

Where To From Here?

Welcome – **Mr Ruaidhri Devitt**, Principal

Ms Edel Merrigan Guidance Counsellor - (emerrigan@tipperaryetb.ie)

Our Supports/Services

The Time Ahead

Skills Shortages

QQI Framework

The Further Education Sector

National Tertiary Office Further and Higher Education

Apprenticeships

Ms Noreen Ryan Guidance Counsellor (nryan@tipperaryetb.ie)

CAO

Points/Levels

Accommodation

HEAR

DARE

SUSI

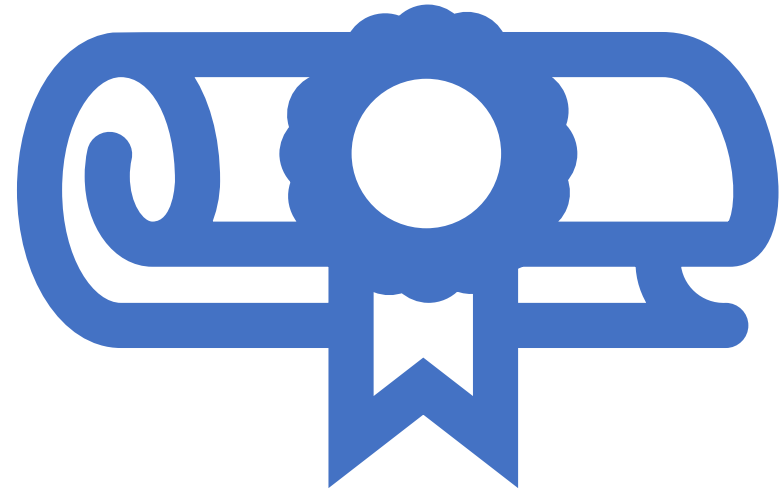


Many paths lead from the foot of the mountain, but at the peak we all gaze at the single bright moon – Ikkyu

Career Service in St. Ailbe's

Nov 2025 – Nov 2026+

- Individual career appointments
- Feedback on Cognitive Ability results (CAT – Parent Meeting)
- Completion of interest inventories (REACH+)
- Visiting speakers from colleges
- Open Days – UL, TUS, Mary I, SETU
- Study Skills
- St. Ailbe's Careers Exhibition (4th December 2025)
- Classroom based career classes



Tipperary FET	Education	Tipperary ETB Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship
Limerick FET	Education	AIRNAV	Apprenticeship
Mary Immaculate College	Education	Arachas	Apprenticeship
TUS	Education	BEA – Bike Engineering Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship
UL	Education	Specsavers	Apprenticeship
UCC	Education	Pierse Motors	Apprenticeship
Maynooth	Education	Martin Ryan Haulage	Apprenticeship
ATU	Education	H&MV Engineering	Apprenticeship
SETU	Education	ESB	Apprenticeship
Carlow College	Education	Irish Rail	Apprenticeship
Trinity	Education	UL Logistics Apprenticeships	Apprenticeship
St Patrick’s Pontifical College Maynooth	Education	Society of Chartered Surveyors of Ireland	Apprenticeship
HSE Nurse Practice Development	Education	Johnson&Johnson	Apprenticeship
Gurteen Agricultural College	Education	ABP	Apprenticeship
Pallaskenry Agricultural College	Education	FIT	Apprenticeship
National Learning Network	Education		
Moorehaven	Education		

Credit Union	Financial	SuperMacs	Service Industry
Tipperary Co-op/Arrabawn	Agriculture	SERVE	Voluntary Agency
Glen Vets		JIGSAW	
Women in Dairy	Agriculture	BD	Pharmaceutical Research
Eurogene	Agriculture	Youth Work Ireland	
GrassTec	Agriculture	Julie Kennedy Fogarty	Author/Literary
Farm Relief Services	Agriculture		
Glen Vets	Agricultural/Veterinary		
Tipperary Library	Public Service		
HSE National Ambulance Service			
BAM	Construction		
Ballykisteen Hotel	Service Industry		

Timetable 2025-2026

Leaving Certificate SEC Timetable 2025 2026

	When	Action
Xmas Exams	25-28 Nov	Study Plan/Exam Qs /Revision/Review/Re-learn Study Clix/Exam Revision
Pre-Exams	Feb 3rd	Plan and Study
Orals	28 th Mar – 2 nd April	Practise
State Written Exams	Wed 3 rd June – Wed 23 rd June	Plan and Study
CAO/FETCH/ SUSI/Scholarships HEAR/DARE Apprenticeship/ Job App Accommodation	Now	Apply for CAO/Fetch Start looking for Apprenticeship Sponsor/part time work CV Cover Letter Prep

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME

SCHEDULE OF EXAMINATION DATES 2026

NOVEMBER 2025	DECEMBER 2025	JANUARY 2026
Monday 3 November - Completion date for Leaving Certificate Home Economics - Practical Coursework	Friday 12 December - Completion date for Leaving Certificate Physical Education - Physical Activity Project - Completion date for Leaving Certificate Economics Research Study	Friday 16 January - Completion date for Leaving Certificate Design & Communication Graphics Practical Coursework - Completion date for Leaving Certificate Classical Studies Research Study Report
MARCH/APRIL 2026		APRIL 2026
Monday 2 March Completion date for Leaving Certificate: - Vocational Programme, Link Modules Portfolio of coursework Friday 13 March Completion date for Leaving Certificate: - Engineering Project Component Thursday 19 March Completion date for Leaving Certificate: - Computer Science Coursework Project Friday 20 March Completion date for Leaving Certificate: - Applied Mathematics Mathematical Modelling Project Monday 23 March Completion date for Leaving Certificate: - Physical Education – Performance Assessment	Saturday 28 March to Thursday 2 April - Leaving Certificate Oral Examinations in Irish, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Lithuanian, Portuguese, and Polish	Monday 13 April to Friday 24 April - Leaving Certificate Music Practical Examinations Friday 17 April Completion date for Leaving Certificate: - Textile Studies Elective Coursework in Home Economics, Scientific and Social - Construction Studies Project Component - Technology Practical Coursework - Art Practical Coursework - History Research Study Report - Geographical Investigation Report - Agricultural Science Individual Investigative Study Tuesday 21 April to Thursday 23 April - Leaving Certificate Art Practical examination window Tuesday 28, Wednesday 29, and Thursday 30 April - Leaving Certificate Construction Studies Practical Wednesday 29 April - Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme – Link Modules Written Examination (10.00 – 12.30)
MAY 2026		JUNE 2026
Friday 1 May Completion date for Leaving Certificate: - Religious Education Practical Coursework - Politics & Society Citizenship Project - Music, Higher Level Elective in Composing Tuesday 5, Wednesday 6, and Thursday 7 May - Leaving Certificate Engineering Practical Wednesday 20 May - Leaving Certificate Computer Science - Written Examination Higher and Ordinary Level. Section A & B – 9.30 – 11.00 - Section C – 11.30 – 12.30	Tuesday 2 June Start date for the marking (in schools) of Leaving Certificate: - Construction Studies Practical and Project Components - Engineering Practical and Project Components - Textile Studies, Elective Coursework in Leaving Certificate Home Economics Scientific and Social - Technology Practical Coursework Wednesday 3 June Start date of the written examinations Friday 5 June - Finishing date for the marking (in schools) of Textile Studies Elective Coursework in Leaving Certificate Home Economics Scientific and Social - Start date for the marking (in schools) of Leaving Certificate Art Coursework and Practical Components Friday 12 June Finishing date for the marking (in schools) of Leaving Certificate: - Construction Studies Practical and Project Components - Engineering Practical and Project Components - Leaving Certificate Technology Practical Coursework Wednesday 17 June - Finishing date for the marking (in schools) of Leaving Certificate Art Coursework and Practical Components	



LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
TIMETABLE 2026

Each candidate should note carefully the dates and hours, as fixed on this official timetable, for the examinations in the subjects in which he/she intends to present himself/herself. The Commission will not be responsible for any errors which may occur in the reproduction of this timetable by outside agencies. Candidates are required to be in attendance at least half an hour before the examination begins in the subject in which they first present themselves.

