

OPTIONS

2023



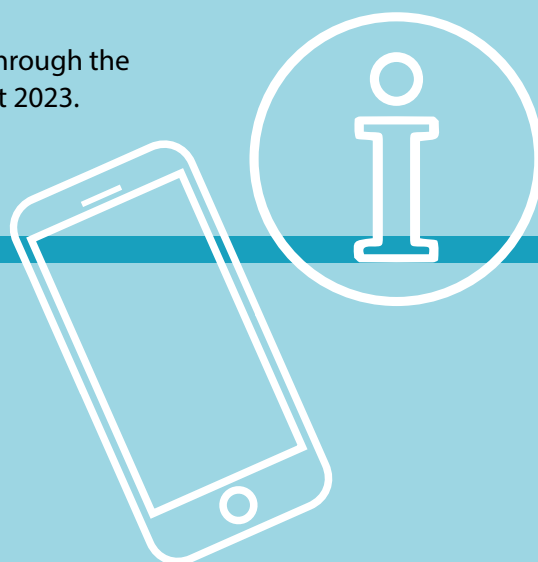
An information guide for Leaving Cert students & parents

Y M C A Y O U T H I N F O

STUDENT INFORMATION / SUPPORT SERVICES

Results of Leaving Certificate 2023 will be issued directly to students through the Student Portal (See examinations.ie/cssp/2023/) on Friday 25th August 2023.

Results will also be issued simultaneously to students' schools.



HELPLINE

The National Parents Council helpline (01 887 4477) can be contacted from 10am to 4pm following the issue of results and CAO offers. It is also contactable via email: helpline@npc.ie

WEBSITE: www.npc.ie

IMPORTANT CAO DATES*

*The following dates may be amended. We advise all students to check cao.ie on a regular basis for potential schedule changes.

3rd August (10:00):	Round 0 offers for certain Non-Standard categories of applicant - applicants receive an offer by e-mail and SMS text
9th August (15:00):	Round 0 acceptances closing date.
25th August :	Current year Leaving Certificate results issued
30th August (14:00):	Round 1 offers available from 14:00 online - also issued by e-mail and SMS text. Applicants who have not received an offer will receive a `Statement of Application` email.
31st August (12:00):	Available Place facility opens
5th September (15:00):	Round 1 acceptances closing date.
11th September (14:00):	Round 2 offers available online.
13th September (15:00):	Round 2 acceptances closing date.
19th September (10:00):	Round 3 offers available online - applicants will also receive an offer notification by e-mail and SMS text.
21st September (15:00):	Round 3 acceptances closing date.
26th September (10:00):	Round 4 offers available online - applicants will also receive an offer notification by e-mail and SMS text.
28th September (15:00):	Round 4 acceptances closing date.
3rd October (10:00):	Round 5 offers available online - applicants will also receive an offer notification by e-mail and SMS text.
5th October (15:00):	Round 5 acceptances closing date.
TBC	HEIs begin registration
TBC	Results of Leaving Certificate appeals released
5th October	Offer Season Ends.
6th November 2023	CAO application facility opens for 2024 applications

YOUTH INFORMATION - ONLINE ASSISTANCE

National Youth Information Chat Service (ymca-ireland.net/question)

YIChat is an easy to use chat service that works just like WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger. It helps to provide students and parents with advice and answers to their questions during these unprecedented times. The service is staffed by trained Youth Information Officers, who can help students and parents discuss their situation and talk through their options.

Youth Information Chat is an online chat service operated by YMCA Ireland's Advocacy and Youth Information Service together with Youth Information Centres from Youth Work Ireland, Crosscare and by Ireland's Youth Information website, SpunOut.ie.

The Youth Information Chat service is available every Monday to Friday, 16:00 - 20:00 or you can leave a message outside of those hours and receive a reply by email. The service is open to 16 to 25 year olds, parents, and people who work with young people.



