

DARE

Disability Access Route to Education



Applying to DARE 2023

MTU Cork campus

Email: dareCork@mtu.ie

www.cit.ie/dare







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Who's talking today?







Ruth Murphy, Fiona Downey and Mary O'Sullivan

MTU Cork Disability Support Service (DSS)



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Agenda

- 6.30 Welcome
- 6.35 What is DARE and choosing a course
- 6.45 Applying to DARE
- 7.15 DARE eligibility and offers
- 7.35 Student Speakers and DSS supports
- 7.45 Questions
- 8.00 Finish



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Event guidelines

- We ask that any attendees don't record or take photographs at this session.
- There is time for questions after each section.
- You can ask a private question at the end of the talk or email us at dareCork@mtu.ie and we will come back to you after the event.



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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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Who should apply?

- ✓ If a student's learning difference, health condition or disability has had a negative impact on their educational performance in school.
- ✓ The student may not be able to meet the points for their preferred course due to the impact of their learning difference, health condition or disability.
- ✓ The student is under 23 years of age as at **1 January 2023**.



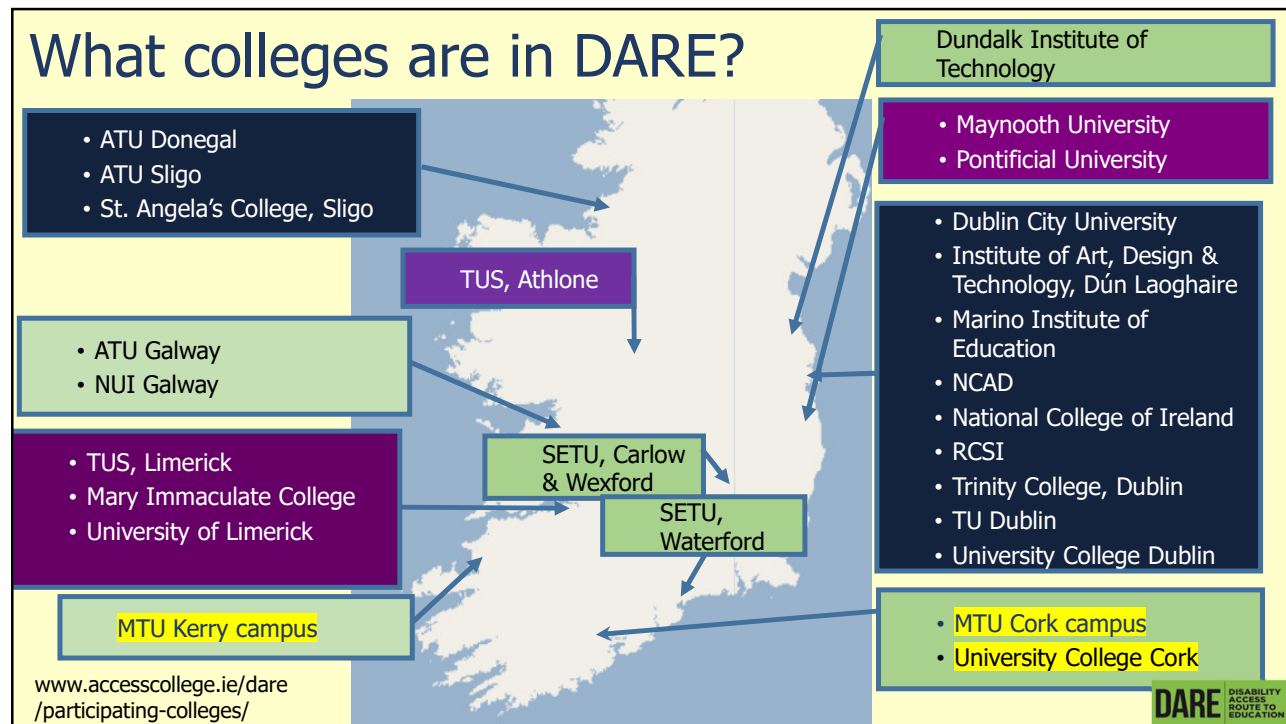
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Categories to be considered for DARE

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Autistic Spectrum | • ADD / ADHD |
| • Blind / Vision Impaired | • Mental Health Condition |
| • Deaf / Hard of Hearing | • Neurological Condition
(including Brain injury and Epilepsy) |
| • DCD – Dyspraxia | • Physical Disability |
| • Dyslexia / Significant Literacy Difficulties (new in 2023) | • Significant Ongoing Illness |
| • Dyscalculia/ Significant Numeracy Difficulties (new in 2023) | • Speech & Language Communication Disorder |



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Do your homework when picking courses...

