

# DARE

## Disability Access Route to Education Application Information 2025

### DARE HEAR Application Information Days

See details at  
[www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)

#### What is DARE?

DARE is a third 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.

#### Who can apply to DARE?

DARE is for school leavers under the age of 23 as of 1 January 2025 with a disability, who have been educationally impacted as a result of that disability. Applicants to DARE can present with an Irish Leaving Certificate, A-Levels and/or other EU qualifications. Mature students and students applying on the basis of Further Education and Training (FET) results have different admission routes. You can get further information on these routes from college and university websites.

#### What are the benefits of DARE?

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.

## DARE Application Timeline

From November 2024	<p>CAO applications open from <b>5 November 2024 at 12 noon.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the DARE Handbook with your parent(s)/guardian(s).</li> <li>2. Make a CAO application at <a href="http://www.cao.ie">www.cao.ie</a>.</li> <li>3. Fill in the online Supplementary Information Form (SIF) at <a href="http://www.cao.ie">www.cao.ie</a>.</li> <li>4. Complete your Educational Impact Statement with your school.</li> <li>5. Gather your Evidence of Disability documentation.</li> </ol>
By 1 February 2025	Apply to CAO by 17:00 on 1 February.
By 1 March 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You must indicate your wish to be considered for DARE by ticking <b>'Yes' to Question 1</b> of the Supplementary Information Form on <a href="http://www.cao.ie">www.cao.ie</a> by 17:00 on 1 March.</li> <li>2. You must complete Section A (Questions 1-5) of the Supplementary Information Form on <a href="http://www.cao.ie">www.cao.ie</a>.</li> </ol>
By 15 March 2025	<p>You must return the <b>completed, signed AND stamped</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Educational Impact Statement (Section B)</li> <li>2. Evidence of Disability (Section C) or other evidence of Disability to the <b>DARE Applications 2025, CAO, Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway</b> by 17:00. Make sure your documents are clear and can be easily read. Put your name and CAO number on all documents. Faxed/emailed documents are not accepted.</li> </ol>
April – June 2025 Late June 2025	Assessment of DARE applications. You will be notified of the outcome of your DARE application by the end of June.
End June/Early July 2025	DARE Review and Appeals Application.
Early August 2025	Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the Review and Appeals application.
August 2025	<p>Leaving Certificate Exam Results. Eligible DARE applicants compete for reduced points places. CAO Offers to eligible DARE applicants. Course offers are made and should be accepted through the CAO.</p>
Late August/ September 2025	Attend Orientation and register with Disability Support Services.

## 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 DARE educational impact criteria and DARE evidence of disability criteria.

## Meeting DARE's Educational Impact Criteria

You and your school must complete the **Educational Impact Statement**.

In order to meet DARE's educational impact criteria, applicants must meet the correct combination of two of the following indicators of educational impact:

<b>1. Intervention and Supports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you received additional support in school due to the impact of your disability? <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Have you been granted exam accommodations for the Leaving Certificate?</li> </ul>
<b>2. Attendance and Disruption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you missed a significant number of school days due to your disability? <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Have you missed a significant number of classes or been unable to complete full school days? This may be due to, for example, personal care needs, appointments for learning support, fatigue or your disability/condition means that you need to take breaks from classes.</li> </ul>
<b>3. School Experience and Well-being</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has your potential to participate in extra-curricular activity been constrained as a result of your disability/condition? <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Have you, at any stage during your time in second level, required and received support due to the emotional impact of your disability/condition? <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Does it take a considerable amount of time for you to complete school work/study due to the impact of your condition? <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Is the time you have to dedicate to school work/study limited due to managing your disability/condition?</li> </ul>
<b>4. Learning and Exam Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If onset (or deterioration) of your disability/condition occurred while you were attending secondary school, has this impacted on your exam results? <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Has your disability caused you to experience additional challenges compared with your classmates in completing homework, studying for exams, participating in class or in accessing the curriculum? <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Do you attend a supported or specialised school e.g. school for the deaf?</li> </ul>
<b>5. Other Educational Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there another educational impact related to your disability that has not been covered under any of the previous sections above?</li> </ul>
<b>6. Literacy Numeracy Attainment Scores</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you have two literacy scores or one numeracy score at or below the 10th percentile from testing carried out on or after <b>1 February 2023</b>?</li> </ul>

Applicants with **Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties or Dyscalculia/ Significant Numeracy Difficulties** must meet **Indicator 6** plus one other indicator to meet the DARE Educational Impact criteria.

