

**HEAR Frequently Asked Questions from accesscollege.ie**

<p><b>What is the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)?</b></p>	<p>HEAR is a higher education admissions scheme for Leaving Certificate students (under 23) whose economic or social background are underrepresented in higher education and who are resident in the Republic of Ireland. Eligible students compete for a quota of reduced points places in the colleges that run the scheme.</p>
<p><b>Who is HEAR for?</b></p>	<p>School leavers who have the ability to benefit from and succeed in higher education and who come from socio-economic groups in Irish society that are underrepresented in third level.</p>
<p><b>Why was HEAR set up?</b></p>	<p>To tackle educational disadvantage. Socio-economic disadvantage negatively impacts on educational attainment at school and affects progression by some second level students to third level. Research in Ireland shows that for example, the son/ daughter of an unskilled manual worker (e.g. factory worker) is less likely to progress to higher education than the son/ daughter of a higher professional (e.g. doctor).</p>
<p><b>What does "reduced points" mean?</b></p>	<p>If you apply to HEAR and meet the application criteria (that is, are deemed eligible for HEAR) you may be offered a place even if you do not have enough Leaving Certificate points for your preferred course. Each participating college and university has a number of reserved places to offer eligible HEAR applicants at lower Leaving Certificate points or reduced points. An example of a reduced points offer is where the Leaving Certificate points for a particular course is 366 points. An eligible HEAR applicant could be offered a place with a lower points score e.g. 356 points. This applicant would also, like all other applicants applying to college on the basis of their Leaving Certificate results, need to meet the minimum entry requirements and any specific programme requirements before being considered for a HEAR reduced points offer.</p> <p>The amount of points a particular course is reduced by is dependent on a number of factors, such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The overall number of places on the course.</li> <li>• The number of reserved HEAR places on the course.</li> <li>• The number of HEAR eligible applicants competing for these reserved places.</li> </ul> <p>The reduction in points for HEAR places varies every year.</p>
<p><b>How many places are there for HEAR students each year?</b></p>	<p>Each of the colleges set aside a quota of places for HEAR students each year. For further information on the number of places available in particular institutions or courses, please contact the access office in the college of your choice.</p> <p>Further information is available under the participating college section of accesscollege.ie at <a href="http://accesscollege.ie/hear/participating-colleges/">http://accesscollege.ie/hear/participating-colleges/</a></p>

**Which colleges take part in HEAR?**

- Atlantic Technological University
  - Donegal Campus
  - Galway Campus
  - Sligo Campus
- Dublin City University
- Institute of Art, Design and Technology Dun Laoghaire
- Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Marino Institute of Education
- Mary Immaculate College Limerick
- Maynooth University
- Munster Technological University
  - Cork Campus
  - Kerry Campus
- National College of Art & Design
- National College of Ireland
- Pontifical University, Maynooth
- RCSI – University of Medicine and Health Sciences
- St Angela’s College Sligo
- South East Technological University
  - Carlow and Wexford Campus
  - Waterford Campus
- Technological University Dublin
- Technological University of the Shannon
  - Athlone Campus
  - Limerick Campus
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Dublin
- University College Cork
- University of Galway
- University of Limerick

**How do I know I know if I'm eligible to apply to HEAR - what criteria are used?**

**To be eligible for HEAR you must meet a specific combination of indicators including low income.**

**Each HEAR applicant is assessed in relation to six indicators (criteria). Each applicant must meet at least three of the indicators in order to be eligible for the scheme. Only certain combinations of the indicators make an applicant eligible. Every applicant must meet Indicator 1 in order to be considered.**

**Indicator 1 Low Income** - Is the household income below the HEAR Income threshold in 2023?

**Indicator 2 Medical Card** - Is the applicant or their parent(s)/guardian in receipt of a medical card (in date on 31st December 2024)

**Indicator 3 Social Welfare** – Is the applicant’s parent(s)/guardian in receipt of a means-tested social welfare payment in 2023 (for a minimum of 26 weeks in the relevant year)?

**Indicator 4 Socio-Economic Grouping** (based on occupation and employment status) – Is the applicant a member of a group underrepresented in higher education?

