

# Supplementary or Alternative Admissions Route for Students with a Disability or Specific Learning Difficulty

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<b>Purpose</b>	Procedures for IADT supplementary or alternative admissions route for students with a disability or specific learning difficulty
<b>Commencement Date</b>	November 2017
<b>Date of Next Review</b>	November 2020
<b>Who needs to know about this document</b>	IADT staff and students, prospective students.
<b>Revision History</b>	Version 1 November 2017
<b>Policy Author</b>	Disability Support Services [adapted from the guidelines issued by the Disability Advisors Working Network (DAWN) and Association for Higher Education Access and Disability (AHEAD)]
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Student Experience Manager/Registrar

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IADT operates a clearly defined supplementary admissions procedure for applicants with disabilities/specific learning difficulties who believe that because of the impact of their disability they will not achieve the required competitive points for the course of their choice. This procedure was developed:

- In recognition of the difficulties experienced by some students with disabilities in reaching their academic potential in second level education
- To address the under-representation of learners with disabilities in higher education in Ireland

Some of the Higher Education Institutions in Ireland have operated supplementary admission procedures since 2005, and, in 2009, these routes were nationalised and relaunched as the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE).

DARE is a supplementary admissions scheme for school leavers who because of the impact of their disability may not meet the competitive CAO points for the programme of their choice.

## **1 What criteria must DARE applicants satisfy to obtain a place in IADT?**

- Applicants must be deemed eligible for DARE (see [How to Apply](#))
- Applicants must achieve IADT's general entry requirements (Grade H5 in two higher level subjects, and Grade O6 or Grade H7 in four subjects, including Maths and English or Irish)
- Applicants are entitled to a 5% increase in points, once they qualify by meeting the minimum IADT entry requirements
- Applicants must achieve any relevant specific programme requirements
- Applicants must also meet any specific points threshold set by individual Departments
- It should be noted that applicants cannot always be guaranteed entry at this level for programmes in high demand
- A number of programme places are available, up to but not exceeding 5% of individual programme places, for DARE applicants. Where demand for places exceeds the number of places available, places are awarded on merit.

## **2 How to Apply for DARE**

School leavers who wish to be considered for DARE must apply via the Central Applications Office (CAO, [www.CAO.ie](http://www.CAO.ie)) by 1 February of the year they wish to attend, indicating their wish to be considered for DARE. They must submit relevant evidence

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related to the disability or specific learning difficulty to the CAO by 1 April of that same year.

### **3 Offer of Places**

Students applying through the Supplementary Admission Route are offered places on the same date as all other applicants through the CAO.