POINTS SYSTEM

POINTS	HIGHER LEVEL GRADE (PERCENTAGE)	ORDINARY LEVEL GRADE (PERCENTAGE)	POINTS
100	H1 (90 < 100)		
88	H2 (80 < 89)		
77	H3 (70 < 79)		
66	H4 (60 < 69)		
56	H5 (50 < 59)	O1 (90 < 100)	56
46	H6 (40 < 49)	O2 (80 < 89)	46
37	H7 (30 < 39)	O3 (70 < 79)	37
0	H8 (0 < 29)	O4 (60 < 69)	28
		O5 (50 < 59)	20
		O6 (40 < 49)	12
		O7 (30 < 39)	0
		O8 (0 < 29)	0

MATHS BONUS POINTS

25 bonus points will be awarded for Higher Level Mathematics for H6 grades and above. For example, if an applicant receives a H6 grade an additional 25 points will be added to the 46 points already awarded for a H6 grade i.e. Higher Level Mathematics now carries a points score of 71 for this applicant. [Click here to view a more detailed description of the Bonus Points Scheme for Higher Level Leaving Certificate Mathematics, with some examples.](#)

LCVP GRADES

Distinction: 66 points
Merit: 46 points
Pass: 28 points

FOUNDATION LEVEL GRADES

F1: 20 points
F2: 12 points

IMPORTANT:

All HEIs award points for results in Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme Link Modules, in place of a sixth Leaving Certificate subject. However, not all HEIs count LCVP as meeting eligibility requirements in regard to passing subjects.

Applicants should refer to HEI literature for full details.

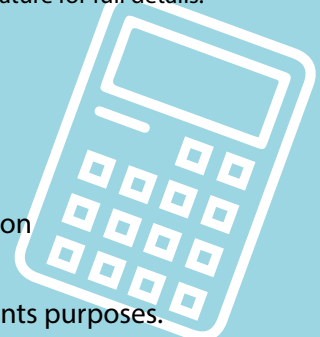
CAO POINTS CALCULATOR

A Points Calculator is available on the CAO website at www.cao.ie



CONDITIONS REGARDING POINTS

- The 6 best results, in recognised subjects, in one Leaving Certificate Examination will be counted for points computation
- One sitting only of the Leaving Certificate Examination will be counted for points purposes.
- For certain subjects, e.g. Foundation Level Maths or Foundation Level Irish, some HEIs may not award the points shown above. If in doubt, check with the Admissions Office of the appropriate HEIs.
- You must first meet the minimum entry requirements in order to be considered for entry to a course. The bonus points are included in the overall points calculation only when Maths is one of the applicant's best six subjects following the addition of the bonus.



CAO PROCESS



1; Transfer of Grades to CAO:

All students' grades are transferred directly to the CAO. Following this the offers process begins and you will be notified if you have been offered a college course place.

See 'Important CAO Dates' above for the provisional timetable of dates regarding offers.

2; Accepting an offer:

If you wish to accept a CAO offer, there are some things you need to know:

A Reply Date will be printed on Offer Notices. If you wish to accept an offer, you must do so by this Date.

If you are unavailable, someone else may accept on your behalf, as long as they have the offer notice

Offers will also be presented online at the CAO website, and you may accept an offer online

If you receive an offer from both lists (Level 8 or the Level 6/7 list) you must choose between them i.e.

you can only accept one offer, in any one round.

If you don't want to accept the offer you've received, then simply do nothing, and wait for the next Round of offers.

Can I accept more than one offer?: If you receive more than one offer, acceptance automatically cancels any previous acceptances. You can have only one current acceptance in the entire CAO system. This means that whichever course you accepted most recently is the course you have a place on. You have given up your place on another course by accepting the new offer.

3; Available places.

After the initial CAO offers have been issued, CAO will post a list of courses that still have places available with no waiting list. If the course you were hoping to get into is listed, or if there is another course in the list that you are interested in, you can apply online. Visit the CAO website to view the list of available places. Check the site regularly to see if there are any new places available. You will need to meet the minimum requirements in order to get into the course.

DEFERRING OFFERS

If you wish to defer an offer of a place you do not accept your offer. Instead, you must email the Admissions Office of the appropriate HEI immediately. You must give your name as it appears on your CAO application, quote your CAO application number and the course code of the offer you wish to defer, and set out the reason(s) for the request. Applicants must mark "DEFERRED ENTRY" clearly in the subject line of the email.

You can also check the website of the relevant HEI to see if they have a deferral policy available online that you can refer to. The email must arrive in the Admissions Office of the institution at least two days before the 'Reply Date' shown on the Offer Notice. The HEI will communicate their decision to you directly.

If the deferral is not granted you may then accept the offer for the current year providing you accept the offer by the 'Reply Date'. You must send all communications about deferrals to the appropriate Admissions Office and not to CAO.

