

DARE

Disability Access Route to Education





Applying to DARE 2021

dare@cit.ie
www.cit.ie/dare




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Who's talking today?





Ruth Murphy and Fiona Downey
MTU Cork Disability Support Service (DSS)




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Asking questions




You can ask questions during and at the end of the talk.
Do this on MS Teams by texting using the question chat icon – top right hand corner:



You won't see your question coming up immediately in the Featured Questions - we will answer it publicly or privately.

If you have more detailed questions please email dare@cit.ie with more details and copies of your documents for your DARE application. This is a confidential email.




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What is DARE?

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.

Colleges who are part of DARE offer reduced points places to school leavers who as a result of having a learning difference, health condition or disability have experienced additional educational challenges in second level education.




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Benefits of DARE

Reduced Points


- An example: If the Leaving Certificate points for a course are 366 points, an eligible DARE applicant could be offered a place with a lower points score e.g. 356 points.
- Applicants need to **meet entry and programme requirements** to be **considered for a DARE reduced points offer**.
- The amount of points a particular course is reduced by is dependent on:
 - The overall number of places on the course
 - The number of reserved DARE places on the course
 - The number of DARE eligible applicants competing for these reserved places.
- The reduction in points for DARE places can vary every year.



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Should I apply?

- ✓ If your learning difference, health condition or disability has had a negative impact on your educational performance in school.
- ✓ You may not be able to meet the points for your preferred course due to the impact of your learning difference, health condition or disability.
- ✓ You are under 23 years of age as at **1 January 2021**.



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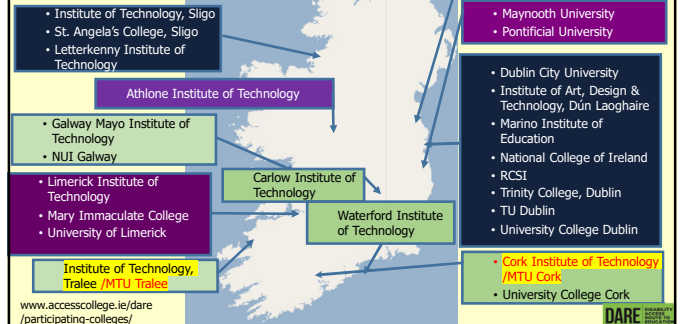
Categories eligible for consideration

- Autistic Spectrum
- ADD / ADHD
- Blind / Vision Impaired
- Deaf / Hard of Hearing
- DCD – Dyspraxia
- Mental Health Condition
- Neurological Condition (including Brain injury and Epilepsy)
- Speech & Language Communication Disorder
- Significant Ongoing Illness
- Physical Disability
- Specific Learning Difficulty (Dyslexia & Dyscalculia)



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What colleges are in DARE?



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Do your homework when picking courses...

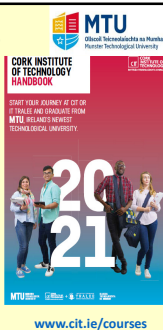
Guidance counsellors / Teachers

Speak to course contact in prospectus

Someone who works in the area

Your parents / guardians

Go to open days / roadshows
MTU Cork CAO Fortnight and other events: www.cit.ie/cao



www.cit.ie/courses

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MTU (Munster Technological University)

- CIT has now joined with IT Tralee to establish the Munster Technological University since 1 January 2021.
- For 2021 you need to apply to CIT and IT Tralee courses separately in the CAO.
- Even with Technological University status – all courses will remain in CIT and IT Tralee for the foreseeable future.
- Students not expected to travel between Tralee and Cork for a course.
- MTU Cork still includes the Bishopstown campus, Crawford College of Art, Cork School of Music, and the National Maritime College of Ireland.

