

DARE and HEAR Timelines



What is the DARE scheme?

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. It offers reduced points places to such school-leavers.

Detailed information is available on the [DARE - Access College](#)

CAO Information video: [What is DARE video](#)

CAO DARE information webpage: [CAO DARE](#)

Who can apply to DARE?

DARE is for school-leavers under the age of 23 as of 1 January annually, who have the ability to benefit from and succeed in higher education, but may not be able to meet the points for their preferred course due to the impact of a disability on their second-level education.

Applicants to DARE can present with an Irish Leaving Certificate, A-Levels and other EU qualifications.

How do you apply to DARE?

You can apply to DARE online through the [CAO](#) by **1 February annually**. Full instructions on how to apply are available on the [DARE website](#)

How does the DARE scheme apply to TU Dublin?

Each DARE member institute or university applies the scheme slightly differently in terms of available places, points reductions and so on. TU Dublin reserves **5% of places** on all full-time undergraduate programmes to offer on a **reduced-points** basis to DARE-eligible students.

If you enter TU Dublin through the DARE scheme, you should register with the Disability Support Service at your local campus and undergo a needs assessment in order to receive the support you need during your time at the university.

The DARE Scheme is not available to Mature Students, Postgraduate Students or Part-time Students.

What Documentation do I need?

This link identifies all of the disabilities and the required documentation

[Providing evidence of your disability - Access College](#)

Reduced-points offers

To be considered for a reduced-points offer for TU Dublin programmes through the DARE scheme, you must apply to study at TU Dublin through the CAO, apply for DARE, and meet **all** of the following criteria:

- be deemed DARE-eligible
- meet the minimum entry requirements for your chosen programme of study

If you meet **all** of the above criteria, you may be considered for a reduced-points offer of a place on your chosen programme.

Important: Being DARE-eligible does not guarantee you a reduced-points offer.

Please Note:

If you are DARE eligible and receive a CAO offer after round 1, please contact 01 220 5097.

These numbers are for guideline purposes only and may vary from year to year.

Points reductions

- For applicants who meet **all** of the above criteria, TU Dublin offers an approximate **points reduction of 12.5%** on the required points for each programme, subject to some rounding. Thus, you must achieve at least **87.5%** of the points requirement for your preferred programme.
- **Example:** If a programme's points requirement is 320 points, applicants with **280 points or more** may be considered for a reduced-points offer.
- TU Dublin prioritises offers to DARE-eligible students who:
 - have visual, hearing or physical disabilities
 - are also eligible for the HEAR scheme
- Reduced-points offers are first made to these prior applicants who achieve at least 87.5% of the points requirement and are nearest to the points requirement for their preferred programme.
- Reduced-points offers are then made to any remaining applicants who achieve at least 87.5% of the points requirement and are nearest to the points requirement for their preferred programme.

Prioritisation – Disabilities

Research has found that students with physical/mobility disabilities, who are blind or visually impaired, or who are deaf or hard of hearing are particularly under-represented in higher education relative to all students with disabilities in Ireland.

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 three groups when allocating reduced points places. Eligible applicants with physical and visual/hearing disabilities can only be prioritised where they have met all the admissions criteria for consideration.

Prioritisation – DARE and HEAR

Research has also found that students with disabilities from disadvantaged backgrounds face considerable challenges in terms of progressing to higher education in Ireland. To increase the number of students facing the double disadvantage of socio-economic disadvantage and disability, DARE and HEAR colleges have agreed to prioritise applicants eligible for both DARE and HEAR when allocating reduced points places.

Applicants eligible for both schemes can only be prioritised where they have met all the admissions criteria for consideration.

On-or-above points offers

DARE-eligible applicants who achieve *more than or equal to* the required points for their chosen programme may receive offers in the same manner as any other student and do not count against the 5% of places allocated for reduced-points offers. Such students must still meet the minimum entry requirements for their chosen programme and are encouraged to register with the DSS in order to receive support during their time at TU Dublin.

Minimum-entry requirements & language waivers

All applicants to TU Dublin applying on the basis of their Leaving Certificate, regardless of whether they are DARE-eligible or not, or meet the points requirement or not, must meet the programme-specific **minimum-entry requirements** for their chosen programme of study.

Some programmes in TU Dublin have a modern language as a minimum-entry requirement (e.g. International Business & Languages with French). If you do not meet this minimum-entry requirement, you cannot be considered for a place on such a programme, regardless of whether you've been granted a language waiver in the Leaving Certificate.