



Higher education places for disabled

NUI Galway has joined a drive to fill over 1,000 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 the seven universities, Athlone IT, DIT, 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 11 participating colleges aim to greatly increase this number in 2010 by offering on average of five per cent of first year places on a reduced points basis. A dedicated website, www.accesscollege.ie, has been developed which contains full details of the scheme and will assist students in making their applications.

"Students with disabilities experience constant and complex challenges throughout their educational experience, which makes it difficult for them to reach their full education potential. As well as health issues, many students have low expectations of their ability to progress to higher education," said Elizabeth Walsh, NUI Galway Disability Officer.