Guidance counsellors / Teachers

Go to open days/ roadshows

Speak to course contact in prospectus

Someone who works in the area

Your parents /guardians

CHOOSE MTU SUCCESSING TOGETHER

UNDERGRADUATE ENTRY 2023

www.mtu.ie/courses

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MTU (Munster Technological University)

Apply to the CAO – using MT codes.

Make sure to check it is a Cork or Kerry course:

www.mtu.ie/courses



MTU Cork campus includes:

- Bishopstown
- Crawford College of Art
- Cork School of Music
- National Maritime College of Ireland.

- MTU Kerry DARE webpage:

www.ittralee.ie/en/InformationFor/CurrentStudents/StudentLife/StudentSupportServices/AccessOffice/DARE/



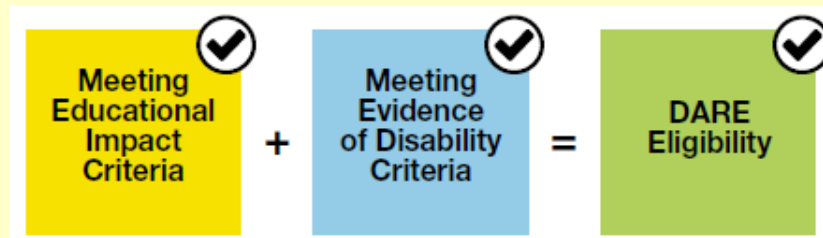
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Questions?



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DARE Eligibility criteria



- To be eligible for DARE the student 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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Applying to DARE

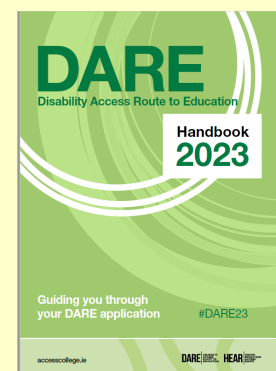
STUDENT:

- Applies online to CAO by **1 February 2023**.
- Completes **Section A** of the **CAO Supplementary Info Form and opts into DARE** (Yes to Q1) by 17.00 **1 March 2023**.

SCHOOL:

- Completes **Educational Impact Statement (Section B)**.
- For students who do not have a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia - completes **School Statement (Section D)**.
- Returns documents to Student before **15 March 2023**.

Download forms and review the DARE Handbook: www.accesscollege.ie/dare



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Applying to DARE

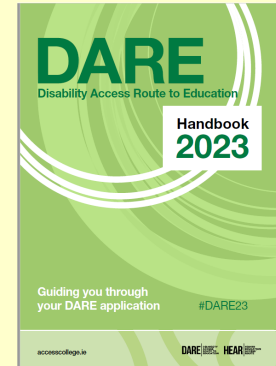
Download forms and review the DARE Handbook: www.accesscollege.ie/dare

PROFESSIONAL:

- Completes **Evidence of Disability** – relevant reports with **diagnosis and/or impact**
- and/or
- **Section C** form
- **Returns documents to Student before 15 March 2023.**

STUDENT:

Posts copies of documents (Sections B and C/reports and/or D) **to CAO by 15 March 2023** and keeps proof of postage.



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Section A: CAO application form → Accessing the Supplementary Information Form (SIF)



If you wish to disclose a disability or Dyslexia/ significant literacy difficulties or Dyscalculia /significant numeracy difficulties or apply to the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) **click on the 'Modify Disability (& DARE Application) Status' button.**

Then click Yes to update your selection and then in your application form, you will be able to go into the SIF.



Supplementary Information Form (& apply to DARE)



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Section A: Supplementary Information Form



All information you provide here is confidential and does not affect your CAO application.

You need to answer all the questions by 1 March 2023.

Q1 - You must opt into DARE - indicate Yes.

Q1b - If you were eligible for DARE last year you can carry forward DARE eligibility for one year using your 2022 CAO number by 1 March 2023. (No need to resubmit documents)



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Section A: Your information – Supplementary Information Form



Q2 – Asks what **category of learning difference, disability or health condition** you are applying under.