APPEAL PROCESS



APPEALING YOUR RESULTS

Students who are not satisfied with their marks in one or more Leaving Certificate subjects can appeal those results to the State Examinations Commission. Before you appeal your result(s), you can view your exam script and then decide if you still want to appeal. See 'Viewing your exam script' below.

Your script will also be sent to an appeal examiner for re-marking. This will not be the same person who originally marked your work. The same marking scheme is used for re-marking. This means that appeal examiners apply the same standards in re-marking as were applied to all candidates in the original examination. There is further information about the appeal process on the SEC's website.

If you are not happy with the outcome of your appeal, you may request an appeal review by the Independent Appeals Scrutineers. Application forms for an appeal review are provided with your appeal results.

EXAM APPEAL FEES

In 2023, there is a fee of €40 to appeal each Leaving Certificate subject. If your appeal is successful and your subject result is upgraded, you will get a refund of the appeal fee for that subject. Once again, see the State Examinations Commissions website for details.

IF YOU RECEIVE A HIGHER GRADE AFTER APPEAL:

If you receive an upgrade and your revised result places you higher on the order-of-merit list than the last person who actually got an offer, then the Higher Education Institution will usually instruct CAO to either offer you a place to begin immediately or offer you a place deferred to the next year.

HEAR & DARE APPLICANTS INFO



What is HEAR?: The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is an admissions scheme for students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. It improves access to college for school-leavers from socio-economic backgrounds that are under-represented in third-level education. Under the HEAR scheme a number of third-level places are allocated to school-leavers on a reduced points basis. To be eligible for the scheme you must meet certain indicators (or criteria) related to your financial, social and cultural circumstances – see 'Indicators' below.

What is DARE?: The Disability Access Route To Education (DARE) is a third level alternative admissions scheme for school-leavers under the age of 23 as of 1 January 2023, whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education. DARE offers reduced points places to school leavers who, as a result of having a disability, have experienced additional educational challenges in second level education.

For more information on the HEAR and DARE Schemes visit www.accesscollege.ie

For 2023 DARE and HEAR applicants, The CAO website contains a page specifically dedicated to the DARE / HEAR process, including key dates and much more. Visit www.cao.ie for details.

IMPORTANT NOTES (Specific HEI's / Courses)

NCAD does not operate the Leaving Cert/CAO points scheme for programmes requiring a portfolio submission. Offers are made based on portfolio score to applicants who meet minimum academic entry requirements. To see the NCAD Portfolio Submission Guidelines see their website.

Applicants for undergraduate medicine courses: To be eligible to compete for entry to undergraduate medicine in 2023, applicants must:

1. Achieve a minimum of 480 points
2. Meet the minimum entry requirements for each Medical School for which they have applied
3. Complete the required admissions test (HPAT-Ireland) in 2023.

Criteria 1 and 2 above must both be met in the same sitting of the Irish Leaving Certificate Examination, or equivalent. Pre 2023 Leaving Certificate results may be presented but the HPAT must be presented in the year of entry

HIGHER EDUCATION LINKS SCHEME (HELS)

Under QQI (Quality & Qualifications Ireland)

The Higher Education Links Scheme (HELS) gives learners the opportunity to use their QQI Level 5 or 6 major award to apply, through the CAO, for a place in the first year of a higher education programme. Programmes leading to Level 5 and Level 6 Major Awards are available through providers who have programmes validated with QQI. Applications to participate in these Level 5 and 6 courses are made directly to the college's in question.

Linked awards, special requirements and available higher education programmes are published by the admissions office of the individual higher education institution and on www.cao.ie.

For more information and guidance on HELS see www.qqi.ie

COLLEGE START DATE?

Commencement dates including start dates for specific courses will vary. Students will usually receive notifications and information from the HEI where they have accepted a place, with all relevant info regarding registration procedures and start dates etc.

However, if you do not receive such correspondence soon after you have accepted your place we strongly advise students to contact their college as soon as possible after receiving and accepting an offer to confirm start dates.



