



Sligo Champion

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St. Angela's College is widening participation

St Angela's College, Sligo is now participating in the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) scheme. HEAR broadens access opportunities to third-level education for school leavers from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds across the country, focusing on University-level education. All seven Irish universities participate in the scheme, along with other University-level colleges like St Angela's College, Sligo.

Carol Gallagher from the Access Office at the College outlines some of the features of the programme: "Under the HEAR scheme, St. Angela's College, Sligo are allocating a quota of places on a reduced points basis, across all academic areas.' She explains, 'Students who secure one of these places will be offered a range of academic and personal supports while at St. Angela's College, Sligo.' This Access route will run in conjunction with existing Access routes in operation at St. Angela's College, Sligo 2002, including an Access (Foundation) course that prepares students for undergraduate study in St. Angela's College, Sligo and NUI Galway. In addition, the Access Schools Programme at the College works intensively with primary and secondary schools in the region to encourage and support progression to third-level education.

"Widening participation is a priority for St Angela's College, Sligo," explains Dr Anne Taheny, President of St Angela's College, Sligo. "By recruiting students from all walks of life who have the ability to succeed in higher education helps to ensure the College remains a diverse and vibrant place in which to study, while also becoming more representative of society which we serve." Experience to date shows that HEAR students from disadvantaged backgrounds who secure a place in college have as good a success rate as all other students, with over 680 students participating in the HEAR scheme nationwide in 2009.

For the first time, school leavers who wish to apply for the HEAR scheme can do so online as part of the CAO application process. Applicants who present satisfactory evidence of their socio-economic circumstances and satisfy entry requirements are eligible to compete for a place on a reduced points basis. Applications open on 1st November 2009 onwards. For more information, visit www.accesscollege.ie or contact Carol Gallagher in the St Angela's College, Sligo Access Office 071 91 95575 to get details of the scheme and to assist students in making their application.