JUNE	SUBJECT	TIME
H = Higher Level O = Ordinary Level F = Foundation Level		
WEDNESDAY 3	English, Paper 1	9.30 – 12.20
	Home Economics, Scientific and Social	2.00 – 4.30
THURSDAY 4	Engineering	9.30 – 12.00
	English, Paper 2	2.00 – 5.20
FRIDAY 5	Geography	9.30 – 12.20
	Mathematics, Paper 1	2.00 – 4.30
MONDAY 8	Mathematics	2.00 – 4.30
	Mathematics, Paper 2	9.30 – 12.00
TUESDAY 9	Irish Paper 1	2.00 – 4.20
	Irish Paper 2	2.00 – 3.50
WEDNESDAY 10	Irish	2.00 – 4.20
	Irish, Paper 2	9.30 – 11.50
THURSDAY 11	Irish, Paper 2	9.30 – 12.35
	Biology	2.00 – 5.00
FRIDAY 12	French	9.30 – 12.00
	History	12.10 – 12.50
MONDAY 15	Business	2.00 – 4.50
	Business	9.30 – 12.00
TUESDAY 16	Construction Studies	9.30 – 12.30
	Construction Studies	2.00 – 4.30
WEDNESDAY 17	German	2.00 – 5.00
	Art, Visual Studies	9.30 – 12.00
THURSDAY 18	Polish, Lithuanian, Portuguese and Mandarin Chinese	12.10 – 12.50
	Hebrew Studies, Ancient Greek and Non Curricular Languages (see Note 2)	2.00 – 4.30
FRIDAY 19	Agricultural Science	9.30 – 12.30
	Spanish	2.00 – 4.30
MONDAY 22	Chemistry	9.30 – 12.00
	Physics	12.10 – 12.50
TUESDAY 23	Physics and Chemistry	9.30 – 12.30
	Accounting	2.00 – 5.00
WEDNESDAY 24	Design and Communication Graphics	9.30 – 12.30
	Music - Listening (Core)	1.30 – 3.00
THURSDAY 25	Music Composing	3.15 – 4.45
	Music - Listening (Elective)	5.00 – 5.45
FRIDAY 26	Economics	9.30 – 12.00
	Physical Education	2.00 – 4.30
MONDAY 29	Italian	9.30 – 12.00
	Russian	12.10 – 12.50
TUESDAY 30	Classical Studies	9.30 – 12.00
	Latin	12.10 – 12.50
WEDNESDAY 1	Technology	2.00 – 4.30
	Technology	2.00 – 4.30
THURSDAY 2	Japanese	9.30 – 12.00
	Politics & Society	12.10 – 12.50
FRIDAY 3	Arabic	9.30 – 12.00
	Religious Education	9.30 – 12.30
MONDAY 6	Religious Education	2.00 – 4.00
	Applied Mathematics	2.00 – 4.30

- Notes
- The examination sessions highlighted in red include 20 minutes over and above the time traditionally allocated for the papers concerned.
 - Leaving Certificate Examinations in Hebrew Studies, Ancient Greek and in the Non-Curricular Languages listed below will be held on Monday 15 June from 9.30am to 12.30pm.
 - Examinations based on the curricular specifications for; Lithuanian; Mandarin Chinese; Polish and Portuguese will be held on Monday 15 June.
 - There are also final examinations in Computer Science and Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme – Link Modules – which will be held in April/May with dates to be announced separately.

Non-Curricular Leaving Certificate Examinations:									
Finnish	Hungarian	Latvian	Maltese	Bulgarian	Croatian	Czech	Danish	Dutch	Estonian
				Romanian	Slovakian	Slovenian	Swedish	Ukrainian	

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED EXAMINATION SCHEDULE OF EXAMINATION DATES 2026

Schedule of Dates from January to May

Month	Date	Description
January	Friday 16	Finishing date for LCA Task Work (Session 1 Year 1), (Session 3 Year 2)
January	Monday 26	Start date for assessment of LCA Task Work (Session 1 Year 1, General Education and Session 3 Year 2, Practical Achievement, Contemporary Issue & Vocational Education).
January	Friday 30	Finishing date for assessment of LCA Task Work (Session 1 Year 1 and Session 3 Year 2).
April	Friday 10	Finishing date LCA Task Work (Session 2 Year 1).
April	Monday 27	Start date for the assessment of LCA Task work (Session 2 Year 1)
May	Friday 1	Finishing date for LCA Personal Reflection Task. Finishing date for the Assessment of LCA Task work (Session 2, Year 1)

Schedule of Dates from May to June

Month	Date	Description
May	Friday 8	•Final Date for Return of LCA Personal Reflection Task. •Finishing date for LCA Practical Coursework.
May	5 – 8 plus 11	LCA Oral examinations in English and Communication (Year 2 candidates), Gaeilge Chumarsáideach, French, German, Spanish and Italian (Year 1 and Year 2 candidates).
May	Monday 11	Finishing date for LCA Oral examinations.
May	Wednesday 13	ICT (Specialism) Practical performance and written examination (10.00 – 11.30).
May	11 – 15	LCA Practical Performance examinations in Hotel Catering & Tourism, Office Admin & Customer Care, Active Leisure Studies, Hair & Beauty & Agriculture/Horticulture
May	Friday 15	Finishing date for LCA Practical Performance examinations.
June	Tuesday 2	LCA Practical Coursework assessment in Graphics & Construction, Engineering, Technology, Childcare/Community Care and Craft & Design. Note that these assessments continue from 8 to 12 June also.

WRITTEN TIMETABLE 2026

Each candidate should note carefully the dates and hours, as fixed on this official timetable, for the examinations in the subjects in which he/she intends to present himself/herself. The Commission will not be responsible for any errors which may occur in the reproduction of this timetable by outside agencies. Candidates are required to be in attendance at least half an hour before the examination begins in the subject in which they first present themselves.

JUNE	TIME	SUBJECT
WEDNESDAY 3	9.45 – 11.45	English & Communication
	2.00 – 4.00	Social Education
THURSDAY 4	9.30 – 10.30	Gaeilge Chumarsáideach
	9.30 – 12.30	Sign Language (see Note 1)
	2.00 – 4.30 2.00 – 3.00	Sign Language (see Note 1) French / German / Spanish / Italian
FRIDAY 5	9.30 – 11.30	Mathematical Applications
	2.00 – 3.30	Hotel Catering & Tourism
MONDAY 8	9.30 – 11.00	Engineering
	2.00 – 3.30	Child Care / Community Care
TUESDAY 9	9.30 – 11.00	Graphics & Construction Studies
	11.30 – 1.00	Hair & Beauty
	2.30 – 4.00	Office Administration & Customer Care
WEDNESDAY 10	9.30 – 11.00	Agriculture / Horticulture
	2.00 – 4.00	Technology
THURSDAY 11	9.30 – 11.00	Active Leisure Studies
	2.00 – 3.30	Craft & Design

NOTES:

1. LCA Sign Language examination is timetabled for 9.30 – 12.30 & 2.00 – 4.30. A candidate specific schedule, for a 30 minute individual assessment, will be drawn up for each centre.

For Further Info:
[Exam Timetables 2025](#)
[2026](#)

National Skills Bulletin 2025

It gives a detailed overview of Ireland's labour market: what jobs are growing, where skills are in demand, and where shortages exist.

It's intended to help with decisions around education, training, careers and immigration.