Q3 - Allows you to add in **another diagnosis** if applicable to you.

Q4 – Indication of supports you receive in second level and what supports you think you might need in university.

Q5 - Fill out your **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 and SUBMIT the information as you go until 1 March.



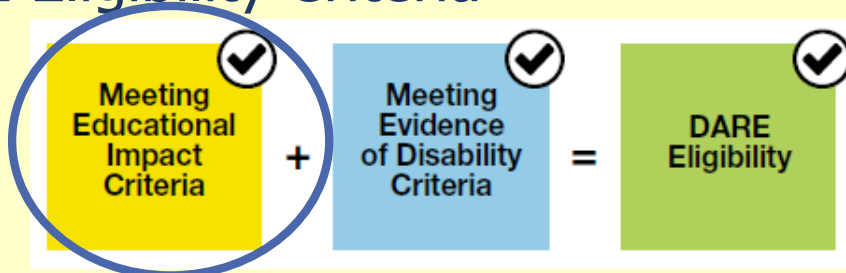
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Questions?



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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 2023.**



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Section B: Educational Impact – Meet 2 Indicators

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

1. Have you received **intervention or supports** in post-primary school?
2. Has it **impacted on your attendance** or regularly disrupted your school day?
3. Has it affected your **school experience and well-being**?
4. Has it impacted on **your learning or exam results**?
5. Has it caused any **other educational impact**?
6. **Required only for Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties or Dyscalculia/ Significant Numeracy Difficulties:** List **2 literacy** or **1 numeracy scores** at or below 10 percentile from testing on or after 1 February 2021.

Students with dyslexia/dyscalculia must meet Indicator 6 and 1 other indicator.



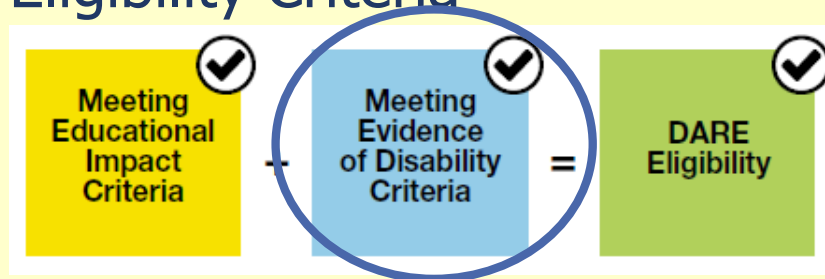
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Questions?



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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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Categories eligible for consideration

- Autistic Spectrum
- Blind / Vision Impaired
- Deaf / Hard of Hearing
- DCD – Dyspraxia
- Dyslexia / Significant Literacy Difficulties (new in 2023)
- Dyscalculia/ Significant Numeracy Difficulties (new in 2023)
- ADD / ADHD
- Mental Health Condition
- Neurological Condition
(including Brain injury and Epilepsy)
- Physical Disability
- Significant Ongoing Illness
- Speech & Language Communication Disorder



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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

You can provide an existing report

OR

Section C Evidence of Disability Form

2023 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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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 for the CAO 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., ADHD and dyslexia – as this will help when you are applying for DSS supports.

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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 2020**.

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

Other categories have no age limit but check criteria.



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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 2022 completed by Occupational Therapist OR Neurologist OR Chartered Physiotherapist OR Paediatrician.

Dysgraphia is not accepted as a stand-alone condition for DARE, but will be considered if applicant is presenting with DCD or Dyslexia/Significant Literacy Difficulties.



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Evidence of Disability

Applicants with **Dyslexia/Significant Literacy Difficulties** **MUST** have **two literacy attainment scores at or below the 10th percentile (Standard Score of 81 or below).**

These scores can be from one (or a combination) of:

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

Testing must have been carried out after **1 February 2021** and all applicants must submit a Section B (with completed Indicator 6).

And you must submit a psychological assessment (of any age) identifying dyslexia or Section D.



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Section D: School statement - new for 2023



Only for the Dyslexia/ Significant Literacy Difficulties category (evidence of disability).

The student can submit, along with Section B,

- either a Psychological Assessment Report identifying Dyslexia
OR
- a fully completed Section D School Statement by the school (SEN teacher/Principal).

This new Section D should only be signed off by school staff where the schools holds a record of the applicant's school-based interventions addressing persistent literacy difficulties.