All other applicants must meet any combination of **two indicators from indicators 1 to 5** to meet the DARE Educational Impact criteria.

## Meeting DARE's Evidence of Disability Criteria

Please see the Guide to Providing Evidence of Your Disability below to view what documentation you are required to submit. Detailed information on the evidence of disability criteria which is used to assess your evidence of disability documentation is available on [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie). If your type of disability does not appear in the list below, please go to the Providing Evidence of Your Disability section on [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie) or contact a member of the DARE Team for guidance.

Type of disability	Appropriate documentation	Type of professional	Required age of report
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).	Evidence of Disability Form 2025 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Consultant Psychiatrist <b>OR</b> Psychologist <b>OR</b> Neurologist <b>OR</b> Paediatrician.	Must be less than three years old i.e. dated after <b>1 February 2022</b> .
Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Asperger's Syndrome).	Evidence of Disability Form 2025 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Consultant Psychiatrist <b>OR</b> Psychologist <b>OR</b> Neurologist <b>OR</b> Paediatrician.	No age limit.
Blind/Vision Impaired.	Evidence of Disability Form 2025 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Ophthalmologist <b>OR</b> Ophthalmic Surgeon.	No age limit.
Deaf/Hard of Hearing: Students may apply under ONE of the following categories: (A) Applicants who have an audiogram (B) Applicants who attend a School for the Deaf (C) Applicants with a Cochlear Implant.	(A) Applicants who have an audiogram: Audiogram (B) Applicants who attend a School for the Deaf: Letter confirming attendance from Principal of School for the Deaf <b>OR</b> Evidence of Disability Form 2025 (C) Applicants with a Cochlear Implant: Existing report confirming cochlear implant <b>OR</b> Evidence of Disability Form 2025 (DARE does not accept reports from high street retailers).	(A) Applicants who have an audiogram: Diagnostic/Clinical Audiologist registered with the Irish Academy of Audiologists (IAA) or HSE Audiologist (B) School for the Deaf: Principal of School for the Deaf (C) Applicants with a Cochlear Implant: Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Consultant <b>OR</b> Cochlear Implant Programme Coordinator.	No age limit.
Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) – Dyspraxia.	Evidence of Disability Form 2025 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Occupational Therapist <b>OR</b> Neurologist <b>OR</b> Physiotherapist <b>OR</b> Paediatrician.	No age limit on either document.
Mental Health condition.	Evidence of Disability Form 2025 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Consultant Psychiatrist on specialist register.	Must be less than three years old i.e. dated after <b>1 February 2022</b> .
Neurological Condition (incl. Epilepsy and Brain Injury).	Evidence of Disability Form 2025 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Neurologist <b>OR</b> Other relevant Consultant.	No age limit.

Type of disability	Appropriate documentation	Type of professional	Required age of report
Physical Disability.	Evidence of Disability Form 2025 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Orthopaedic Consultant <b>OR</b> Other relevant Consultant appropriate to the disability/condition.	No age limit.
Significant Ongoing Illness.	Evidence of Disability Form 2025 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Relevant Consultant/ Specialist appropriate to the disability/ condition.	Must be less than three years old i.e. dated after <b>1 February 2022</b> .
Speech and Language Communication Disorder.	Evidence of Disability Form 2025 <b>OR</b> Existing report.	Speech and Language Therapist.	No age limit.
Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties	(A) Applicants who have a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia: Psychological Assessment Report (B) Applicants who have Significant Literacy Difficulties but do NOT have a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia: Section D School Statement.	(A) Psychologist (B) Special Educational Needs (SEN) Teacher and countersigned by Principal/Deputy Principal.	No age limit.
Dyscalculia / Significant Numeracy Difficulties	Psychological Assessment Report.	Psychologist.	No age limit.