Top 12 In-Demand Skills in Ireland



1. Information Technology Skills



2. Cloud Computing Skills



3. AI Skills



4. Cybersecurity Skills



5. Teaching Skills



6. Construction Skills



7. Sales Skills



8. Healthcare Skills



9. Finance Skills



10. Driving Skills



11. Hospitality Skills

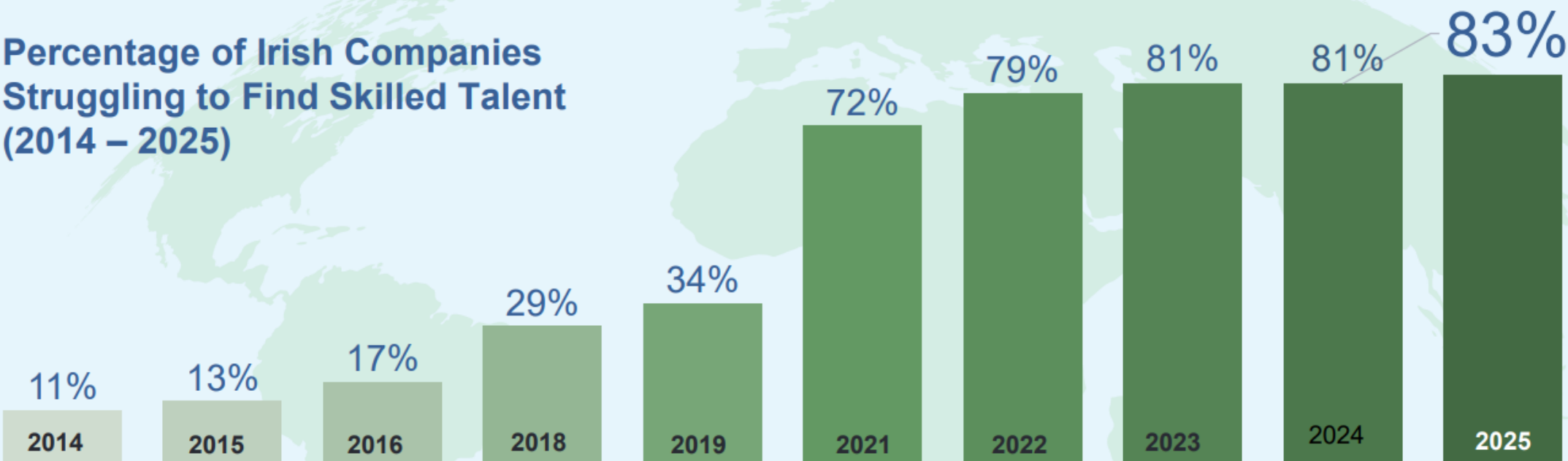


12. Engineering Skills



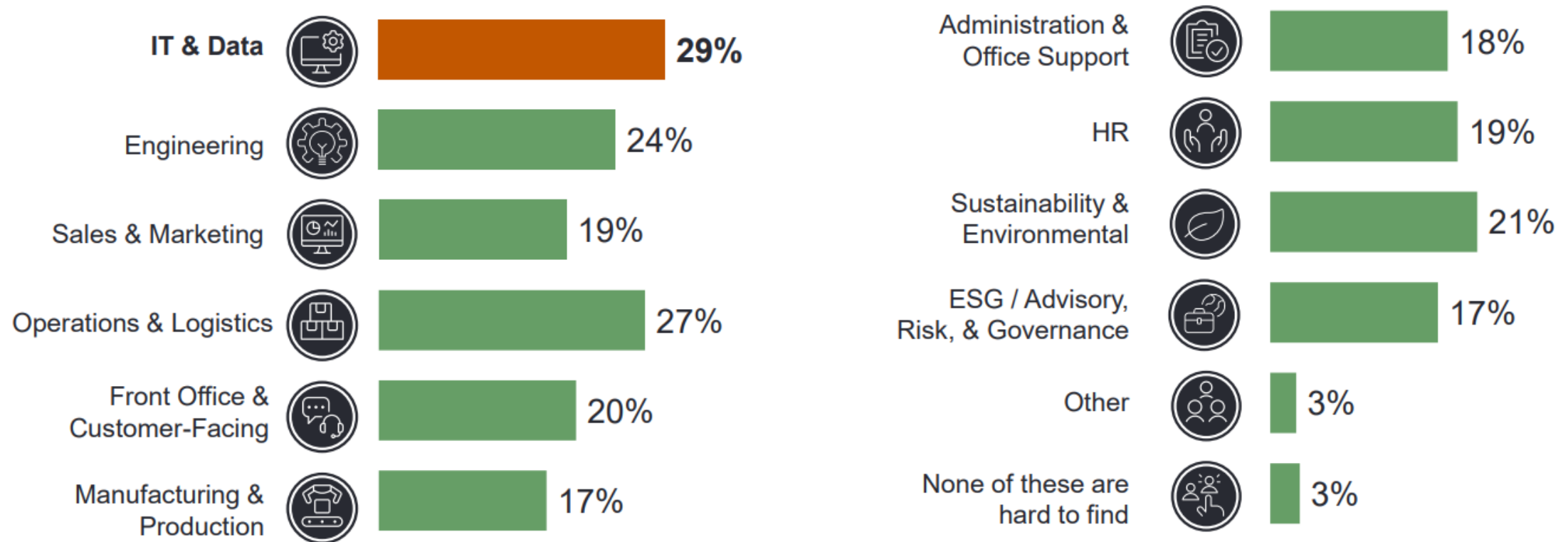
Ireland Talent Shortage Over Time – 2025 Reaches A Record High

Over 4 in 5 employers in Ireland report difficulty finding the skilled talent they need in 2025. This figure has more than doubled since 2019 (34%) and represents an all-time high trend.



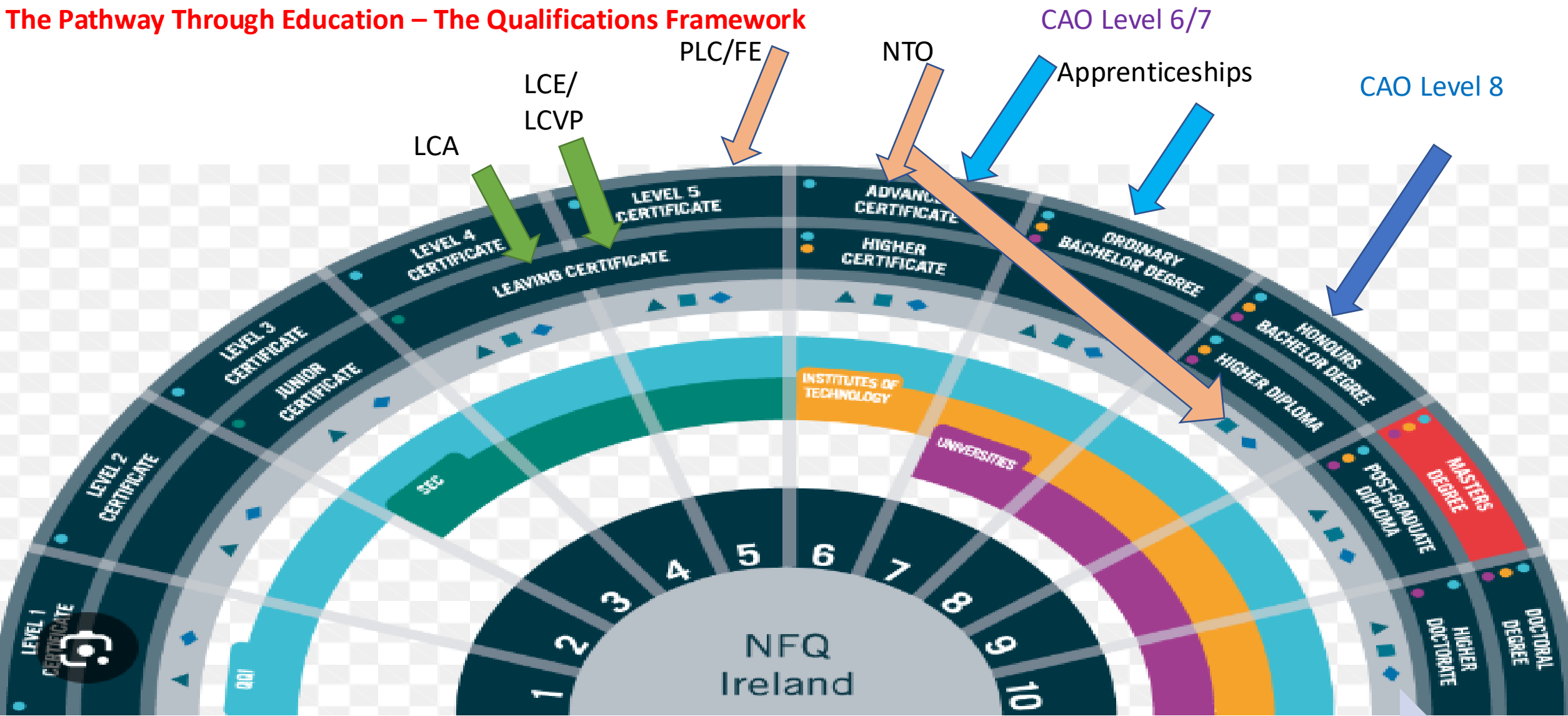
What Are The Most Difficult to Find Skills in Ireland?

IT & Data skills are the most difficult skillset to source. Likely due to the multi-sectorial demand for this talent set.



Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Therefore, the sum of the percentages is greater than 100%.

The Pathway Through Education – The Qualifications Framework



Level 5 

Level 6 

Level 7 

Level 8 

Further Education and Training Courses

(www.FETCHCOURSES.ie)

- Leaving Cert Applied Students
- Students not ready/unsure/too young for university (Level 5 FE/PLC).
- Students who want access to university via the Higher Education Links Scheme.
- Discover a vocational area- Rule in or Rule out.
- Assessment Predominantly Project Based with some exams.
- Free to Apply (PPS No, DOB, email address – NOT YOUR SCHOOL email)

- **FET courses:**
 - Offer a great **variety** of courses in your locality, designed for **the industry** you want to get into. E.g. childcare
 - They are a qualification in their own right
 - They can be an alternative **route** into university or college.
- A career choice refinement mechanism



- They often act like a stepping stone into college or university.