COLLEGES FOR REPEAT LEAVING CERTIFICATE

College of Commerce - Morrison's Island, Cork (Non-private)
Tel: (021) 4223801 / Mail: mdebarra@ccoc.ie
Web: corkcollegeofcommerce.ie

Bruce College - Audley House, St. Patrick's Hill, Cork.
Tel: (021) 450 4122 / Mail: susan@brucecollege.ie
Web: brucecollege.ie

Hewitt College - 24, Patrick's Hill, Cork.
Tel: (021) 455 0430 / Mail: admin@hewittcollege.net
Web: hewittcollege.ie

Deane College - Fitzgerald House, 73-75 Grand Parade, Cork.
Tel: (021) 427 4722 / Mail: info@deanecollege.ie
Web: deanecollege.ie

STUDYING IN NI, UK & EUROPE

UK & Northern Ireland Information for UCAS Undergraduate applicants

Ahead of the next main student intake in September 2023, UK universities are processing international UCAS applications as normal and traditional study and learning is expected to return. UK universities are working towards a full return to face-to-face teaching from the start of Autumn Term in September 2023 and students are expected to have full access to all campuses and facilities. In line with UK Government guidance, institutions will continue to provide a safe campus for students.



UCAS Offers - Tariff Points

UCAS (University and Colleges Admissions Service) is the central applications body for full-time undergraduate courses in the UK (including Northern Ireland). If you have applied for a UK college place, UCAS will receive students' grades from the relevant awarding bodies and pass them on to their chosen colleges.

For students currently holding a conditional offer, these offers will become unconditional, as long as students meet offer conditions (usually related to grades). The UCAS system is based on a different points system known as Tariff points. The tables below outline the amount of points given for each leaving certificate grade at Higher and Ordinary level. For more information and details on UCAS and the Tariff Points system, you can visit www.ucas.com

UCAS Tariff points Leaving Certificate

POINTS	HIGHER LEVEL GRADE (PERCENTAGE)	ORDINARY LEVEL GRADE (PERCENTAGE)	POINTS
36	H1 (90 - 100)		
30	H2 (80 < 89)		
24	H3 (70 < 79)		
18	H4 (60 < 69)		
12	H5 (50 < 59)	O1 (90 - 100)	12
9	H6 (40 < 49)	O2 (80 < 90)	10
9	H7-H8 (0 < 39)	O3 (70 < 80)	8
		O4 (60 < 70)	6
		O5-O8 (0 < 39)	0

TRACKING - If you have applied for a UK course you can track the progress of your application by logging in to the UCAS 'Track System' by visiting

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/tracking-your-ucas-application>

UCAS FEES:

England, Wales and Northern Ireland: HEI's in these UK areas can charge new students up to £9,250 sterling a year for undergraduate courses. You can apply for a tuition fee loan which you only have to repay after you have graduated. However, you are not entitled to maintenance support in the same way as home students. If you are an EU national who has been settled in the UK for over 3 years you will be classed as a home student and will be able to apply for financial support for living costs.

Scotland: Irish and EU students who start their first full-time degree course in Scotland in 2023-2024 will pay similar fees. In Scotland you can also apply for a tuition fee loan.

You may be eligible for a maintenance grant if you meet the criteria for the Irish Student Grant Scheme (see SUSI Grants Scheme info below) but this does not include funding for tuition fees. You may also claim tax relief on third-level fees. There is detailed information on the range of Irish grants and funds for students in further and higher education at studentfinance.ie and the GOV.UK website has information on the financial supports available for EU students studying in the UK including Northern Ireland.

MORE INFO ON TUITION FEES & FUNDING FOR UK STUDY

LOANS: You can apply for a UK Tuition Fee loan, which you only have to repay after you have graduated and are earning above a certain level. For more information on these loans you can visit <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/eu-students>

FEES & FUNDING OPTIONS: You can find out more about tuition fees and funding available in your region by visiting ucas.com/finance/finance-international-and-eu-students.

you can also contact:

Student Finance Services (EU Students)

Tel: 0141 243 3570 (Mon-Fri 8am to 6pm)

Web: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/eu-students>

Twitter: @SF_England

Facebook: facebook.com/SFEngland

The British Council, Ireland

Tel: 01 676 4088 / Mail: info@ie.britishcouncil.org

Web: www.britishcouncil.ie/study-uk/scholarship-funding Twitter: @ieBritish

Facebook: facebook.com/BritishCouncilIreland

The UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)

Tel: +4420 7788 9214 (Mon-Fri 1pm to 4pm) / Mail: No mail service available / Web: ukcisa.org.uk

Twitter: @azBritish / Facebook: facebook.com/UKCISA/

UCAS Finance & Support

See also www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/finance-and-support

SUSI GRANTS FOR THE UK

It is also possible to apply for a maintenance only grant in Ireland for approved undergraduate courses in the UK via Ireland's SUSI grant scheme. Visit SUSI.ie for more information on the application process and relevant date and details.

