

DARE – Disability Access Route to Education

DARE | DISABILITY
ACCESS
ROUTE TO
EDUCATION



What is DARE?

The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) is a college admissions scheme for school leavers (under 23) whose disabilities have negatively impacted their learning and educational experience during secondary school.



What does DARE Offer?

- Reduced CAO points on designated courses.
- Priority access to student supports and services in higher education.

How does DARE work?

To be eligible, applicants must meet both:

- DARE Evidence of Disability Criteria
- DARE Educational Impact Criteria



Who Can Apply?

Students who have a documented disability that has had a significant negative impact on their education.

Conditions and Disabilities considered for DARE include:

- 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
- Dyslexia/Significant Literacy Difficulties
- Dyscalculia/Significant Numeracy Difficulties
- Mental Health Condition
- Neurological Condition (including Brain Injury and Epilepsy)
- Physical Disability
- Significant Ongoing Illness
- Speech and Language Communication Disorder

See **www.accesscollege.ie** for the full list and eligibility details.

How to Apply

Applicants applying to DARE must:

1. Be under the age of 23 as of **January 1st 2026**.
2. Apply to the CAO by 17:00 on **Sunday February 1st 2026**.
3. No later than 17:00 on Sunday March 1st 2026, disclose your disability in your CAO application and fully and correctly complete Section A of the Supplementary Information Form (SIF).
To apply to DARE, **you must answer YES to Question 1 ('Do you wish to be considered for DARE?')** on **Section A of the fully completed SIF by 17:00 on Sunday March 1st 2026**.
4. **Post supporting documents to DARE Applications 2026, CAO by Tuesday March 10th 2026.**

You can download the DARE 2026 Handbook at **www.accesscollege.ie**



For more information on DARE please visit
www.accesscollege.ie

