



www.accesscollege.ie
 www.facebook.com/accesscollege 
 twitter.com/accesscollegeie 

www.accesscollege.ie

higher education
 access route

hear

for entry autumn 2012

**HEAR Application
 Advice Clinics**

Nationwide, Saturday
 January 14th 2012

See www.accesscollege.ie
 for locations and times

An admissions scheme for school
 leavers facing social and economic
 challenges in accessing college.





What is the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)?

The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds who have completed an Irish Leaving Certificate.

HEAR has been set up by a number of colleges and universities as evidence shows that long-term poverty and unemployment can have a negative effect on how well a student does at school and whether they go on to college.

What HEAR is not.

HEAR is not your maintenance grant. The maintenance grant is the main source of financial help available from the Irish State for students in full-time Post Leaving Certificate Courses (PLCs) and full-time higher education undergraduate/postgraduate courses.

HEAR is an admissions scheme to help students who may not traditionally go on to third level. If you apply to HEAR you must also apply to your local authority or VEC for your maintenance grant.

Who can apply to HEAR?

HEAR is for school leavers under the age of 23 as of January 1, 2012 who have completed an Irish Leaving Certificate. HEAR applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural indicators to be considered for a reduced points place and extra college support. For a full list of indicators see www.accesscollege.ie.

A background image showing a group of students in a classroom or study setting. A young man is leaning over a young woman, possibly helping her with her work. They are both looking towards the right side of the frame. The lighting is warm and natural, suggesting an indoor setting with windows.

What are the benefits of filling in a HEAR Application?

Reduced Points Places: Each participating college has a reserved number of places to offer eligible HEAR students at lower leaving certificate points. Details of the places available and the minimum course entry requirements can be found at www.accesscollege.ie.

Extra College Support: If you get a place through HEAR you will receive a variety of academic, personal and social supports while at college. Details of the different supports available at the participating colleges can be found at www.accesscollege.ie.

Examples of extra college supports:

- An Orientation Programme to introduce you to university/college – see www.accesscollege.ie for the 2012 Orientation dates.
- Extra tuition if required, study skills, exam preparation.
- One to one meetings with student advisers.
- Social gatherings/mentoring.
- Extra financial assistance when available/ advice regarding grants and scholarships.

How do I fill in a HEAR application?

An application to HEAR is made up of 3 parts:

1. Apply online to CAO by 17:15 on 1 February 2012.
2. No later than 17:15 on 1 March 2012, you must indicate in your CAO application that you wish to apply for the HEAR scheme and you must fully and correctly complete all elements of the HEAR form (the HEAR form is a part of your CAO application).
3. Submit relevant evidence in support of your application to arrive at CAO no later than 17:15 on 1 April 2012.

To complete your online HEAR Application you must:

- Get assistance from your parents/guardians.
- Use the HEAR Application Guide and Workbook to help you answer all relevant questions on your online HEAR application. You can download the HEAR Application Guide and Workbook at www.accesscollege.ie.

Where can I find more information on HEAR?

Full details of the HEAR scheme can be found on www.accesscollege.ie

CAO Helpdesk

Email CAO by clicking **Contact Us** at www.cao.ie

091 509800

www.cao.ie

For questions relating to a specific college contact a HEAR Representative:

Higher Education Institution	Website	Email
Dublin City University	www.dcu.ie/access	hear@dcu.ie
Dublin Institute of Technology	www.communitylinks.ie/access	hear@dit.ie
NUI Galway	www.nuigalway.ie/access	hear@nuigalway.ie
NUI Maynooth	http://access.nuim.ie	hear@nuim.ie
Trinity College Dublin	www.tcd.ie/trinity_access	hear@tcd.ie
University College Cork	www.ucc.ie/uccplus	hear@ucc.ie
University College Dublin	www.ucd.ie/openingworlds	hear@ucd.ie
University of Limerick	www.ul.ie/access	hear@ul.ie
Church of Ireland College of Education	www.tcd.ie/trinity_access	hear@tcd.ie
Colaiste Mhuire, Marino Institute of Education	www.mie.ie/access	hear@mie.ie
Mary Immaculate College, Limerick	www.mic.ul.ie/access/accessanddisability.htm	hear@mic.ul.ie
Mater Dei Institute of Education	www.materdei.ie	hear@materdei.dcu.ie
National College of Ireland	www.ncirl.ie	hear@ncirl.ie
Pontifical University, Maynooth	http://access.nuim.ie	hear@nuim.ie
St Angela's College, Sligo	www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie	hear@stangelas.nuigalway.ie
St Patrick's College, Drumcondra	www.spd.dcu.ie/access	hear@spd.dcu.ie