STUDYING IN EUROPE:

The European Universities Central Application Support Service (EUNICAS) provides information on College courses in Europe taught through English. Check the website for further information www.eunicas.ie



ALTERNATIVES TO THE CAO/UCAS ROUTE

APPRENTICESHIPS

An apprenticeship is the recognised way people are trained in a craft trade or profession. The main craft trades and professions have been designated by an organisation called SOLAS (solas.ie). Apprenticeships provide on-the-job training with an employer and generally last for 2 to 4 years, during which time you will spend different periods in off-the-job training. When you complete an apprenticeship programme, you will get a recognised qualification at Level 5 or above on the NFQ framework. You can start an apprenticeship from age 16 to 18 years depending on the apprenticeship programme. For more advice on apprenticeships: Freephone 1800 794 487 from 12 noon to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

CRAFT APPRENTICESHIPS

A craft apprenticeship will usually last for 4 years, during which time you will spend 3 different periods in off-the-job training. Generally, the first training phase will take place in an Education and Training Board (ETB) Training Center, while the remaining off-the-job training phases will take place in an Institute of Technology or Technological University.

The skills you develop will be assessed through on-the-job competence testing as well as off-the-job module-based assessment and exams and, if you complete these assessments successfully, you will be awarded an Advanced Certificate – craft (level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications).

Craft apprenticeships include:

- Carpentry
- Motor Mechanics
- Plumbing
- Electrical Apprenticeships.

NEW APPRENTICESHIPS IN OTHER AREAS OF INDUSTRY 2016-2021

Apprenticeships introduced from 2016 on lead to an award between Levels 5-10 on the National Framework of Qualifications. Each apprenticeship programme can be for between 2 and 4 years.

There are a number of models of on-the-job and off-the-job training, as well as different models of delivery and different target groups. Industry-led groups, which work with education and training providers and other partners, oversee the development and roll-out of new apprenticeships.

New apprenticeships in ICT, finance and hospitality include:

- Software development
- Commis chef
- Accounting Technician

You can find information about new apprenticeships on apprenticeship.ie.

SOLAS

Solas offers Further Education and Training programmes. Part-time, full-time, day, evening and online courses. Programmes include apprenticeships, traineeships, skills to advance, eCollege and the European Globalisation Fund.

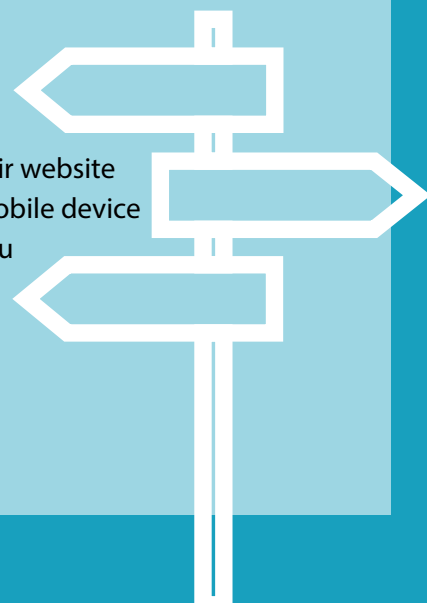
THE DEFENCE FORCES

Recruitment competitions are held as required for the Defence Forces.

Visit their website for more information - www.military.ie

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

Applications should be made online to the Public Appointments Service through their website www.publicjobs.ie. It is recommended that applicants do not use a tablet / iPad or mobile device to apply. To apply, candidates must have a "User Account" on www.publicjobs.ie. If you have not already done so, you must register as a 'New User' to create your Profile (register a New Account). Once registered, you can set up a job alert for positions within An Garda Síochána.



POST LEAVING CERTIFICATE COURSES

Colleges of Further Education offer PLC courses mostly accredited by FETAC. These are designed to prepare students for direct employment, or act as a pathway to higher education.

CORK PLC COLLEGES

Cork College of Commerce - Morrisons Island, Cork.
Tel: 021 422 2100 / Mail: info@corkcollegeofcommerce.ie /
Web: corkcollegeofcommerce.ie
See for West Cork Campus at Skibbereen.

