

# Grade 11 Introduction to Irish Universities

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021

# The Basics

- Education in English and in an English speaking country
- Republic of Ireland is in the EU
- Most universities offer degrees in English
- EU and UK students pay €3,000



# The Basics (2)

- Irish HE system has
  - Universities (academic degrees)
  - Institutes of technology (vocational and academic degrees)
  - Technical universities (vocational and technical degrees)
- Ability to live and work in Ireland after graduation
- Ireland offers international recognise prestigious degrees (all unis in the top 3% in the QS world rankings)



**BUT:**

**Offers are made very late in the year  
(August 15<sup>th</sup>)**



# Irish universities

## Dublin

- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Dublin
- Dublin City University

## Cork

- University College Cork

## Galway

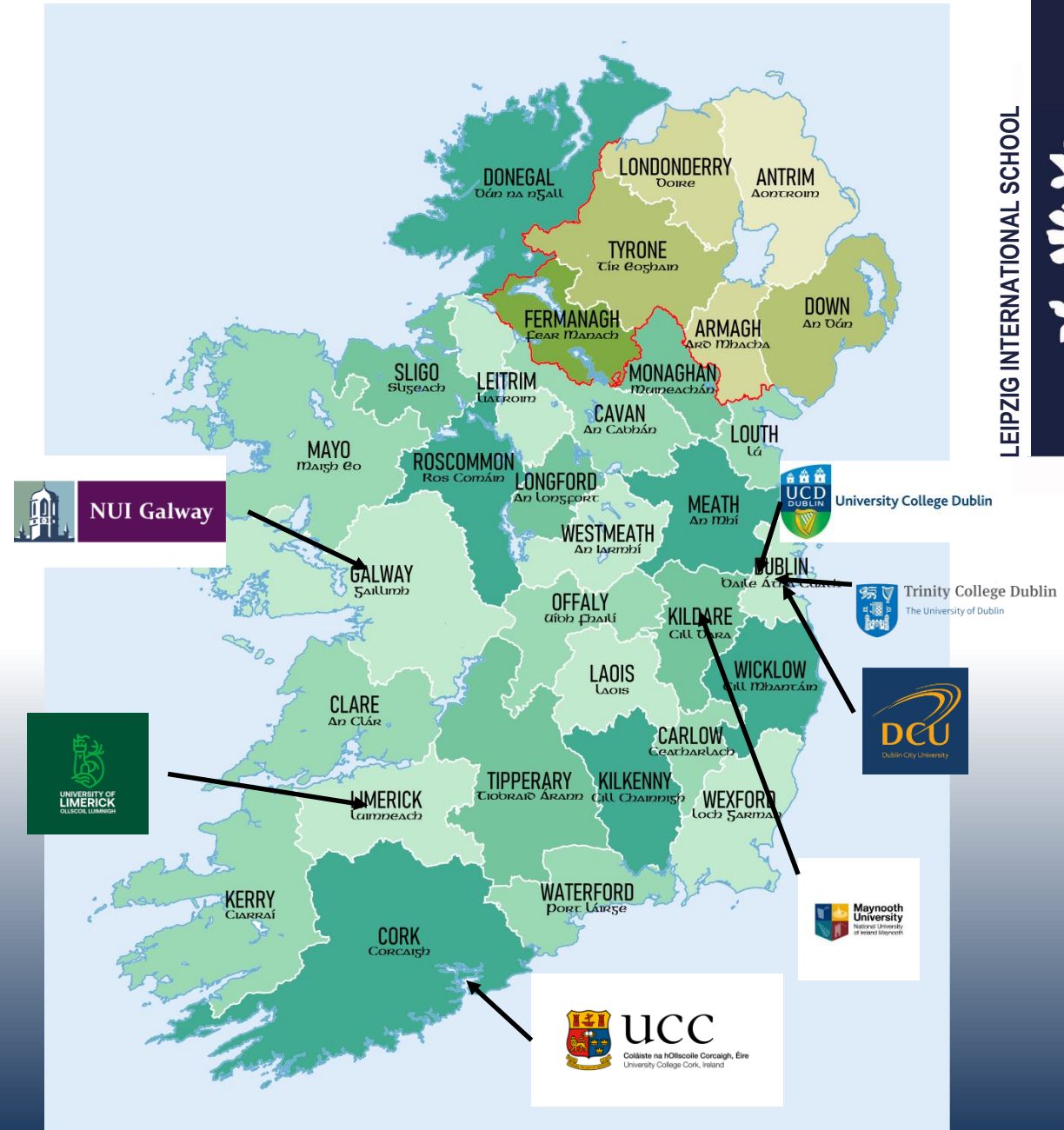
- NUI Galway

## Limerick

- University of Limerick

## Maynooth

- NUI Maynooth

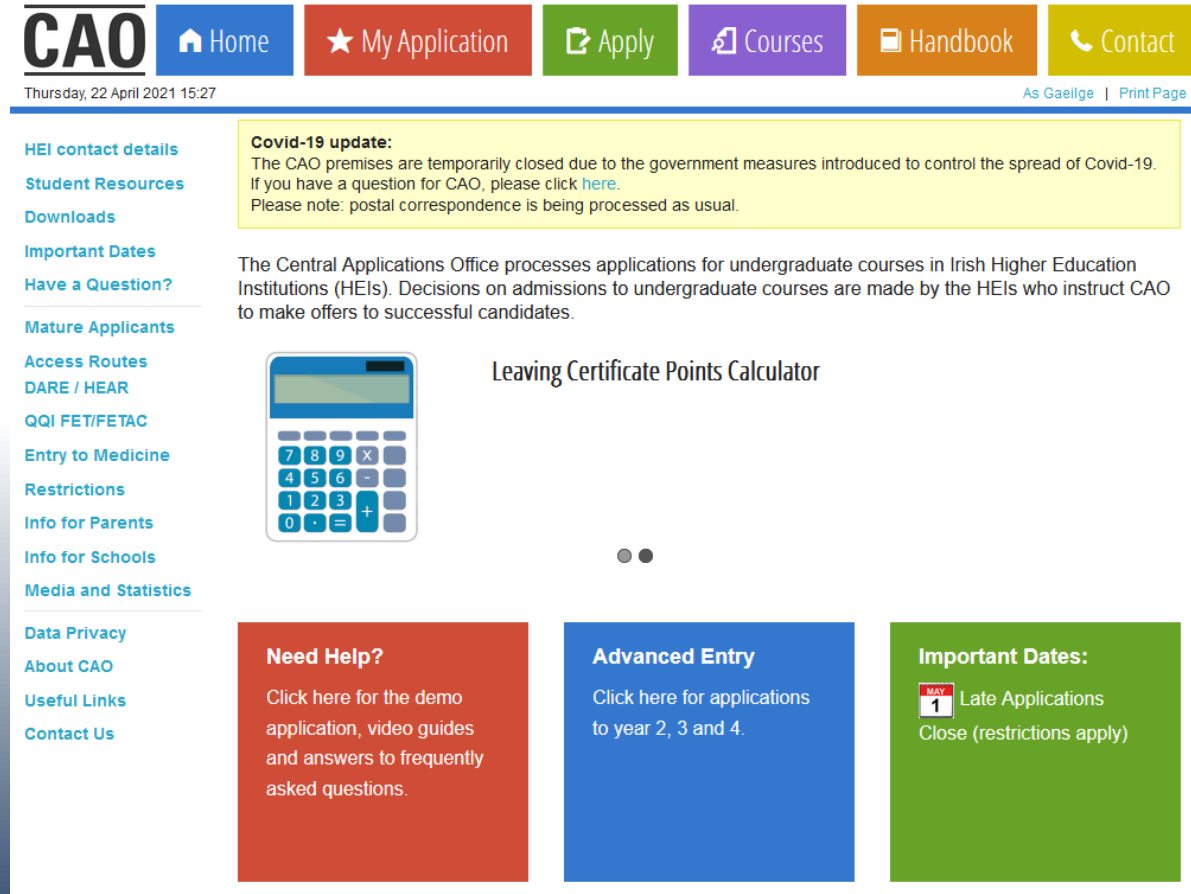


# How it works

- UK, Irish and EU students apply via a central portal called CAO
- Can select up to 20 courses
  - Max 10 Level 8 courses (academic bachelors)
  - Max 10 Level 6/7 courses (vocational bachelors)
- Courses have to be ranked in order of genuine preference
- Students need to meet the minimum requirements of course (check uni websites)



# Central Applications Office ([www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie))



The screenshot shows the CAO website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CAO logo and several menu items: Home, My Application, Apply, Courses, Handbook, and Contact. Below the navigation bar, there is a date and time indicator (Thursday, 22 April 2021 15:27) and a language selector (As Gaelge | Print Page). The main content area features a yellow box with a 'Covid-19 update' notice, a section for 'Leaving Certificate Points Calculator' with a calculator icon, and three colored boxes at the bottom: 'Need Help?' (red), 'Advanced Entry' (blue), and 'Important Dates:' (green) which includes a 'Late Applications Close' notice for May 1st.


**CAO** Home My Application Apply Courses Handbook Contact

Thursday, 22 April 2021 15:27 As Gaelge | Print Page

[HEI contact details](#)  
[Student Resources](#)  
