



AIT joins drive to fill higher education places for students with disabilities

THE DISABILITY Access Route to Education (DARE), aimed at all school leavers with disabilities, is being launched by Athlone Institute of Technology, DIT, the seven universities, National College of Ireland and the Mater Dei Institute of Education.

This supplementary admissions scheme recognises the impact of disability on educational attainment and on progression to higher education. Approximately 300 students accepted places through DARE in 2009. The eleven participating colleges aim to greatly increase this number in

2010 by offering on average 5% of first year places on a reduced points basis. The Disability Access Route to Education is now based on robust criteria, has a more streamlined application process through the CAO and is more student friendly.

The purpose of the national launch is to make students, schools and organisations aware of the scheme and ultimately to encourage a greater number of applications. A dedicated website, www.accesscollege.ie, has been developed which contains full details of the scheme and will assist students in making their applications.