- MTU Tralee DARE webpage:
<https://www.ittralee.ie/en/InformationFor/CurrentStudents/StudentLife/StudentSupportServices/AccessOffice/DARE/>



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Applying to DARE

Review the DARE Handbook and www.accesscollege.ie/dare

1. Apply online to CAO at www.cao.ie by **1 February 2021**.
2. Complete **Section A** of the CAO Supplementary Info Form **online** - Apply to DARE by answering **Yes** to **Question 1** by **1 March 2021**.
3. **Post** copies of the Educational Impact Statement (**Section B**) completed by your school **AND** Evidence of Disability (**documents and/or Section C form**) completed by the appropriate professional **to the CAO by 15 March 2021**. Forms can be downloaded on www.accesscollege.ie



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Section A: Your information – Supplementary Information Form



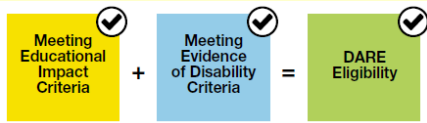
Section A is completing the online CAO Supplementary Information Form. **You must opt into DARE (Q1) and answer all the questions by 1 March 2021.**

- ✓ You can **carry forward** DARE eligibility from last year using your 2020 CAO number – Question 1(b).
- ✓ Answer all the questions and fill out your Q5 **personal statement** – a short paragraph on your experience of school and the challenges you have faced.
- ✓ You can go in and out of your online application and save the information as you go.
- ✓ All information you provide here is confidential and does not affect your CAO application.



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DARE Eligibility Criteria



- To be eligible for DARE you must meet **both** the DARE **educational impact** criteria and **DARE evidence of disability criteria**.

Applicants must provide the required evidence of their disability and provide an Educational Impact Statement from their school to be considered for DARE.



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Section B: Educational Impact Statement

Provides information on how your learning difference, health condition or disability has impacted on your second level education.

- Download form and complete the Applicant Checklist with your school.
- Your school will complete the rest. It can be your Guidance Counsellor / Learning Support Teacher/ Year Head / Visiting Teacher / Principal or Deputy Principal (someone who knows your background / supports).
- The form **MUST BE** signed and stamped by School Principal/Deputy Principal.
- Make sure you get the form back from the school and keep a copy for your records.**
- You must post this to the CAO by 15 March 2021.**



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Section B: Educational Impact - Indicators

Has your learning difference, health condition or disability impacted on a combination of the following?

- Have you received **intervention or supports** in post-primary school?
- Has it **impacted on your attendance** or regularly disrupted your school day?
- Has it affected your **school experience and well-being**?
- Has it impacted on **your learning or exam results**?
- Has it caused any **other educational impact**?
- Required for applicants with a Specific Learning Difficulty: is it severely impacting on your **literacy or numeracy skills**?

You must meet 2 indicators.

Students with specific learning differences must meet Indicator 6 and 1 other indicator



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Section C: Evidence of Disability

DARE looks for a diagnosis and evidence of impact

More details at: www.accesscollege.ie/dare/providing-evidence-of-your-disability

Providing evidence of your disability

Your evidence of disability documentation is a crucial part of your application to DARE. It is used by DARE to establish whether or not you meet DARE's evidence of disability criteria and therefore your DARE eligibility criteria. In addition, it is used by DARE colleges and universities to determine the levels of supports you might need when you go to college. Your application will not be complete until you provide evidence of your disability by 15 March 2021.

The Evidence of Disability Form 2021 can be downloaded here.

The types of acceptable evidence for each disability type can be viewed in the Guide to Providing Evidence of your Disability and by clicking on any of the disabilities to the right.

It is very important that you provide the correct documentation to complete your DARE application. If you are unsure about the evidence you need to supply, please make contact with a member of the DARE team via a New or Contact Us link.

Send your evidence of disability to:

CAO,
Dare House,
Edinburgh Street,
Dublin.

Click on the relevant Disability category to find the supporting evidence for that Disability.

Acceptable Documentation (including Relevant Certificates)

- Attention Deficit Disorder / Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (including Asperger's Syndrome)
- Blind / Vision Impaired
- Deaf / Hard of Hearing
- EDS / Dyslexia
- Mental Health Conditions
- Neurological Conditions
- Speech & Language Communication Disorder
- Significant Ongoing Illness
- Physical Disability
- Specific Learning Difficulty



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Section C: Evidence of Disability

Provides verification of your disability and helps to determine 3rd level supports.