Section D does not apply to dyscalculia/ Significant Numeracy Difficulties.

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Section C: Evidence of Disability

For **Dyscalculia/ Significant Numeracy Difficulties** (change for 2023)

Applicants MUST have one numeracy attainment score at or below the 10th percentile (Standard Score of 81 or below).

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

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

Testing must have been carried out after **1 February 2021** and all applicants must submit a Section B (with completed Indicator 6). Plus a psychological assessment (of any age) giving diagnosis.



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Questions?



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Common Mistakes that affect DARE Eligibility

- Forgetting to complete Question 1 of the SIF by 17:00 on 1 March.
- Section B Indicator 6 (dyslexia /dyscalculia): Test details missing (for example the name of the test, date or who conducted the test).
- The Section C form is completed by GP **BUT** the required copy of report by appropriate professional confirming diagnosis was not provided.
- Reports are out of date.
- Reports not confirming diagnosis of condition by consultant.
- Incorrect professional completing Section C/report.



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HEAR



- MTU is also part of the HEAR scheme.
- 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.accesscollege.ie/hear/
- MTU Cork campus links: www.cit.ie/hear Email: hearcork@mtu.ie

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DARE and HEAR Timelines

DARE & HEAR closing date		1 March 2023 at 17:00
Supporting documents closing date		15 March 2023
Notification of eligibility		Late June 2023
Review and Appeals Application		July 2023
HEAR/DARE offers through CAO		August 2023
College Orientation		Late Aug / Early Sept 2023

If you miss an application deadline, check the appeals information:

<https://accesscollege.ie/dare/review-appeals/>



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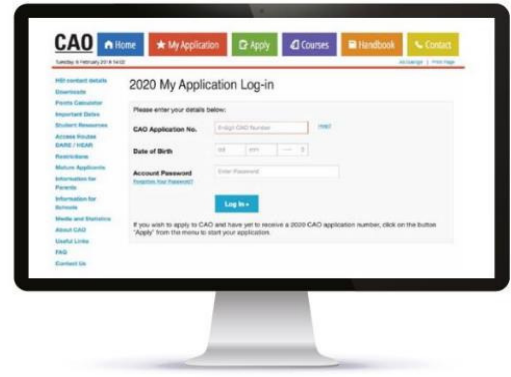
DARE Application Outcome – Eligible or not

In late June:

Log into your CAO application to view your

DARE Application Outcome.

Also check your emails.



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Not eligible for DARE

- ✓ Doesn't mean that a student's learning difference, health condition or disability hasn't had some impact.
- ✓ **Students can still get disability supports in college.** There are different criteria for applying for DSS supports that can be broader than DARE.

****If you are not eligible for DARE, please declare yourself through the CAO & submit documents if possible.**

You will be informed about early orientation, and Disability Support Service support and application process**



DARE DISABILITY ACCESS ROUTE TO EDUCATION

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What DARE Eligible means

- ✓ Students are now eligible to be **considered** for a reduced points place for the DARE participating colleges students have applied to (if needed).
- ✓ These offers are through the CAO usually in Round 1
- ✓ You may get a priority offer if you have a physical disability, hearing or visual impairment, or eligible for DARE **and** HEAR.
- ✓ For MTU courses it is not an automatic reduction in points.
- ✓ Other universities may add on points. Check their criteria and number of quota places per course.



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MTU 2023 DARE Offers www.cit.ie./dare



5% of available places on reduced points on all MTU 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, medical tests, 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).
- ✓ Priority given to students with visual and hearing impairments, physical disabilities and who are DARE/HEAR eligible.
- ✓ Can get offers both in level 6/7 and level 8.
- ✓ For a Level 8 programmes the applicant must achieve a minimum of 200 CAO points. For a Level 7/6 programme the applicant must achieve a minimum of 160 CAO points. **(NEW for 2023)**



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

- Not understanding the Maths/language/subject requirement for the chosen course(s).
- Students who wish to carry forward DARE eligibility from previous year – not putting in previous year's CAO number.
- Not checking emails (don't forget the Junk/Spam folder) and/or the correspondence in the online CAO record in June.
- Queries about documents and eligibility in August/September at CAO offers stage - **too late for appeals/review:**
<https://accesscollege.ie/dare/review-appeals/>



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



- Not filling in level 6/7 choices – reducing options.
- Not putting in course choice by preference.

