

POLICY TITLE	UCC HEAR AND DARE POLICY
POLICY OWNER	DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS AND HEAD OF ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION
POLICY OPERATOR	UCC ADMISSIONS OFFICES/ DSS/UCC PLUS

PURPOSE

University College Cork participates in the two schemes that are available under the [ACCESS](#) route to University. The Higher Education Access Route to Education (HEAR) is a third level alternative admissions scheme which offers places on reduced points, and extra college supports to school leavers (who are resident in the Republic of Ireland) from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) is a third level alternative admissions scheme for school-leavers whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education.

SCOPE

HEAR is for school leavers under the age of 23 as of 1 January of the year of entry, who are resident in the Republic of Ireland. HEAR Applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural indicators to be considered for a reduced points place and extra college support. Being eligible for HEAR does not guarantee a reduced points place. UCC reserves approximately 5% of School Leaver places for students applying under the HEAR Scheme. Students who enter via the HEAR scheme are supported by [UCC PLUS+](#)

DARE is for school leavers under the age of 23 as of 1 January of the year of entry, who are resident in the Republic of Ireland and have a disability or diagnosed learning difficulty. This scheme is designed to compensate for difficulties posed by studying with a disability and offers applicants the opportunity to avail of UCC courses, where they may not have succeeded through the standard application process. Students who enter via the DARE scheme are supported by the [Disability Support Service](#)

Please note: Mature students and Further Education and Training (FET) students have their own admissions routes and should contact [UCC Admissions offices](#) for more information.

RELATED PROCEDURES

Applying for HEAR

- Applications for HEAR can only be made online, through the [CAO](#);
- Applicants firstly must be eligible for HEAR, please check the eligibility indicators [here](#);

- There are a number of critical deadlines as part of the [application timeline](#) that must be adhered to;
- Applicants must meet the minimum entry requirements, available [here](#) and achieve a minimum of 300 points;
- Applicants must achieve at least 85% of the points required for the course and meet any additional [requirements](#), where they exist;
- Once admitted to a degree programme in UCC, HEAR/UCC PLUS+ students are eligible to receive many supports throughout their time in University.

Once these requirements have been met, University College Cork allocates the reduced points, places to eligible applicants in order of points merit. If the University does not fill its quota of HEAR places with candidates who have achieved at least 85% of the cut-off points, consideration may be given to candidates on the wait list in order of points merit.

Applying for DARE

- Applications for DARE can only be made online, through the [CAO](#);
- Applicants must firstly be eligible for DARE, please check the requirements [here](#);
Applicants must disclose and [provide evidence of their disability and/or specific learning difficulty](#) in their CAO application.
- There are a number of critical deadlines as part of the [application timeline](#) that must be adhered to;
- Applicants must meet the minimum entry requirements, available [here](#) and achieve a minimum of 300 points;
- Applicants must achieve at least 85% of the points required for the course and meet any additional subject specific requirements for their chosen course, where applicable;
- Once admitted to a degree programme in UCC, DARE/DSS students are eligible to receive many supports throughout their time in University;
- A condition of acceptance of a DARE place is that students must register with the Disability Service.
- Research has identified that students with physical and sensory (Blind/ Vision Impairment & Deaf/ Hard of Hearing) disabilities are particularly underrepresented in higher education in Ireland relative to all students with disabilities. In order to increase the numbers of DARE students with physical and sensory disabilities being admitted to higher education, the DARE colleges have agreed to prioritise these two groups when allocating reduced points places;
- Colleges participating in DARE and HEAR have agreed to prioritise applicants eligible for DARE and HEAR when allocating reduced points places. This is in order to increase the numbers of students who have a disability and are from a disadvantaged background progressing to higher education.

Note about NUI Matriculation Exemption:

- Traditionally you need English, Irish, Maths and a (third) foreign language to get into University.
- The following exceptions may apply; (i) For entry to Colleges/Faculties of Engineering and Science, any other subject accepted for [Matriculation Registration](#) purposes may be substituted for the third Language; (ii) Students entering courses in Nursing may substitute any other recognised subject for the third Language.
- This is known as Matriculation Exemption and is separate to individual course requirements.
- This is not the same as the exemption from the leaving cert.
- Matriculation Exemption requests can be made at www.nui.ie