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**Covid-19 update:**  
The CAO premises are temporarily closed due to the government measures introduced to control the spread of Covid-19. If you have a question for CAO, please click [here](#).  
Please note: postal correspondence is being processed as usual.

The Central Applications Office processes applications for undergraduate courses in Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Decisions on admissions to undergraduate courses are made by the HEIs who instruct CAO to make offers to successful candidates.

 Leaving Certificate Points Calculator

**Need Help?**  
Click here for the demo application, video guides and answers to frequently asked questions.

**Advanced Entry**  
Click here for applications to year 2, 3 and 4.

**Important Dates:**  
 Late Applications Close (restrictions apply)



# How it works

- CAO calculates tariff points based on exam results and supplementary tests (eg. HPAT for medicine)
- Universities tell CAO how many places they have on each course
- CAO ranks applicants based on merit and awards the places to the top students (based the number of places available)
- Students will be given an offer on the first available place in their application ranking





# When it happens

When	What
Now	Check out Irish university search in Unifrog
Now	Check out the course and university pages and the minimum course requirements
Nov 5, 2021	CAO opens
Jan 20, 2022	CAO early deadline (€30)
Feb 1, 2022	CAO normal deadline (€45)
May 1, 2022	CAO late deadline (€60) – not possible for all courses
July 1, 2022	Change of mind deadline - students can re-arrange preferences and add courses (with limits)
July 6, 2022	IB results sent to CAO which calculates CAO points
August 15, 2022	First round of offers issued to applicants



# Things to consider

- Order your choices in the CAO application according to **your** preference (not grades or likelihood of admission)
- CAO offers you the first possible course in your list
- You can get an offer for L8 and L6/7 courses
- You are waitlisted for courses that are higher placed on your preference list than the one you have been offered.



# An easy CAO – IB conversion

Your IB score/45 x 600 = CAO points

Or

CAO points/600 x 45 = IB points

**NB:** if you have more than a 4 in HL maths you can add 25 CAO points





Are there any questions?