Colaiste Stiofain Naofa - Tramore Road, Cork.
Tel: 021 496 1020 / Mail: info@csn.ie / Web: csn.ie

St. John's Central College - Sawmill St, Cork City
Tel: 021 425 5500 / Mail: info@stjohnscollege.ie
Web: stjohnscollege.ie

City North College of Further Education - Hollyhill, Knocknaheeny, Cork
Tel: 021 439 1782 / Mail: info@citynorthcollege.ie /
Web: citynorthcollege.ie

NORTH & EAST CORK PLC COLLEGES

Carrignafoy Community College - Cobh, Co. Cork.
Tel: 021 481 1325 / Mail: cobhcc@corketb.ie /
Web: cobhcommunitycollege.com

Mallow College of Further Education - Mallow, Co. Cork.
Tel: 022 43 309 / Mail: info@furthereducationcollege.ie /
Web: furthereducationcollege.ie

WEST CORK PLC COLLEGES

Clonakilty Further Education and Training Centre, CETB
St. Fachna's Centre, Casement Park, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
Tel: 086 020 4681 / Mail: brid.m.murphy@corketb.ie

Maria Immaculata Community College - Bantry Rd, Underhill, Dunmanway, Co. Cork
Tel: 023 885 6030 / Mail: miccinfo@corketb.ie
Web: www.micc.ie

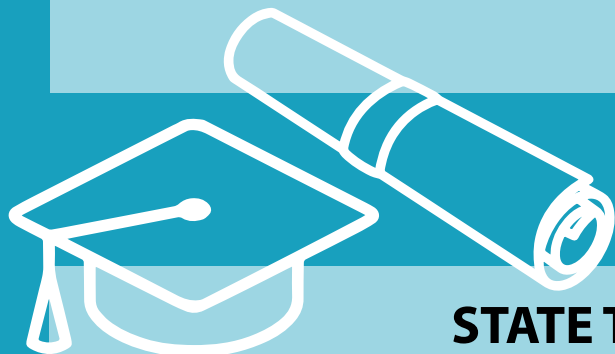
College of Commerce (West Cork Campus) - 2 North St, Gortnaclohy, Co. Cork
Tel: 028 21 644 / Mail: westcorkcampus@ccoc.ie
Web: westcorkcampus.corkcollegeofcommerce.ie

McEgan College of Further Education - Macroom, Co. Cork
Tel: 026 41 076 / Mail: info.office@mcegan.ie / Web: mcegan.ie

Kinsale College of Further Education - Bandon Rd, Blackhorsefield, Kinsale, Co. Cork
Tel: 021 477 2275 / Mail: info@kinsalecollege.ie / Web: kinsalecollege.ie

PRIVATE THIRD LEVEL COLLEGES

Griffith College - Wellington Rd, Cork
Tel: 021 450 7027 / Mail: admissions.gcc@griffith.ie / Web: griffith.ie



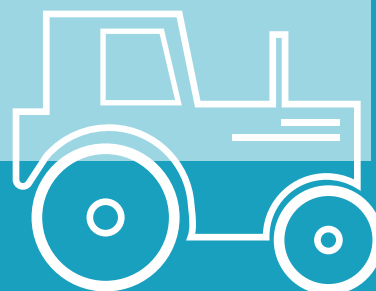
STATE TRAINING AGENCIES

Teagasc (The Agriculture and Food Development)
Also see CAO for related courses through MTU & UCC. /
Address (Main Office): Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow R93 XE12
Tel: (059) 917 0200 / Mail: info@teagasc.ie / Web: teagasc.ie

Cork Training Centre - CETB (Cork Education & Training Board)
A range of training and apprenticeships
Address (Main Office): 21 Lavitt's Quay, Centre, Cork
Tel: (021) 4907100 / Mail: info@corketb.ie / Web: corketb.ie

National Maritime College of Ireland (NCMI)
Applications for all degree programmes made through the CAO / Address: Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork
Tel: 021 433 5600 / Mail: reception@nmci.ie
Web: nmci.ie

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) - Irish Sea Fisheries Board
Several Locations Nationwide - See bim.ie for details



GRANTS

THE STUDENT GRANT SCHEME

Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) is Ireland's national awarding authority for all further and higher education grants. SUSI offers funding to eligible students, in approved full time third level courses at approved institutions.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any student wishing to undertake a course of study at a private college (e.g. Griffith College, Dublin Business School etc) will not qualify for a grant as the list of approved institutions does not include private HEI's. Students attending these colleges will also be required to pay the relevant fees.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SUSI GRANTS

Residence & Nationality:

You must be an Irish, EU, EEA, UK or Swiss national or have a specific immigration status or leave to remain with permission from the Department of Justice. If you have been living in the EU, EEA, UK, or Swiss Federation but not in the Irish State for three of the last five years, you are a tuition student. This is any student that has been resident outside of Ireland but within the EU, EEA, the UK or Switzerland for three of the last five years. A tuition student, if they meet all eligibility criteria, is eligible for the fee grant only and will not receive a maintenance grant. Therefore, please note that a tuition student who wishes to pursue a PLC course would not be eligible for any grant funding from SUSI.