- 
- FE graduates often go on to gain higher education & training awards too.



Higher Education Links Scheme

- Places can be reserved for Level 5 certificate (NFQ Level 5) holders. Offered in order of merit, based on ranking.

Full Award at level 5 to apply for a level 6/7 on CAO
At Least three Distinctions to get Level 8

TETB/ LCETB FET Courses

-



Progression agreements with local colleges/
Universities



Higher Education Links Scheme - HELS



Progression agreements with UK colleges



Small class sizes



More 1:1 Support



High success rate

Application System – Already Open

Apply as early as possible to secure a place on fetchcourses.ie

Application is free

Advantages of A Further Education Course?

Smaller classes a good support system.

Higher success rate in Higher Education

Cheaper Vs doing the 'wrong' University course.

Wide diversity of courses

1 – 2 yrs - certificate on completion.

Students gain **confidence and maturity**

HELS Scheme

Local - Tipperary ETB, The Community Centre in Tipperary Town, The Mall in Clonmel, Scoil Mhuire in Thurles, LCFE Limerick



For access from FETCH to **Higher Education** you must check minimum entry requirements and also research the number of places available to FETCH graduates.

You can also
receive a
maintenance
grant from
SUSI when
doing a
FET course.



www.susi.ie

Commence your Tertiary Degree in
Further Education and Training,
guaranteeing progression to Higher
Education.



Currently 40 Courses
Available covering Nursing,
Business, IT, Arts,
Engineering,
Manufacturing,
Construction.

Applications from 1st Feb -
to Sept –
Through ETBs.

New courses coming on
stream all the time.

Courses

Tertiary Degrees are co-designed and co-delivered by the Education and Training Boards and Higher Education Institutions to provide seamless pathways from Further Education to Higher Education.

I want to study



- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Arts | ☐ |
| Audio and Music Production | ☐ |
| Business | ☐ |
| Construction | ☐ |
| Design | ☐ |
| Engineering | ☐ |
| Health and Welfare | ☒ |
| ICT | ☐ |
| Media | ☐ |
| Science | ☐ |

Province



- | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Connacht | ☐ |
| Leinster | ☐ |
| Munster | ☒ |
| Ulster | ☐ |

Tertiary Degree	Graduating from	Starting at	Duration
Bachelor of Science (Hons) <i>in Mobile and Web Computing</i>	Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS) <i>TUS Moylish Campus</i> 	Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) <i>College of FET Mulgrave St. Campus, Limerick City</i> 	4 Years

Tertiary Degree	Graduating from	Starting at	Duration
Bachelor of Business (Hons) <i>in Business</i>	Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS) <i>TUS Moylish Campus</i> 	Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) <i>College of FET Ennis Campus</i> 	4 Years

Tertiary Degree	Graduating from	Starting at	Duration
Bachelor of Science (Hons) <i>in General Nursing</i>	Munster Technological University (MTU) MTU Kerry Campus, Tralee 	Cork ETB (CETB) Cork College of FET – Morrison's Island Campus 	5 Years

Tertiary Degree	Graduating from	Starting at	Duration
Bachelor of Science (Hons) <i>in General Nursing</i>	Munster Technological University (MTU) MTU Kerry Campus, Tralee 	Kerry ETB (KETB) Kerry College – Listowel Campus 	5 Years

^ Provider Locations and Structure

Year 1

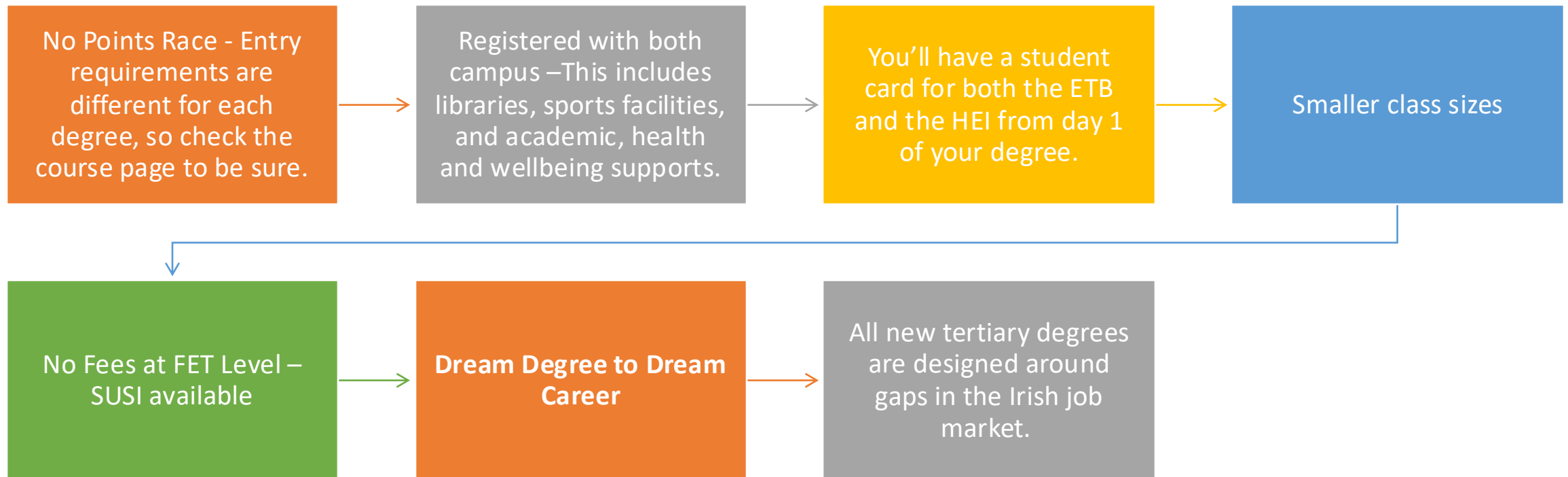
Cork Education and Training Board – Cork College of FET – Morrison’s Island Campus.

Years 2-5

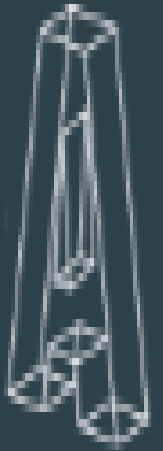
Department of Nursing and Healthcare Sciences, Munster Technological University, Kerry Campus, Sólás Nursing Building, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Tertiary Degree	Graduating from	Starting at	Duration
Bachelor of Science (Hons) <i>in General Nursing</i>	Munster Technological University (MTU) <i>MTU Kerry Campus, Tralee</i> 	Cork ETB (CETB) <i>Cork College of FET – Morrison’s Island Campus</i> 	5 Years

Benefits



Apprenticeships



GENERATION APPRENTICESHIP

[Apprenticeships Today](#)

What is an apprenticeship?

Level 6

An apprenticeship is a programme of structured education and training which formally combines and alternates learning in the workplace with learning in an education or training centre.

It is a dual system, a blended combination of **on-the-job employer-based training** and **off-the-job training**.

Key Features of an Apprenticeship

It is industry led

It can lead to levels 5-10 on the NFQ

It is between 2-4 years in duration

There is a minimum of 50% on the job learning

It can be a flexible delivery – online, blended, off the job learning in increments/blocks

The State funds off the job learning

Apprentices are employed under a formal contract of apprenticeship

The apprentice is paid for the duration of the apprenticeship

Types of Apprenticeship



I'm interested, what next?

