

## CAO – Notes

CAO handles applications to universities and other institutions in the Republic of Ireland. CAO website is where applications are done.

The CAO handbook provides all the standard information, but must be used in conjunction with the university prospectuses and websites.

Presentation on how the CAO system works

[http://www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/2021/Applying to CAO 2021.pps](http://www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/2021/Applying_to_CAO_2021.pps)

The National University of Ireland covers universities in Galway, Cork, Maynooth and UCD – University College Dublin. The NUI website has a long list of “acceptable” subjects. “Applied” A level subjects e.g. Applied Business Studies, are not acceptable.

[http://www.nui.ie/college/docs/2020/A\\_Level\\_GCSE.pdf](http://www.nui.ie/college/docs/2020/A_Level_GCSE.pdf)

Trinity College Dublin – TCD, Limerick and Dublin City University – DCU are separate.

To matriculate, which means meet the absolutely lowest possible basic entry requirements, you must have 6 GCSEs including Irish, English and a language and at least 2 of those GCSE subjects taken on to A level with at least grade C in them – for NUI.

If you were born in Northern Ireland you are exempted from the Irish requirement.

TCD is similar but not exactly the same. 2 A levels at grade C plus 4 other GCSEs. Need English, Maths and a language at GCSE, or Latin and a non-language GCSE.

If you are studying only 3 A Levels – look at TCD Feasibility Study – they have set aside a small number of places in each course. To apply for these you apply through CAO and directly to TCD as well.

<https://www.tcd.ie/study/apply/alternative-paths-to-trinity/>

<http://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=demo&d=feas1&l=&c8=1&c7=&md=&hf=&tf=0>

The Institutes of Technology may also offer ordinary degrees or honours degrees.

Dates for application cycle are clearly laid out in the handbook, but most important date is 1<sup>st</sup> February – closing date. Some courses will not consider applications after this date.

You are awarded points for your A level results and sometimes AS as well.

- e.g. 4 A levels
- 3 A levels + other AS (from previous year)
- 3 A levels

The A levels to be counted must all be awarded the results in the same year – important! You cannot resit one A level and expect to apply again.

The number of points needed to get into a course varies from year to year depending on the places available, number of applicants and how well the applicants do!

These points are not the same as UCAS points!

From 2018	Universities and associated colleges			Institutes of Technology (other than DkIT)	
	First 3 A-Levels	4th A-Level	or AS Level	First 3 A-Levels	AS Levels (& 4th A-level where presented)
A*	185	45		185	45†
A	156	38	26	156	38
B	131	32	22	131	32
C	106	26	18	106	26
D	84	20	14	84	20
E	63	15	11	63	15

### Universities and associated colleges:

Applicants are scored on the basis of their best four A levels or three A levels and an AS level in a different subject from the same or preceding year. The maximum number of points that can be achieved is 600.

Note: Applicants presenting Grade E or above in one of A-Level Mathematics, Further Mathematics or Pure Mathematics will have 25 points added to their score for that subject. The bonus points will only be relevant where that subject is scored as one of the applicant's best four subjects for points purposes. This gives a maximum possible score of 625.

### Institutes of Technology (other than DkIT) and other HEIs offering QQI HET awards:

Applicants are scored on the basis of a maximum of 4 different subject results at A and/or AS level.

Applicants are scored on the basis of a maximum of 4 different subject results at A and/or AS level. For scoring purposes, the following combination of A Levels and AS Levels are permitted:

1. The best 4 A level results in a single sitting.
2. The best 3 A level results in a single sitting, plus the best AS level result from the previous or the same sitting.
3. The best 2 A level subject results in a single sitting, plus the best 2 results at AS level from the previous or the same sitting.
4. The best 1 A level subject result in a single sitting, plus the best 3 results at AS level from the previous or the same sitting.
5. The best 4 AS level subject results in a single sitting.