	<p><b>Indicator 5 DEIS School</b> – Did the applicant attend a school which is part of the Department of Education &amp; Skills “DEIS” scheme (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) for the duration of their second level education?</p> <p><b>Indicator 6 Area</b> - Does the applicant live in an area of concentrated disadvantage?</p> <p>The combinations for eligibility are: INDICATOR 1 plus 2 plus 4 or 5 or 6; INDICATOR 1 plus 3 plus 4 or 5 or 6; INDICATOR 1 plus 4 plus 5 or 6; INDICATOR 1 plus 5 plus 6.</p>
<p><b>How can I apply to HEAR?</b></p>	<p>Students can apply online at the CAO website from 5th November 2024. As part of the application process, and depending on individual circumstances, applicants will be asked to submit documentation relating to their parent(s)/ guardian(s) or to themselves to support their application. Applicants need to provide documentary evidence of the household income in the year specified.</p>
<p><b>Examples of the documentation required are:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement of Liability for 2023</li> <li>• Self-Assessment Letter – Chapter 4 for 2023</li> <li>• Department of Social Protection form or statement for 2023</li> </ul> <p>Further information on the type of supporting documents required is available on pages 19 to 25 (the Supporting Document Section) of the HEAR Handbook. All supporting documents must be returned to the CAO no later than <b>15 March 2025</b>. Late documentation will only be considered in exceptional circumstances through the CAO Independent Appeals Process.</p>
<p><b>How do I know what supporting documents to provide?</b></p>	<p>When completing a HEAR application, applicants will receive online prompts requesting that they submit specific documentation.</p> <p>Applicants will receive a supporting document checklist at the bottom of the application form. The supporting document checklist will list what documents they need to submit to the CAO to complete their HEAR application. The checklist is based on the answers given in Section 7 of the online HEAR application form.</p>
<p><b>My parents are separated or divorced. Do I need to include both of them in Section 7 of the form and provide evidence of their income to HEAR?</b></p>	<p>With regards to divorced or separated parents, the income of the parent with whom the applicant lives with, will be taken into account. If parents are separated but remain residing in the same house as the applicant, both incomes will be taken into account.</p>
<p><b>I have no contact with one of my parents? What should I do?</b></p>	<p>In section 6 of the HEAR application form, select ‘no contact’ for one parent. In section 7, select the parent/guardian who contributes to your family’s income and answer Yes or No as appropriate for that parent under Type of Income. (E.g. Employee, paid employment, social welfare)</p>
<p><b>I live with my mother/father and his /her partner/my step father/step mother. They are not my legal guardian. Should I</b></p>	<p>Your guardian may not necessarily be your legal guardian but refers to who you lived with and contributed to the household income in 2023.</p> <p>You should submit a full picture of household income for the year 2023 for all parents/step parents/guardians living in your household.</p>