Research the types of Apprenticeships available –
www.apprenticeships.ie

Talk to a person already working in your chosen industry

Talk to your local Apprenticeship Team in your nearest Education and Training Board

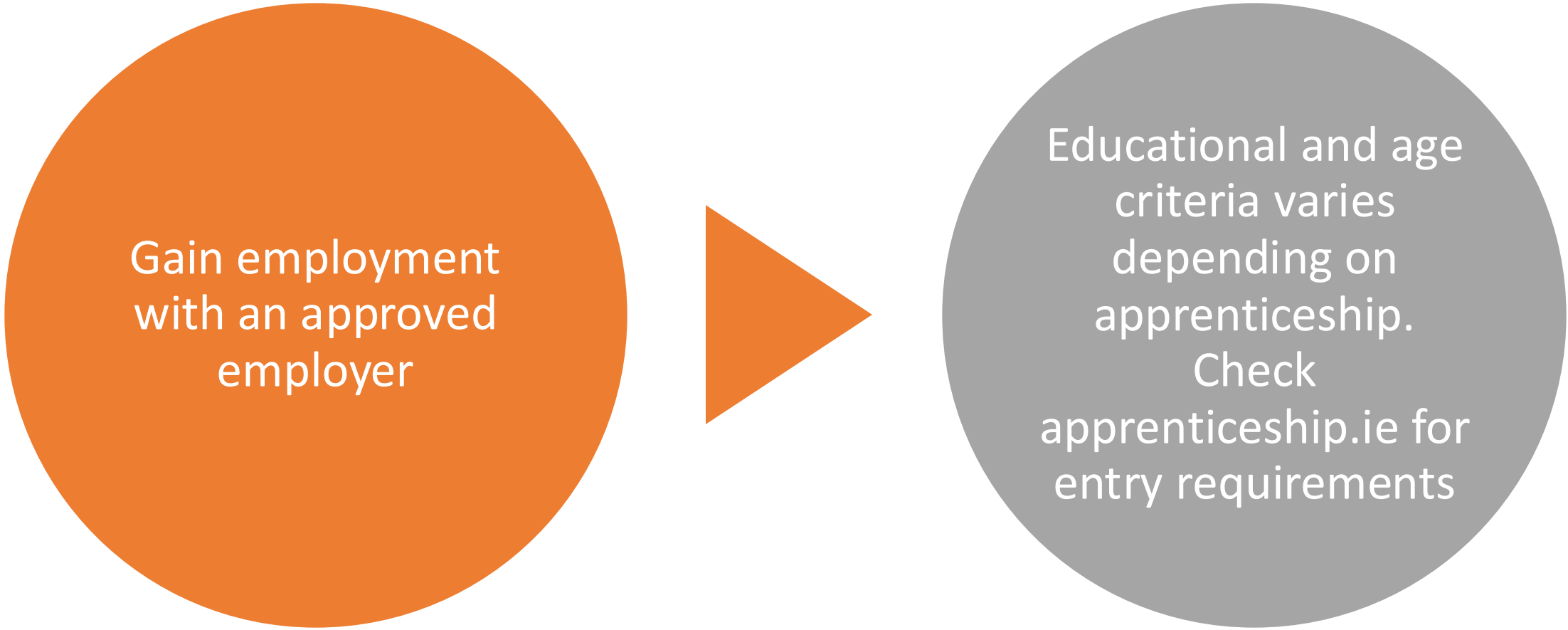
Contact industry on apprenticeships – they may be managing recruitment e.g. Johnson & Johnson

Search for apprenticeship opportunities using job search engines and local advertisements

Follow Apprenticeship on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn

There is now a link on the CAO page which will bring you directly to
www.apprenticeship.ie

Entry Requirements



Gain employment
with an approved
employer

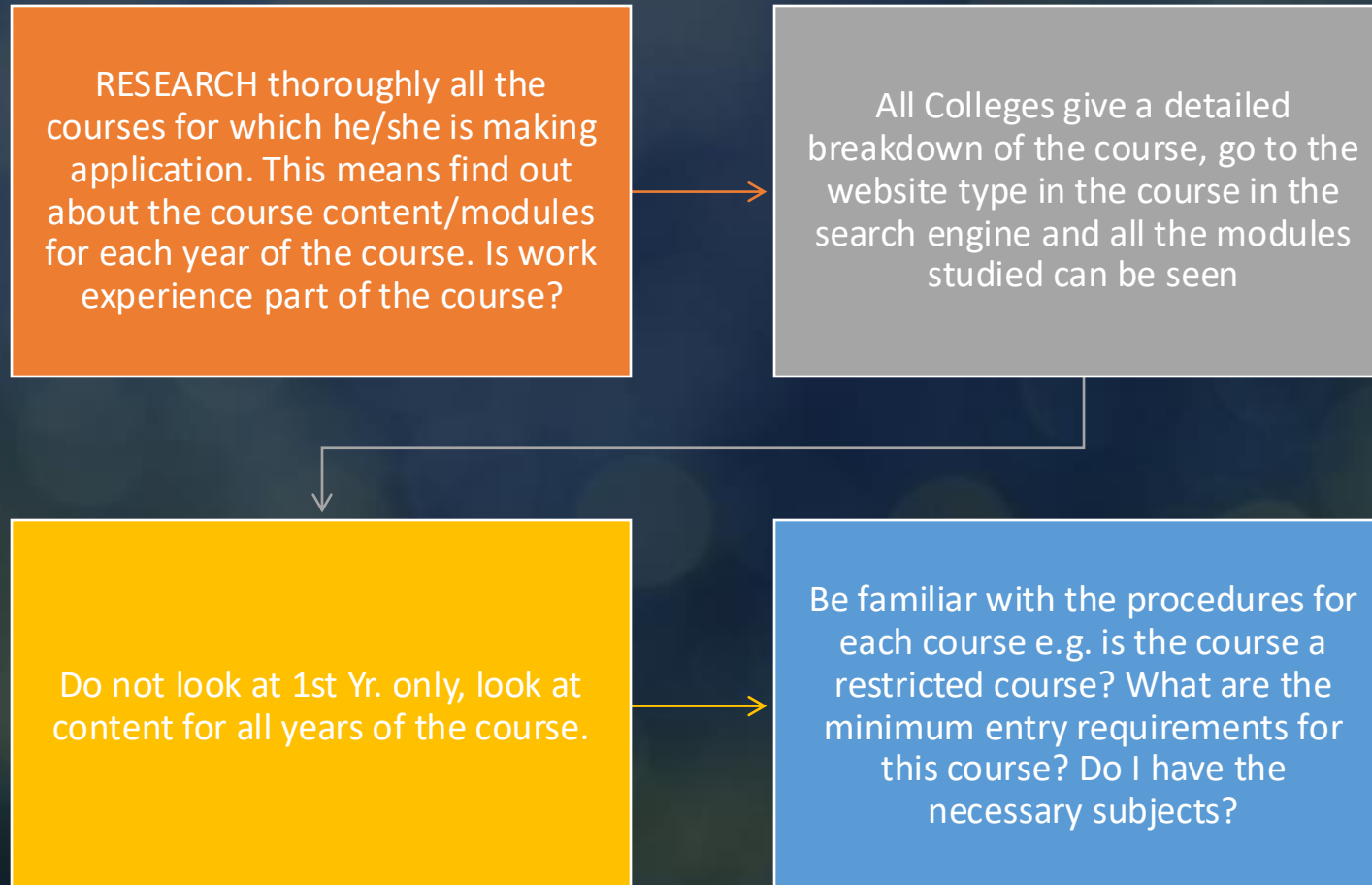
Educational and age
criteria varies
depending on
apprenticeship.
Check
apprenticeship.ie for
entry requirements



CAO for 2026

[CAO Website](#)