\* **Applicants with Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties or Dyscalculia/ Significant Numeracy Difficulties must provide literacy and numeracy attainment scores from tests carried out on or after 1 February 2023 as part of the DARE educational impact criteria. These can be from school based testing or from a psychologist.**

## General Practitioner (GP) Verification

If you have an existing diagnosis but have difficulty accessing the appropriate professional to get confirmation of the existing diagnosis or an updated report, you may ask your general practitioner (GP) to complete the Section C Evidence of Disability form. Your GP may do this if they have a clear diagnosis on file from the appropriate professional listed above and this was received within the given timeframe if a time limit applies. **A copy of the document in which your diagnosis is confirmed must be included in your application when using this GP verification.** Your GP does not need to give you copies of your entire file – a single document which confirms your diagnosis and is within the time limit (if one applies) is sufficient.

Once you have provided your Evidence of Disability documentation and Educational Impact Statement your application will be assessed and the outcome of your application determined.

The outcome of your application i.e. if you are eligible or ineligible for DARE, is established by seeing whether or not you meet DARE's eligibility criteria. To find out more about the DARE criteria which applies to your disability see [www.accesscollege.ie/dare](http://www.accesscollege.ie/dare).

## Where can I find out more information on DARE?

You can contact the CAO Helpdesk with questions on completing a DARE application. The simplest way to contact the CAO is by clicking on the 'Contact Us' button on [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie). Alternatively, you can call the helpdesk at **091 509 800**.

DARE will only discuss details of your application with you or your parent(s)/guardian(s).

All participating colleges have a staff member who can advise you on how to apply to DARE. If you wish to speak to someone about your DARE application, contact any member of the DARE team. Their contact details are provided below.

Institution	Telephone	Email	Website
<b>Atlantic Technological University</b>			
Donegal Campus	(074) 918 6172	dare@lyit.ie	www.atu.ie
Galway Campus	(091) 742 392	dare.galwaymayo@atu.ie	
Sligo Campus	(071) 913 7355	dare@itsligo.ie	
Dublin City University	(01) 700 5927	dare@dcu.ie	www.dcu.ie/disability
Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology	(01) 239 4895	dare@iadt.ie	www.iadt.ie
Dundalk Institute of Technology	(042) 937 0237	dare@dkit.ie	www.dkit.ie
Marino Institute of Education	(01) 805 7752	access@mie.ie	www.mie.ie
Mary Immaculate College	(061) 204510	AccessOffice@mic.ul.ie	www.mic.ul.ie
Maynooth University	(01) 708 4600	dare@mu.ie	www.maynoothuniversity.ie/dare
<b>Munster Technological University</b>			
Cork Campus	(021) 433 5138	dareCork@mtu.ie	www.mtu.ie/access/dare
Kerry Campus	(066) 714 5636	DareKY@mtu.ie	
National College of Art & Design	(01) 636 4200	dare@ncad.ie	www.ncad.ie
National College of Ireland	(01) 659 9269	dare@ncirl.ie	www.ncirl.ie
Pontifical University, Maynooth	(01) 708 4600	dare@mu.ie	www.mu.ie/dare
RCSI University of Medicine & Health Sciences	(01) 402 2228	dare@rcsi.ie	www.rcsi.ie/study
St Angela's College, Sligo	(071) 9179633	dare@stangelas.ie	www.stangelas.ie
<b>South East Technological University</b>			
Carlow and Wexford Campus	(059) 917 5600	DARE.CW@setu.ie	www.setu.ie
Waterford Campus	(051) 302758	DARE.WD@setu.ie	
Technological University Dublin	(01) 220 5097/ 220 6288	dare@tudublin.ie	www.tudublin.ie/dare
<b>Technological University of the Shannon</b>			
Athlone Campus	(090) 646 8142	dare.midlands@tus.ie	www.tus.ie
Midwest Campuses	(061) 293 112	dare.midwest@tus.ie	
Trinity College Dublin	(01) 896 1968	dare@tcd.ie	www.tcd.ie
University College Cork	(021) 490 4807	dare@ucc.ie	www.ucc.ie/dare
University College Dublin	(01) 716 7123	dare@ucd.ie	www.ucd.ie/all
University of Galway	(091) 493 553	dare@universityofgalway.ie	www.universityofgalway.ie
University of Limerick	(061) 234 847	dare@ul.ie	www.ul.ie