

**Rockwood Parade, Sligo**

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[www.ncycs.ie](http://www.ncycs.ie)  YOUTH Information SLIGO

Mon – Thur 9 – 5pm      Fri 9 – 4.30pm

## **Extra Supports Available For Disadvantaged Students**



**Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)**

**Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)**

*These programmes can support eligible applicants to gain access to courses in Higher Education on a reduced points entry basis.*

**All applicants must be under the age of 23 on 1 January 2020**

## Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)

There are **six numbered indicators** that measure eligibility for the HEAR scheme.

All applicants must fall under indicator **Number 1**: The HEAR Income Limit which is:

€45,7590 for a family with less than 4 dependent children

€50,325 for a family with 4-7 dependent children

€54,630 for a family with 8 or more dependent children

There is an addition on these limits of €4,670 for a sibling or parent already enrolled in a full time college, university or PLC course.

Alongside this income indicator, applicants must also meet a combination of two other specific indicators which are:

**Number 2**: Having a Medical Card or GP Visit Card which is valid up to and including December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019

**Number 3**: Your family has received a means tested Social Welfare payment from the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection for at least **26 weeks** during the **2018** calendar year.

**Number 4**: You belong to a group that is underrepresented in higher education based on the occupation and employment status of your parent(s) or guardian(s). The underrepresented groups are the Non-Manual Workers Group and the Semi and Unskilled Manual Workers Group

**Number 5**: You completed five years in a second level school that takes part in the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) scheme run by the Department of Education and Skills.

**Number 6**: You live in an area where there is concentrated disadvantage – in other words an area where, for example, there is high unemployment and poverty and where only a small proportion of adults have attained third level education.

The combination of qualifying indicators are as follows:

**Indicator 1 + 2 + 4 or 5 or 6      Indicator 1 + 4 + 5 or 6**

**Indicator 1 + 3 + 4 or 5 or 6      Indicator 1 + 5 + 6**

The **HEAR & DARE Handbook for 2020** contains an in-depth guide on all aspects of this access scheme as well as detailed description on how to submit your application. <https://accesscollege.ie>

## **Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)**

The DARE scheme is used to provide access to third-level education for school-leavers who have disabilities that have impacted negatively on their second-level education.

Applicants for this scheme must also meet certain indicators to be deemed eligible for assistance through DARE.

There are **6 possible criteria** and out of these all applicants must meet 2 of these, however in the case of those with specific learning difficulties they must meet indicator number 6 along with one other, those who do not cite a specific learning impairment must meet 2 factors from 1-5.

**Number 1:** Received special supports or intervention during post-primary school or in exams

**Number 2:** Disability has limited a person's school attendance or regularly disrupted the school day

**Number 3:** Disability has had an adverse effect on school experience and wellbeing

**Number 4:** Disability has impacted learning experience or exam results

**Number 5:** Any other significant educational disruption

**Number 6:** Specific learning disability is severely impacting on literacy or numeracy skills

## KEY DATES

All applicants must be aware that they have to be **under the age of 23 as of 1 January 2020**.

HEAR & DARE applications run closely with the CAO application timeline with regards to deadlines. While completing your CAO application you will be given the option to let the CAO you are also looking to apply for the HEAR and/or DARE schemes. **This must be confirmed before 5:15 PM on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2020**.

## CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS

All supporting documents for HEAR and DARE must be submitted to the CAO office **before 5:15 PM on March 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Applicants should note that they should [send copies of documents via post rather than fax or email](#).

Applications will be **reviewed over the course of April and June** and applicants will know their results by the **end of June**, applicants **deemed ineligible** for the HEAR or DARE schemes can **appeal the decision shortly after**.

Applicants that **qualify** for a place on a course through HEAR will be notified shortly after the CAO offers are released in **August**. These students can then accept the course they have chosen alongside HEAR. Following the acceptance of these places, all students qualifying through the HEAR scheme must attend a special orientation programme shortly before the start of the academic year in **late August or early September**.

### *For Further Information Please*

*Contact: Anne Brennan (Guidance Counsellor/Youth Worker)*

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