Course:

You must be attending an approved course in an approved institution, and those who secure a course place will have met the academic requirements.

Progression: You must be progressing from your previous level of study.

Income:

The means test for the 2023-2024 student grant is based on you or your family's gross income for the previous full tax year (2022). However, if you or your family have had a change of circumstances (which is likely to be permanent) since 31 December 2022, your changed circumstances will be taken into account. The person/s whose income is taken into consideration will depend on which of the following two categories they fall into (NOTE: Most secondary students fall into the first category - i.e. Dependent).

APPLICANT CATEGORIES

Dependent / Mature Dependent Student: You will be assessed on your parents/legal guardians income and your own income (if any).

Independent Student: You will be assessed on your own income and that of your spouse/civil partner/cohabitant (if applicable)

Maximum Period of Grant Assistance For Undergrad Courses:

Further & Higher Education	Level	Qualification	Max Period of Grant Funding
Further Ed	PLC Level 5	Certificate	- Max 3 years funding at PLC level
Further Ed	PLC Level 6	Advanced Certificate	
Higher Ed	UG Level 6	Higher Certificate	- Max 2 years funding at undergrad level 6
Higher Ed	UG Level 7	Ordinary Bachelor Degree	- Max 3 years funding at undergrad level 7
Higher Ed	UG Level 8	Honours Bachelor Degree	- Max 4 years funding in total at undergrad level 6 & 7 - Max 4 years funding at undergrad level 8 (except where normal duration of course exceeds 4 years)
Higher Ed	PG Level 8	Higher Diploma	- Max 4 years funding in total at postgrad level All previous attendance and attainment at postgraduate level are considered regardless of whether a grant was received previously or not.
Higher Ed	PG Level 9	Diploma	
Higher Ed	PG Level 9	Masters Degree	
Higher Ed	PG Level 10	PHD	

STUDENT GRANT BREAKDOWN

Part 1. Maintenance Grant:

This is a contribution towards day-to-day living costs and is paid directly to eligible students through nine monthly installments over the course of the academic year. The total amount of grant payable will depend upon the level of a student's reckonable income. (see threshold breakdown below)

Part 2. Fee Grant:

Fee grants pay tuition fees for students who do not qualify for the Free Fees Scheme (see below). Fee grants can also pay the Student Contribution and the cost of essential field trips.

Free Fees Scheme: Most undergraduate students attending publicly funded third-level courses do not have to pay tuition fees. Under the terms of the Free Fees Initiative, the Department of Further and Higher Education pays the fees to the colleges instead.

Qualifying for the fee grant

If you qualify for the maintenance grant, you will most likely also get the fee grant. However, some people will only be eligible for a fee grant (this will depend on the outcome of the Means Test). The fees grant is also means tested and follows a lot of the same conditions as the maintenance grant

MAINTENANCE GRANT: ADJACENT & NON-ADJACENT RATES

If you're eligible for a maintenance grant, it will be paid at either the adjacent rate or the non-adjacent rate. For the 2023/24 academic year the adjacent rate is paid when your college is less than 30 km from your normal residence and the non-adjacent rate is paid when your college is 30 km or more from your normal residence.

GRANT AMOUNT AWARDED

The total amount of the grant will depend on the level of a student's reckonable income. The 'Income Threshold' table below illustrates the different income thresholds.