Student's Responsibility/Parent's Support



Useful Resources to Assist with Research

Guidance Counsellors

Subject Teachers

Careers Portal

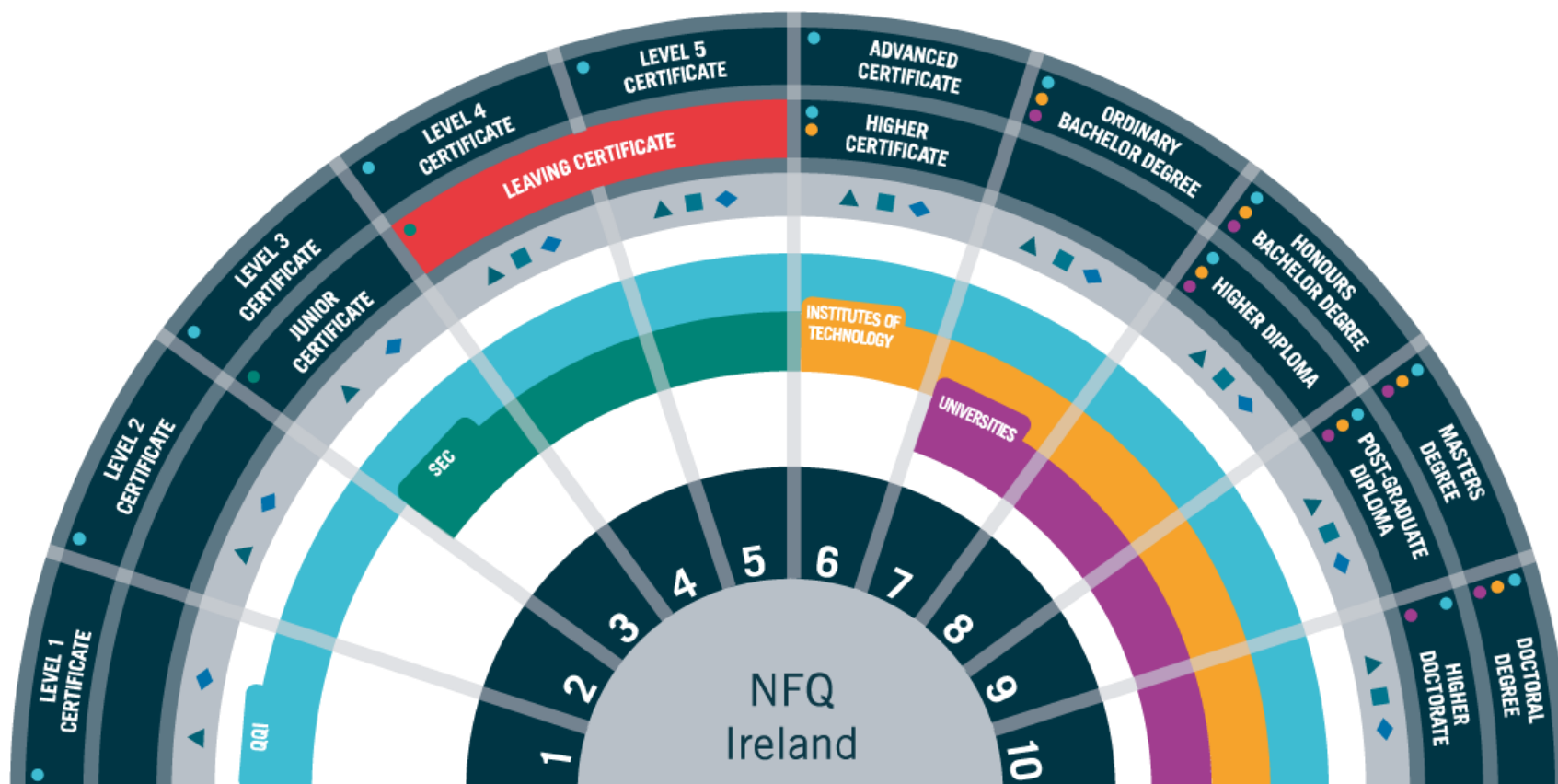
College Websites

College Faculty (email
and phone number
beside each course on
College website)

CAO (online)

Past Pupils

National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)





You will get
offered a place
for the course
**highest on your
list** that
matches all
three criteria

1

College requirements

2

Course requirements

3

Course Points score

1

College requirements

National University of Ireland (UCDublin, UCCork, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth):

- The minimum entry requirement for the universities that are part of the National University of Ireland (NUI) is **six subjects**, including **English, Irish and (possibly) a third language**. In two of these subjects, students must have achieved grade H5 and at least a grade H7 or O6 in four other subjects. Many courses also require a third language. There may be additional course requirements, such as maths, or a science subject for specific courses.

1

College requirements

University of Limerick (UL), Trinity College Dublin and DCU:

- The minimum entry requirement for is **six subjects**. Students must have achieved at least a grade H5 in two of these subjects (in three for TCD and the B.Ed. in DCU). Subjects must include a grade O6 in **English, Maths*** and a **language other than English**.

*Foundation level maths is accepted for some courses.

2

Course requirements

For most Higher Certificates (NFQ Level 6) and Degrees (NFQ Level 7) the minimum entry requirements are five Leaving Certificate subjects or equivalent examinations, obtaining a minimum grade O6/H7 in English or Irish, O6/H7 grade in Maths, and O6/H7 grade in three other subjects (see exceptions listed below in the ...

2

Course requirements

For most Honours Degrees (NFQ Level 8) the minimum entry requirements are six Leaving Certificate subjects or equivalent examinations, obtaining a minimum grade of two H5 and four O6/H7. Candidates are required to obtain a minimum of O6/H7 grade in Maths, and English or Irish (see exceptions listed below in the Course Specific Entry Requirements section).

Common Points Scale

Higher Level Grade	Points	Ordinary Level Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0

LCVP - POINTS

Grade	Points
Distinction	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

Adding up the points

(Add the 6 highest scores)

Subject	Level	Grade	Score
Irish	Higher	H2	88
English	Ordinary	O2	46
Maths	Higher	H5	56+25=81
French	Higher	H6	46
Biology	Higher	H3	77
Geography	Ordinary	O3	37
History	Higher	H5	56
LCVP	Common	Merit	46
		Best 6 scores	Points = 394

What is the CAO?

Central Applications Office
based in Galway.



- What do they do?

They process all applications to undergraduate courses in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

- What do they NOT do?

They do not SET the points each year.

CAO Course Choices

There are 2 Course Choice Lists:

Level 6/7 and Level 8

10 selections can be made in each list (two forms in one)

It is very important that course choices are placed in genuine order of preference.

Choices are made using a course code:

- E.g. Law and Accounting in University of Limerick is LM 020.
- Be careful with course codes especially with the new names of the colleges, ATU, MTU, TUS etc

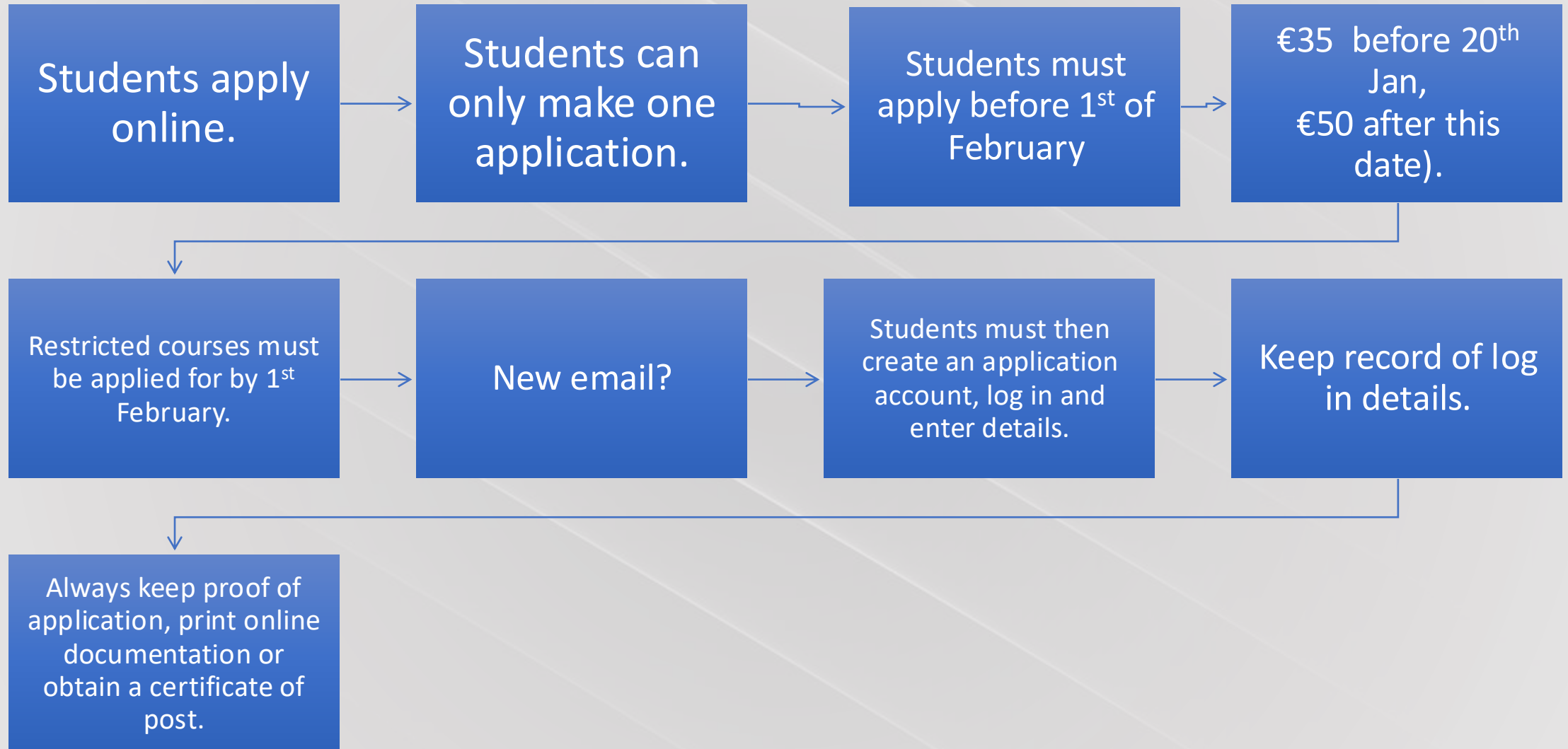
Level 8 choices do not affect Level 6/7 choices.

