

HEAR SCHEME - HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS ROUTE

What is HEAR? How to apply and who is eligible to apply.

What is the HEAR scheme?

HEAR is a third level admissions scheme for people who are completing secondary school and are in disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. Eligible students can receive reduced points places in colleges that run the scheme.



Who is HEAR for?

The HEAR scheme is for school leavers under the age of 23, who are a resident of the Republic of Ireland, and who have the abilities to benefit from third level education, who come from underrepresented socio-economic groups.

what is reduced points?

HEAR scheme allows students who are eligible to receive an offer of a third level college course even if you do not have enough points re the Leaving Certificate. Each college that is involved with the HEAR scheme has reserved a selected number of places to offer HEAR candidates a lower or reduced leaving cert points for a course.



what is the criteria/eligibility for HEAR scheme?

Factors that make you eligible to benefit from the HEAR scheme include incomes below the HEAR income threshold 2021, caregivers receiving social welfare, and your particular socio-economic group. A full list of what makes you eligible for HEAR scheme can be found here: <https://accesscollege.ie/hear/faqs/>

<https://accesscollege.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/HEAR-2023-Handbook-v3.pdf>

Handbook is updated yearly with dates relevant to the application year. Please use the official website for the most recent updates.

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How to apply for HEAR?

You can apply for the HEAR scheme on the CAO website as per opening times, usually from November onwards. You will complete documentation relating to your parents/guardians and the student themselves.

<https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=hear>



How do I know what documents to provide?

When you begin the HEAR application process, you will receive online prompts of specific documentation that you will have to provide. There is also a documentation checklist provided so you don't miss any of the required documents. .

What happens if I am offered a place through HEAR?

Students who are accepted into their college through HEAR are offered a variety of academic, personal, and social supports while studying at third level education.



How do I apply for HEAR scheme if I am completely independent of my parents/guardian?

The HEAR scheme will only consider applicants who wish to be assessed independently of their parents/guardians in certain circumstances. If you feel your application should be considered in this way, please email one of the participating colleges, outlining your circumstances. If you are in foster care/care of the state, please go to pages 10 & 25 of the HEAR Application Handbook.

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