SPECIAL RATE GRANT:

Disadvantaged students can qualify for a **special rate of maintenance grant**. To qualify, you must fulfill all the normal criteria for the grant and have a total reckonable income in the tax year January to December 2022 of less than the relevant designated income threshold (see Income Thresholds table below), not including Qualified Child Increases and standard exclusions. This income must include a long term **Department of Social Protection** eligible payment. For a list of eligible Special Rate payments visit <https://susi.ie/special-rate-awards/>

RATES OF MAINTENANCE GRANT 2023 - 2024

Undergraduate & PLC Grant Rates (Maintenance Only: No Fees Payable)

Level of Grant	Maintenance(Non-Adjacent)	Maintenance (Adjacent)
Special Rate	€6971	€2936
Band 1 Full Maintenance	€3677	€1613
Band 2 Part Maintenance	€2,717	€1221
Band 3 Part Maintenance	€1,887	€886
Band 4 Part Maintenance	€1051	€556

INCOME THRESHOLDS 2023-2024

Household income thresholds (for the purpose of means testing) are laid out in the table below and relate to Rates of Maintenance Grant (Adjacent or Non-Adjacent).



*Family's Reckonable income must be under the listed amounts (Maintenance & Fee Grant)

RATE	Less than 4 Children	4 to 7 children	8 or more children	Increase per additional person in college
Special Rate	€25,000	€27,400	€29,702	€4,950
Band 1 (Full Maintenance)	€40,875	€44,810	€48,575	€4,950
Band 2 (Part Maintenance)	€41,970	€46,025	€49,890	€4,785
Band 3 (Part Maintenance)	€44,380	€48,670	€52,760	€4,785
Band 4 (Part Maintenance)	€46,790	€51,325	€55,630	€4,785

*The following table outlines conditions relating to the Fee Grant (i.e. No Maintenance Grant) for household incomes under the the listed amounts:

RATE	Less than 4 Children	4 to 7 children	8 or more children	Increase per additional person in college
No Maintenance FEES: 50% Tuition or 100% Student Contribution	€50,840	€55,765	€60,455	€4,950
No Maintenance FEES: 50% Student Contribution	€62,000	€68,014	€73,727	€4,950
No Maintenance €500 Student Contribution	€100,000	€109,600	€118,806	€4,950

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

SUSI is currently accepting new grant applications for the 23/24 academic year. You can apply online at www.susi.ie. Applications should be made as soon as possible. Use the Eligibility Reckoner on SUSI website, for quick assessment of your eligibility for a grant. There is also an Online Tracker available to check the status of your application.

For more detailed information on eligibility and the SUSI grant application process (including 'tips for applicants') visit susi.ie.

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

FINDING ACCOMODATION:

If you have gained a place, contact your college as soon as possible before the start of the academic year for advice and support in accommodation locally. Some college Students Unions provide lists of suitable/vacant accommodation. Also check the college website. Other useful websites include:

daft.ie / let.ie / eazycork.com / rent.ie / property.ie



STUDENT SUPPORT

There is a lot of help and support available to you when you start college - you just need to ask:

Admissions Officer:

Often your first point of contact. They advise on the administration of college life, such as deferring courses, changing courses etc.

Access Officer:

Assists students on various issues such as financial problems, education worries and facilities / resources for people with disabilities (some colleges have separate disability officers).

Student Services Officer:

Plans for students needs such as orientation for newcomers, counselling, mentoring etc.

Student Union:

Represents students and advises on student issues.

NOTE: Contact info for all of the student supports above can be found on the relevant college websites.

YMCA IRELAND'S ADVOCACY & YOUTH INFORMATION SERVICE

Our service connects young people, parents and those who work with young people with a professional Youth Information Officer who provides personalised information.

The service is a great way for you to get more information, learn about new opportunities and talk through your own situation with someone who can help.



YIChat Service www.ymca-ireland.net/question

Monday-Friday 16:00 - 20:00 (except for public holidays)

or you can leave a message outside of those hours and receive a reply by email

WEST CORK | **West Cork Helpline** **023 884 4009**

Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays 14:00 - 16:00

WEST CORK | **Carbery Youth Service** **086 103 6467** (Mon 18:30 - 20:30 / Sat 9:00 - 13:00)

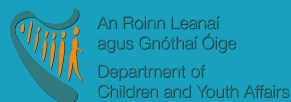
Opening Times: Mon 18:30 - 20:30

CORK CITY | **Cork City Helpline** **085 130 6207**

Wednesdays & Thursdays 09:00 - 17:00

Follow us on  **@yiyoungvoices**

Find out about the latest online/ offline opportunities, Youth Advocacy programmes and future Youth Information activities at Youth Innovation Space, YMCA, 11/12 Marlboro Street, Cork



Y M C A Y O U T H I N F O

www.ymca-ireland.net/ymcayouthinfo

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