It is possible to receive an offer from both lists.

Only one offer can be accepted in August.

There are usually three rounds of offers.

Making an Application



Restricted Courses

BY 1ST FEB

ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT COMPONENT
PORTFOLIO OR INTERVIEW
+ POINTS

**ALL THE INFORMATION IS ON THE UNIVERSITY/COLLEGES
WEBSITES.**

After Making an Application

- Receive CAO number by email
- My Application' to check their application details.
- Some students may be called for extra assessments (interviews/musical performance etc) for restricted courses (1ST Feb).
- Students will receive a statement of application record – check details carefully,
make sure you reply to the email if needed.
- Change of mind facility becomes available – use carefully especially after exams.
- Leaving Cert Results are sent to CAO.
- Places are allocated and offered.
- Students accept, reject or defer offered places.
- Further rounds of offers are made until all the course places have been filled.



Change of Mind



A Change of Mind Form comes with the Statement of Application Record.



Once a student has registered with the CAO they can change their course choices online from the 5th of May 2026



There are no limit to the amount of changes a student wishes to make.



A students final decision has to be made by **5:00 pm** on 1st July 2026.

Genuine Order of Preference



- You do not need to guess what the points are going to be for the courses you are interested in.
- Simply list your courses in genuine order of preference from the highest preference 1, to the lowest preference 10.
- If you are entitled to an offer, you will be offered the highest preference that you are entitled to.



CAO Timetable of Events*

2025

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| September | • CAO 2026 Interactive Handbook available online at www.cao.ie |
| October | |
| November | • CAO online application facility opens on 5 November at 12:00 noon
• Facility to add/change course choices opens on 5 November at 12:00 noon |
| December | |

2026

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| January | • Discounted application fee (€35 fee) available up to 20 January at 5pm |
| February | • Normal closing date for applications (€50 fee) is 1 February at 5pm
• Online Change of Course Choices (free) facility closes 1 February at 5pm
• Online facility to amend course choices becomes available (€10 fee) on 5 February at noon |
| March | • Closing date for amending course choices is 1 March at 5pm
• Most tests and interviews for restricted courses are held in March and April
• Closing date for final completion of online DARE/HEAR forms is 1 March at 5pm
• Closing date for completion of Mature Applicant section of CAO form is 1 March at 5pm
• Late application facility opens on 5 March at 12:00 noon
• DARE/HEAR supporting documentation to arrive in CAO before 10 March at 5pm |
| April | • Most tests and interviews for restricted courses are held in March and April |
| May | • Closing date for late applications is 1 May at 5pm
• Online Change of Mind (free) facility becomes available on 5 May at 12:00 noon (expected date)
• Statement of Application Record email sent to all applicants before end of May. Inform CAO if you do not receive it. |
| June | • Leaving Certificate examinations
• DARE and HEAR eligibility outcomes issued to applicants (late June) |
| July | • Change of Mind Closes on 1 July at 5pm
• Round A offers for certain categories of applicant e.g. mature, deferral, etc. are issued in early July |
| August | • Round Zero offers for certain categories of applicant issued in early August
• Current year Leaving Certificate results issued (date to be confirmed)
• Round One offers (date to be confirmed)
• HEIs begin registration |
| September | • HEIs begin registration
• Results of Leaving Certificate appeals released (date to be confirmed)
• Offer season ends (date to be confirmed) |

Allocation of College Places

- In August students may get 2 offers
From Level 8 and Level 6/7 courses.
However students may only accept ONE course.
- Students must think carefully about not accepting one of these offers as they may not receive any further offers in subsequent rounds.
- Regardless of whether or not students accept or reject a course in round 1, they **may** still be offered a higher preference course in subsequent rounds if they become entitled to one.

Important Information

- Irish Exemptions -
complete an NUI Exemption Form to ensure that they meet the entry requirements of UCD, UCC, NUI Maynooth and NUI Galway and other NUI Colleges (Info on College websites).

For all other colleges you must contact the colleges directly.

- Visit www.cao.ie for more information on exemptions

Susi

- SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) is Ireland's national awarding authority for all higher and further education grants
- SUSI offers funding for eligible students in approved full-time third – level education in Ireland and also in some cases funding for students studying outside the state.
- To see if you are eligible for a SUSI grant visit [SUSI.ie](https://www.susi.ie) and click on eligibility reckoner
- If you think that your son/daughter may be eligible for a SUSI grant, when filling out the CAO form make sure to click the box beside SUSI in the grant section

Commonly asked questions

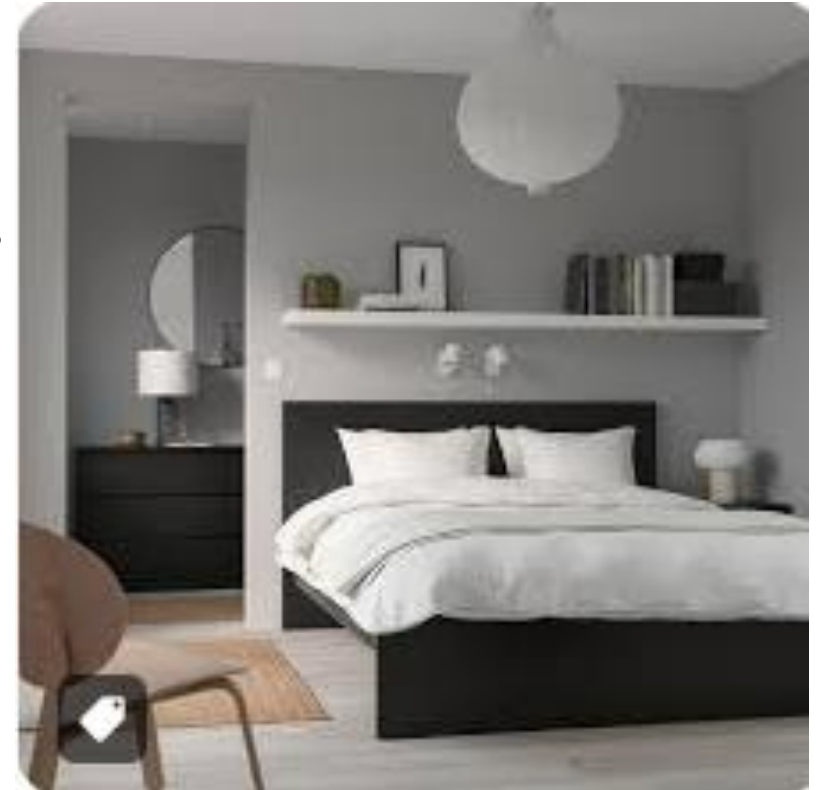
I've received an offer of my 2nd preference, if I accept this offer does this mean I won't get any further offers?

I've received my 3rd preference but would prefer my 4th, what should I do?

I have the points, why didn't I receive an offer?

Accommodation

- Early
- Deposit needed/may not be refundable
- Aware of the consequence of having a lot of locations for college courses – accommodation.



Summary

- Research courses thoroughly.
- Apply by January 20th 2025 €35.

(late applications after this date are charged a higher fee)

- Set up a separate email account/Add email address to current email provider so CAO correspondence does not go into SPAM folder.
- Apply online.
- Pay by debit/credit card.
- Put courses in genuine order of preference.
- Obtain/Retain proof of application.
- Read all emails from CAO carefully
- Be careful with change of mind (especially after LC Exams).

