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 disability has negatively impacted their learning and educational experience during secondary school.

What does DARE offer?

- Compete for reduced points places on college courses

How does DARE work?

To be eligible, applicants must meet both:

- DARE Evidence of Disability Criteria
- DARE Educational Impact Criteria

Helpful tip

To complete your online DARE application, you should:

Get assistance from your parent(s) or guardian(s), guidance counsellor or teacher at school.

Use the DARE 2027 Handbook to help you answer all relevant questions on your online DARE application.

Who can Apply?

Students who have a documented disability that has significantly impacted their secondary school education. Disabilities and conditions considered under DARE include:

- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Asperger's Syndrome)
- Blind or vision impaired
- Deaf or hard of hearing
- Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) – dyspraxia
- Dyslexia or significant literacy difficulties
- Dyscalculia or significant numeracy difficulties
- Mental Health Condition (such as depression, severe anxiety and schizophrenia)
- Neurological Condition (such as brain injury and epilepsy)
- Physical Disability (significant mobility difficulties)
- Significant Ongoing Illness (such as cystic fibrosis)
- 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 **1 January 2027**.
2. Apply online to CAO by Monday 1 February 2027 at 5pm. CAO applications open on Thursday 5 November 2026.
3. No later than Monday 1 March 2027 at 5pm, disclose your disability in your CAO application and 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 Monday 1 March 2027 at 5pm.
4. Post your supporting documents to CAO so they arrive by Wednesday 10 March 2027 at 5pm and get proof of postage, for example, a free certificate of posting from the post office.

You can download the DARE 2027 Handbook at **www.accesscollege.ie**



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