### **Important information for all GCE Applicants**

- Evidence of GCSE examinations must be supplied in order to meet minimum entry requirements.
- AS Levels must be in different subjects to those taken at A-Level.
- When sending documents, certified photocopies of certificates/statements of results produced by an Examining Board must be supplied to CAO well in advance of Round One offers – school transcripts will not be accepted.
- Applicants must also advise CAO of any previous AS and A Level awards and provide certified photocopies of certificates/statements of results produced by an examining board to support their application.
- CAO advises GCE applicants to discuss their AS Level certification process with their school. AS Level results are frequently cashed in along with A2 Level results in the final year. As a result, candidates often will not have evidence of their AS Level results until the release of their A2 Level results in August. In this instance, CAO will expect to receive electronic notification of the AS Level results provided that the applicant has supplied their correct Board, Centre number and Candidate number for all subjects that will be cashed in in August 2015.
- If a school cashes in AS Level results in the same year as A Level results, applicants must enter the remaining AS Level subject carried forward on their CAO application – applicants must use the space provided for 'Examinations to be taken' in the Qualifications & Assessments section.
- CAO must be informed if the candidate sat any AS or A2 Level examinations at a different school.

**Please note, all applicants must check the matriculation and minimum entry requirements for all courses.**

Some courses give bonus points for Maths A level (25).

Medicine applications are a bit different. You get points up to a maximum of 560 for your A levels – you need to check this out carefully as it is not straightforward. Then you get more points from the HPAT test, up to 300.

To be in the competition for a high demand course you need to be doing 4 A levels and may need 4 A's or even more. Dentistry – you really need 4 A\*!!

High demand courses include Medicine, Dentistry, Psychology, History, English, Physiotherapy . . .

Cost of an application:

before 20 January 2021 at 17:15, €30

between 20 January and 1 February, €45

**Applications close on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 at 17:15**

Honours degree courses are level 8 qualifications

Ordinary degree courses are level 7 qualifications

You can choose up to 10 level 8 courses (and 10 level 7 if you wish).

Very important – put them in order of preference.

When you get your results the number of points you have is calculated and then your first preference is checked. If you have enough points you may\* be made an offer for that course. If you don't have enough points they look at your second choice etc. When you have met the points required for a course, all others below that in the list of preferences will be wiped off.

\*Even if you have enough points you still might not get an offer! If they have too many people with enough points they do a random selection and discard some people.

It is possible that after a while (if other people do not take the places they were offered) you might be offered a course higher up your list, but this does not happen often.

You have to indicate the type of exams you are taking and the subjects etc you are doing for A level.

You MUST SEND PHOTOCOPIES OF YOUR GCSE and AS CERTIFICATES to CAO within 7 days of submitting you application. The PHOTOCOPIES HAVE TO BE STAMPED by the CAREERS OFFICE – See Mrs. Stott – IMPORTANT!

No personal statement.

No reference.

Interviews are rare.

You will not get any offers in advance of results. The first offers come on 11<sup>th</sup> September(probably) and you must reply by the date you are given.

A second round of offers will come out around 23 September – high demand courses unlikely in this round.

This video explains the process:

<https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=video&l=102134759>

There is a student registration fee, each year – check the university websites, around €3000 but in the current financial situation it is possible that it may go up. This used to be paid by the local Education and Library Boards but is not anymore. A loan to cover this can be obtained from the Student Loan Company via StudentFinance NI  
<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/tuition-fees>

It is absolutely vital that you check your application is correct. There will be an opportunity to correct mistakes and if you don't correct them, it may be too late.

You cannot negotiate with CAO or the universities the way it is sometimes possible to do with UK universities. They do not discuss your applications with us and CAO NEVER MAKES MISTAKES!

We have no access to your application – cannot see it, check it, get any information about it etc. Make sure it is done correctly.

You can run this application system alongside the UCAS applications and make your final choice after the A level results next August.

Please inform me if you have put in a CAO application.

Good luck!