

Our Ref: **NF**

13 March 2012

Name
Address
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Dear **Parents**

RE: Mary Smith

PPSNO:

I am writing to you re the process of application for the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) as part of _____ CAO application. This scheme is designed to promote equality of access to higher education for school leavers with specific learning difficulties.

Please find outlined below some points which I hope will help clarify this process.

The Disability Access Route to Education is a supplementary admissions scheme for school leavers with disabilities which operate on a reduced points basis. This scheme operates for school leavers' who have the ability to benefit from and succeed in higher education but who may not be able to meet the points for their preferred course due to the impact of a disability.

Students should complete a DARE application if they wish to compete for one of the reduced points places on offer in the participating colleges. Participating Colleges can offer courses on a reduced points basis of up to 40 points. The following colleges are taking part in *DARE 2012*:

Athlone Institute of Technology, Cork Institute of Technology, Dublin City University, Dublin Institute of Technology, Mater Dei Institute of Education, National College of Ireland, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, Pontifical University Maynooth, Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork, University College Dublin and University of Limerick

Each college that takes part in DARE has a reserved number of places to offer eligible DARE students at lower Leaving Certificate points. Disabilities eligible for consideration under the DARE scheme include:

Asperger's Syndrome/ Autism, ADD/ADHD, Blind/ Vision Impaired/ Deaf/ Hearing Impaired/ Dyspraxia/ Mental Health Condition/ Neurological Conditions, (incl. Brain injury, Speech and Language Disabilities), Ongoing Medical Condition, Physical Disability, Specific Learning Difficulty (incl. Dyslexia) Other Disabilities.

The CAO Application Process opens on November the 3rd 2011. School leavers who wish to be considered for DARE must apply as part of their CAO application (www.cao.ie) by 17.15 on 1st of February 2012.

No later than 17:15 on 1st March 2012, students must disclose their disability and / or specific learning difficulty in their CAO application and fully and correctly complete Section A of the Supplementary Information Form (the SIF is part of the CAO application .) If a student wishes to be considered for the DARE scheme, they must indicate, this on section A of the fully completed SIF by ticking ' Yes' to Question 5 by 17: 15 on 1st of March 2012.

Students must return the fully completed Second Level Academic Reference (Section B) and Evidence of Disability (Section C) to the CAO by 17: 15 on 1st of April 2012. A recent Educational Psychological Assessment can be submitted as Evidence of Disability. This Assessment should be no more than 3 years old.

Further information on DARE, including the eligibility criteria for all disabilities, is available from accesscollege.ie.

The CAO Helpdesk can be contacted should a student have any questions re a DARE application by clicking on 'Contact Us' at [www, cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) or calling 091 509 800.

I shall be available to guide students through their DARE Application process. I would like to emphasise that while every support and assistance will be provided to students through the Learning Resource Department it is each individual students' responsibility to complete their own DARE application

The DARE Application Guide is available to view or download from the following websites: accesscollege.ie, cao.ie and qualifax.ie.

Should you require more information or you would like to meet with me in order to 'talk through' the DARE process, please do not hesitate to contact me at nuala.fee@sps.ie or by telephone 8322940 ext 226.

Thank you most sincerely for your continued help and support.

Yours sincerely

Your Name

POSITION