Level 7/6 Course Choices

Courses

No courses selected.

Please enter all your course choices below, in order of preference. When you are ready to update your choices, click on the 'Continue with Course Choices' button below.
 You may type the course codes directly into the boxes below or click on the 'Courses' button to select course codes.

N.B. Enter all courses for which you wish to apply.

New Choices

Enter your new list below

1.
2.
3.

	Level 8		Level 6/7
1	MT745 (Electrical Eng)	1	MT745 (Electrical Eng)
2	MT942 (Accounting)	2	MT550 (Business)
3	UCC engineering	3	MT739 (Biomedical Eng)
4	MTU KERRY business	4	MTU Kerry
5	UCD engineering	5	TU Shannon business
6		6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
10		10	

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Questions?



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Student Speakers



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What is the DSS (Disability Support Service)?



- The DSS supports a range of students with learning differences, health conditions or disabilities when studying at MTU, who may need support to access their course.
- We are part of the Access Service.
- We support full-time and part-time students across all of MTU Cork campuses and those studying online.

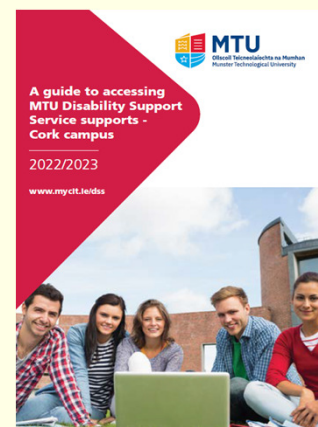


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DSS information



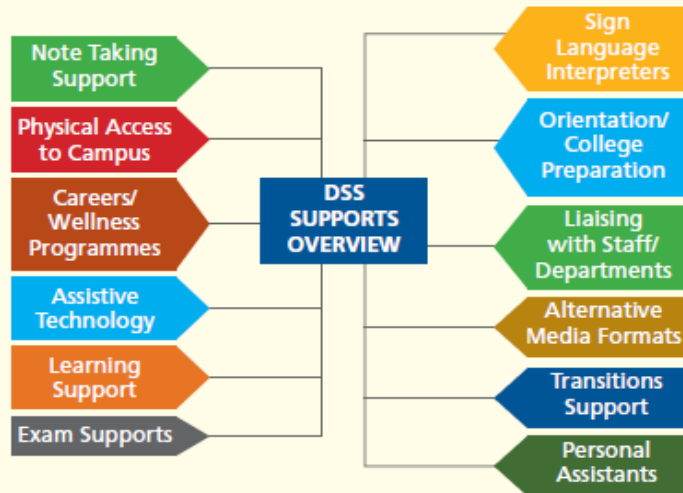
- **Website:** www.mycit.ie/dss
- **DSS student guide/videos:** www.mycit.ie/dssstudentguide
- **MTU Cork campus Access Service social media (Insta, Twitter, Facebook)**



For the quickest response to your query -
[email dssCork@mtu.ie](mailto:dssCork@mtu.ie)

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DSS Supports



All DSS supports are confirmed in a student's needs assessment

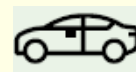
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DSS Supports

Students should contact us before the start of the summer if they need any of the following supports:

- 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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MTU Supports: www.mycit.ie



- ✓ Access Service – financial help: Student Assistance Fund/
laptop loan / 1916 bursaries & support for HEAR / Mature /
travelling community students
- ✓ Academic Learning Centre – free subject classes
- ✓ Academic Success Coaching
- ✓ Good Start - 6 week induction for first years
- ✓ Student's Union / Library
- ✓ Erasmus + for study abroad
- ✓ Careers /Counselling / Sports and Societies



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Further Information

DARE / HEAR website:

www.accesscollege.ie



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

Email dareCork@mtu.ie



MTU Kerry DARE webpage:

www.ittralee.ie/en/InformationFor/CurrentStudents/StudentLife/StudentSupportServices/AccessOffice/DARE/

Email: DareKY@mtu.ie

cao.ie



susi.ie



qualifax.ie



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DARE / HEAR talks



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

- Recording of online talk from 22 November on website 2 December

➤ **National DARE / HEAR Virtual information day**
 – **Saturday 14th January 2023:**

Book your place at www.accesscollege.ie

DARE and HEAR Application Information Days



2022-11-24

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Thank you and Final Questions?



Email dareCork@mtu.ie

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