dysgraphia” no longer accepted for DARE**

DARE does not have sufficient evidence to continue using the term “dysgraphia” as a stand-alone condition. It will be considered if it is presenting as part of/ as a result of DCD or Specific Learning Difficulty (SLD; including dyslexia and dyscalculia). Where the condition is being linked to DCD, the applicant should apply under the category of DCD; where it is in line with dyslexia, the applicant should apply under the category of SLD. DARE remains open to examining this again in the future, pending additional academic research and the development of agreed diagnostic criteria. Students with a stand-alone diagnosis of “dysgraphia” will still be entitled to supports if/ when they accept a place in a HEI.

#### **Change 3: The report from the appropriate professional must refer to the history/ duration of impact**

The previous eligibility criterion stated:

“The report *should* clearly state difficulties from childhood or provide evidence detailing the long-standing presence of Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD; including dyspraxia), and that the applicant is presenting with difficulties that have impacted on home and school.”

The revised eligibility criterion is as follows:

“The report **must** clearly state difficulties from childhood or provide evidence detailing the long-standing presence of Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD; including dyspraxia), and that the applicant is presenting with difficulties that have impacted on home and school.”

## DARE Eligibility Criteria for Developmental Co-ordination Disorder from 2019 onwards

### **Appropriate Professional**

Occupational Therapist OR

Chartered Physiotherapist OR

Neurologist OR

Paediatrician

### **Type of Documentation Required**

Complete the Evidence of Disability Form 2019 OR submit an existing report completed by an Occupational Therapist OR Chartered Physiotherapist OR Neurologist OR Paediatrician that contains the same detail as the Evidence of Disability Form 2019. The report must be signed AND submitted on the headed paper (OR stamped OR accompanied by a business card).

The report must clearly state difficulties from childhood or provide evidence detailing the long-standing presence of Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD; including dyspraxia), and that the applicant is presenting with difficulties that have impacted on home and school.

### **Required Age of Report**

There is no age limit on the report from the Occupational Therapist OR Chartered Physiotherapist OR Neurologist OR Paediatrician.

### **Other Disabilities**

Submit an Evidence of Disability Form/ report for each disability/ condition to be considered.

### **Educational Impact Statement (EIS)**

The Educational Impact Statement allows you and your school to provide detail of how your disability has impacted on your second level experience. The EIS is a requirement for all applicants.

### **DARE Eligibility**

A report from an Occupational Therapist OR Chartered Physiotherapist OR Neurologist OR Paediatrician of any age, which clearly states that the applicant presents with difficulties consistent with Developmental Co-Ordination Disorder (DCD; including dyspraxia).

Where the Occupational Therapist or Chartered Physiotherapist determines that a neurology and/or general ability assessment are required but does not have the results of these when completing the report, a statement which clearly states that the applicant presents with difficulties consistent with Developmental Co-Ordination Disorder (DCD; including dyspraxia) is sufficient.

AND the applicant meets any combination of two educational impact indicators from Indicators 1 to 5 on the EIS.