- You can provide an **existing report OR**
- Section C Evidence of Disability Form 2021** completed by the appropriate professional – must be signed and stamped, or accompanied by their business card or headed paper.

GP Verification

Your GP may be in a position to complete Section C, if they have the appropriate information on file from the Consultant/Specialist.



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Section C: Evidence of Disability

Age of Reports

It is important to note that applicants applying under the following disability categories must **provide a report that is less than 3 years old**, i.e. dated after **1 February 2018**.

- ADD / ADHD
- Mental Health Condition
- Significant Ongoing Illness

Any updates to age limits of reports or scores due to Covid-19 will be on the AccessCollege website. www.accesscollege.ie/dare



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Section C: Evidence of Disability

Applicants with a **Specific Learning Difficulty** (including dyslexia and dyscalculia) must provide a:

Full **Psychological Assessment Report of any age** completed by a psychologist **AND MUST have two literacy or two numeracy attainment scores at or below the 10th percentile (Standard Score of 81 or below).**

The scores can be from one (or a combination) of the following sources:

- 1) Scores from school-based attainment testing
- 2) Scores from attainment tests carried out by a psychologist.

Testing must have been carried out after **1 February 2019** and all applicants must submit an Educational Impact Statement completed by their school (with completed Indicator 6).



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Section C: Evidence of Disability

Applicants with **DCD (Dyspraxia)** must provide a

- Existing report giving diagnosis (No age limit)
OR
- Section C Evidence of Disability Form 2021 completed by Occupational Therapist OR Neurologist OR Physiotherapist OR Paediatrician

Dysgraphia is not accepted as a stand-alone condition for DARE, but will be considered if presenting with DCD or Specific Learning Difficulty.



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Before sending documents to the CAO:

- ✓ Check the DARE website/handbook: www.accesscollege.ie/dare
- ✓ Start to **gather your documents** as soon as possible – look at documents at home / speak to the guidance counsellor / medical professional.
- ✓ **Post copies** of documents (not originals). DARE need good quality copies of all pages of the reports sent to the CAO by the deadlines to scan them in.
- ✓ **Keep proof of postage.** Some people use registered post.
- ✓ Send before the deadline of 15th March.

You only need to be eligible under one category for DARE.

But please put in documents for all categories that apply to you, e.g. DCD and SLD – as this will help when you are applying for DSS supports in college.

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HEAR



- MTU Cork is also part of the HEAR scheme.
www.mycit.ie/access_disability.hear2 Email: hear@cit.ie
- HEAR is an alternative admission route which offers college places on a reduced points basis and extra supports to eligible school leavers who have experienced socio-economic disadvantage.
- You must meet a number of indicators in order to be eligible. These include financial, social and cultural indicators.
- **You can apply to both DARE and HEAR.** Applicants who are both DARE and HEAR eligible will be prioritised by colleges when allocating reduced points places.
- www.cit.ie/hear / www.accesscollege.ie/hear/

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DARE and HEAR Timelines

DARE & HEAR closing date	1 March 2021 at 17:15
Supporting documents closing date	15 March 2021
Notification of eligibility	Late (22) June 2021
Review and Appeals Application	July 2021
HEAR/DARE offers through CAO	August 2021
College Orientation	Late Aug / Early Sept 2021

If you miss an application deadline check the appeals information:
<http://accesscollege.ie/dare/making-an-application/dare-review-and-appeals/>



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DARE Application Outcome – Eligible or not

From 22 June:

Log into your CAO application to view your

DARE Application Outcome.

Also check your emails.



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Being Eligible and not eligible for DARE

DARE Eligible means:

- ✓ You are now eligible to be **considered** for a reduced points place for the DARE participating colleges you have chosen (if needed).
- ✓ It is **not** an automatic reduction in points for MTU Cork courses.
- ✓ You may get a priority offer if you have a physical disability, hearing or visual impairment, or eligible for DARE **and** HEAR.

Not being eligible for DARE:

- ✓ Doesn't mean that your learning difference, health condition or disability hasn't had some impact.
- ✓ You can still get supports in college.