HEAR/DARE APPLICATIONS 2026

www.accesscollege.ie for full details



<https://www.stailbesie.ie/information/school-calendar/>

- SCHOOL CALENDAR
- SCHOOL FACILITIES
- SCHOOL HISTORY
- SCHOOL HOURS
- SCHOOL UNIFORM
- BOARD OF MANAGEMENT
- SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION
- PASTORAL
- PARENTS COUNCIL
- STAFF LIST
- STUDENT COUNCIL

Monday 7 th October	1 st year option rollover
Tuesday 15 th October	JCT Cluster day – School closed for students
Week beginning 21 st October	School Show
Mid-term break (last day of term Friday 25 th October return on Monday 4 th November)	
Monday 4 th November	1 st year option rollover
Wednesday 6 th November	1 st year Parent/Teacher meeting
Wednesday 13 th November	Open Night
Wednesday 20 th November	CAO Information Evening 7 p.m HEAR/DARE Presentation
Monday 25 th November	1 st year option rollover
25 th to 29 th November	5 th & 6 th year exams
25 th to 29 th November	TY Work Ex week 1
Thurs 5 th December	Careers day
Monday 9 th December	3 rd & 6 th year parent/Teacher meeting
18 th & 19 st December	1 st & 2 nd year exams in sports hall

HEAR

Higher Education Access Route

It is a third level admissions scheme for school leavers who for **social, financial or cultural** reasons are **under-represented** in **third level education**. Eligible students may be offered places on **reduced points and receive extra supports** in colleges that run the scheme.

DARE

Disability Access Route to Education

It is a third level admissions scheme for school leavers whose **disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education**. Eligible students may be offered places on **reduced points** in the colleges that run the scheme

What does 'reduced points' mean?

- If you apply to **HEAR/DARE** and meet the application criteria you may be offered a place even if you do not have enough Leaving Certificate points for your preferred course. CAO points 350, HEAR/DARE 340
- **You still need to meet the minimum entry requirements** and any specific programme requirements before being considered for a **HEAR/DARE**
- Each of the colleges set aside a **quota of places** for **HEAR/DARE** students each year.

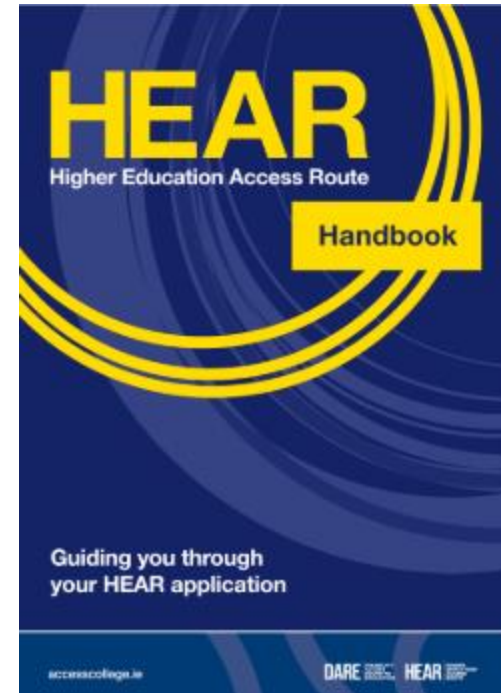
HEAR Application

How do I know if I'm eligible to apply to HEAR

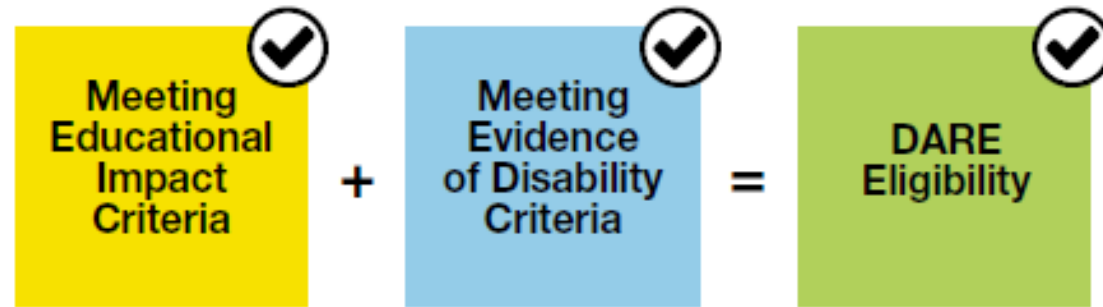
- **Income Threshold**
- **+ Other criteria**

How do I apply?

1. Apply to CAO at www.cao.ie by **1 February 2026**.
2. Review your HEAR Handbook 3. Complete all elements of the online HEAR application form by **17:00** on **1 March 2026**.
4. Submit clear copies of supporting documents requested on your checklist to CAO by **15 March 2026**.



DARE Eligibility Criteria

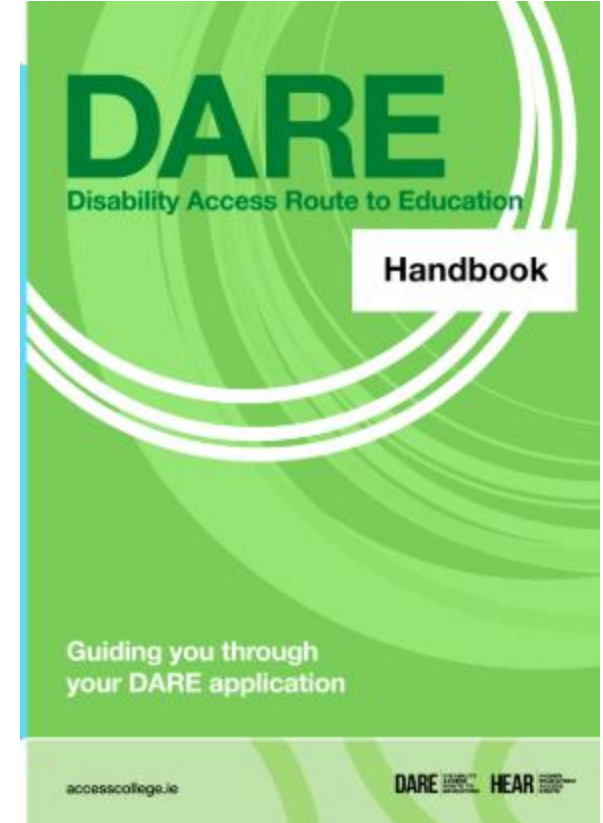


- To be eligible for DARE you must meet **both** the DARE **educational impact** criteria and **DARE evidence of disability criteria**.

Applicants must provide the required evidence of their disability and provide an Educational Impact Statement from their school to be considered for DARE.

How do I apply?

1. Apply to CAO at www.cao.ie by **1 February** .
2. Review your DARE Handbook Complete Section A of the Supplementary Info Form and apply to DARE by answering **Yes** to **Question 1** by **1 March 2026**
3. You should start gathering your documentation in a timely fashion, i.e. before 15 February.
4. Submit the Educational Impact Statement and Evidence of Disability to CAO by **15 March 2026**



IMPORTANT

HEAR/DARE Applications are embedded within the CAO application, if you do not tick on the relevant box, within the CAO application, you will not gain access to the HEAR & DARE applications.

The information appears after the Qualifications Sections in the CAO application

Disability

If you wish to disclose a disability or Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties or Dyscalculia/ Significant Numeracy Difficulties or apply to the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) click on the **'Modify Disability (& DARE Application) Status'** button below.

Modify Disability (& DARE Application) Status »

Further Information: www.accesscollege.ie

ACCESS
COLLEGE

HEAR DARE

Find out how you can access Higher Education in Ireland



HEAR | HIGHER
EDUCATION
ACCESS
ROUTE

A higher education admissions scheme for Leaving Certificate students (under 23) whose economic or social background are underrepresented in higher education

Find out more about HEAR



DARE | DISABILITY
ACCESS
ROUTE TO
EDUCATION

A higher education admissions scheme for Leaving Certificate students (under 23) whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education

Find out more about DARE

DARE | DISABILITY
ACCESS
ROUTE TO
EDUCATION

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Supporting You All The

SUSI is Ireland's national awarding authority for further and higher education grants. We offer support to eligible students in approved courses at PLC, undergraduate and postgraduate levels and in some cases, to students studying outside Ireland.

[About SUSI](#)[What Grants are Available?](#)[Am I Eligible?](#)[Eligibility Indicator](#)[What are the Grant Rates?](#)[How to Apply](#)

www.SUSI.ie

Scholarships

← → ↻ careersportal.ie/scholarships

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Home

 COMMUNITIES ▼ EXPLORE ▼ MEDIA ▼ TOOLS ▼

Scholarship Explorer

 Search for any title

Sponsor ▼ College

Found 658 Result(s)

Useful Websites

www.fetchcourses.ie – PLC FE Courses

www.cao.ie – Level 6/7/8 Courses

www.apprenticeships.ie

www.accesscollege.ie – HEAR/DARE Supporting Info

www.susi.ie – Student Grants

[Irish/Language Exemption Info](#) – For all colleges

www.careersportal.ie – careers/courses research

www.examrevision.ie & www.studyclix.ie –

On Line learning/revision/exam material