****If you are not eligible for DARE please declare yourself through the CAO & submit documents –you will be informed about early orientation, and DSS support application process****



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MTU Cork 2021 DARE Offers



5% of available places on reduced points on all CIT/MTU (Cork) courses

- ✓ Often only 1-2 places on most courses (except very large courses such as Business Studies).
- ✓ You must matriculate - meet **minimum requirements** of each course (includes minimum score for portfolio or entrance exam etc.).
- ✓ Be within a 50 point band below cut off point (**but** for a popular course the applicant needs to be nearer the cut off point).
- ✓ Reach a minimum of 200 points.
- ✓ Priority given to students with sensory /physical disabilities & DARE/HEAR eligible.
- ✓ Can get offers both in level 6/7 and level 8.

www.cit.ie/dare



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DARE/CAO queries that come up every year...

- Not understanding the Maths/language/subject requirement for your chosen course(s).
- Not filling in your level 6/7 choices – reducing options.
- Not putting in your course choice by preference.
- Students who wish to carry forward DARE eligibility from previous year – not putting in previous year's CAO number.
- Not checking your emails (don't forget the Junk/Spam folder) and/or the correspondence in your online CAO record.
- Queries about documents and eligibility in August at CAO offers stage - too late for **appeals/review**: <http://accesscollege.ie/dare/making-an-application/dare-review-and-appeals/>



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MTU Cork DSS



- MTU Cork DSS is part of the Access Service – based in the Student Centre but we support students across all campuses (in Cork).
- We are working remotely this year so the easiest way of contacting us is by email.

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Where to find DSS information



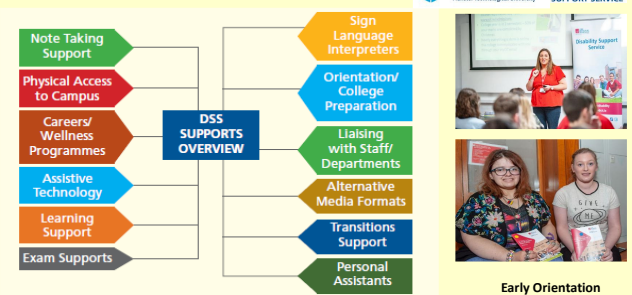
- **MTU Cork DSS website:** www.mycit.ie/dss
- **DSS Facebook** : <https://www.facebook.com/mtucorkdss>
- **DSS Twitter:** @CITDSS
- **DSS Instagram:** www.instagram.com/cit.dss/
- **DSS Student Guide and videos:** www.mycit.ie/dssstudentguide
- **DSS Mailing list** for external events: www.cit.ie/dssmailinglist

For the quickest response to your query - email dss@cit.ie



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MTU Cork DSS Supports



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MTU Cork DSS Supports



Contact us at dss@cit.ie before the start of the summer if you need any of the following:

- ISL interpreter/speed text
- Access to disabled parking, transport, physical access to buildings
- Personal assistant to support you physically access the campus and/or personal care
- Mobility training or alternative format for students with a visual impairment



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Other Support Services at MTU Cork



- ✓ Academic Learning Centre – free subject classes
- ✓ Student's Union
- ✓ Careers Service
- ✓ Counselling Service
- ✓ Chaplaincy Office
- ✓ Medical Centre / Emergency Response Team
- ✓ Academic Success Coaching
- ✓ Good Start 6 week induction for first years
- ✓ Financial support – Student Assistance Fund and 1916 Bursary
- ✓ Erasmus+ funding for supports when studying abroad

www.mycit.ie



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Further Information

DARE / HEAR website:
www.accesscollege.ie



MTU Cork DARE webpage:
www.cit.ie/dare



Please email dare@cit.ie with your questions where possible.

cao.ie



susi.ie



qualifax.ie



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2021 DARE / HEAR talks



- Video and slides of our 2021 DARE talks:
www.cit.ie/dare

- National DARE / HEAR Virtual information day – Saturday 9th January 2021

DARE video: <https://youtu.be/KVEW1EeTcrM>

HEAR video: <https://youtu.be/UW46yFc0a5A>



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Questions?

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