<p>submit their financial information?</p>	
<p>I am no longer in Care of the State. What do I need to make an application?</p>	<p>If you were a foster child or were in the Care of the Health Service Executive/TUSLA, you must supply a letter from TUSLA detailing that you had previously been in the Care of the State/HSE.</p> <p>Enter your PPS number in Section 3 Medical Card/ GP Visit Card of the online application form. Answer Yes to Question 4 of the online application. If you answer yes to In Care of the State, you will not be required to complete Sections 5, 6, 7. Sections 5, 6, 7 will then disappear from the online application form.</p>
<p>What happens after HEAR applicants are assessed?</p>	<p>After assessment, applicants will be informed <b>by email</b> whether or not they are eligible for the scheme. Eligible applicants will go forward to compete for the quota of reduced points places in the HEAR colleges to which they apply. If an applicant is ineligible this does not affect their application to CAO.</p> <p>Applicants can log into their CAO applications on the day of the last leaving certificate exam (from the afternoon of <b>24 June</b>(tbc)) to view the outcomes of their HEAR applications. If an applicant is ineligible for HEAR, the HEAR application outcome facility will show the reasons for ineligibility.</p>
<p>What happens if I am offered a place in college through HEAR?</p>	<p>Students who secure college places through HEAR are offered a variety of academic, personal and social supports while studying at third level. Such supports include an orientation programme (before courses start), academic guidance and assistance, a bursary when available and advice regarding grants and scholarships.</p>
<p>I'm ineligible but I think there was some mistake in the assessment of my application.</p>	<p>Ineligible applicants can apply to have their applications reviewed if they believe there has been an error in the screening of the application. Please read the information on the Review and Appeals process at <a href="http://www.accesscollege.ie/hear/reviews-and-appeals/">www.accesscollege.ie/hear/reviews-and-appeals/</a>.</p>
<p>Can I defer my HEAR eligibility for 1 year?</p>	<p>Please note that a deferral is separate to eligibility carry forward.</p> <p>Eligibility for HEAR carries forward for one year provided that you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply to CAO by 17:00 on 1 February 2025 and indicate that you wish to apply to the HEAR scheme by 17:00 on 1 March 2025</li> <li>• supply your correct 2024 CAO number</li> </ul> <p>If you were deemed eligible for HEAR in 2024 your HEAR eligibility can be carried forward to your application for entry in 2025. You must enter your correct 2024 CAO application number in the box provided. You are required to complete ALL relevant sections of the 2025 HEAR application form, however you DO NOT need to supply supporting documentation as part of your application. In the event of being offered and accepting a HEAR place in 2025, you will be required to provide the supporting documentation which accompanied your 2024 HEAR application.</p>
<p>How do I defer a place?</p>	<p>You request a deferral at the point of CAO offers. If you wish to defer an offer of a place you do not accept your offer. Instead, you must email or write to the Admissions Office of the appropriate HEI immediately. You must give your name as it appears on your CAO application, quote your CAO application number and the course code of the offer you wish to defer, and set out the reason(s) for the</p>

	<p>request. Please see page 32 of the CAO handbook (<a href="http://www2.cao.ie/handbook/handbook2025/hb.pdf">http://www2.cao.ie/handbook/handbook2025/hb.pdf</a>) for further information.</p>
<p><b>I am currently supporting myself (through either work or social welfare) and I am completely independent of my parent/ guardian. How do I fill in sections 6 &amp; 7 of my form?</b></p>	<p>The HEAR scheme will only consider applicants who wish to be assessed independently of their parents/ guardians in exceptional circumstances. If you feel your application should be considered in this way please email <a href="mailto:darehear@iua.ie">darehear@iua.ie</a>, outlining your circumstances, for advice on filling in the HEAR online application form. Alternatively, you may contact CAO through the contact us facility. If you are in foster care/ care of the state, please go to pages 10 &amp; 25 of the HEAR Handbook.</p>
<p><b>Due to my parent's/ guardian's financial circumstances, they are unable to provide the documents that HEAR requested on the application checklist. What do I provide?</b></p>	<p>Please contact a staff member in one of the participating colleges, who will be able to advise you, based on your family's individual circumstances, what you need to provide. Alternatively, if your parent/guardian is a client of the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS), a statement of financial affairs from MABS, detailing your family financial situation, will be acceptable as evidence of income.</p>
<p><b>My school, which takes part in the DEIS scheme, is now being amalgamated with another school and the 'new' school does not have DEIS status. Will I meet the HEAR school indicator?</b></p>	<p>You must have completed five years in a secondary school that takes part in the DEIS scheme in order to meet this indicator. However, the following applies if you have spent four years in a DEIS school (i.e. have not done Transition Year) and are currently sitting the Leaving Certificate in your new (amalgamated) school. You should select your DEIS school from the dropdown list on your HEAR application form and indicate attendance for 5 years on the HEAR application form. You can then be awarded the DEIS indicator. In other words, if you are sitting your leaving certificate in a school that has just been amalgamated, you should add this year to the number of years you attended the school that had DEIS status on your HEAR online application form. If you have any questions on whether or not the above applies to you, you should speak to your guidance counsellor or contact a HEAR advisor.</p>
<p><b>Newly appointed DEIS schools from September 2022</b></p>	<p>Applicants who have attended a newly designated DEIS school for 5+ years will meet the HEAR indicator.</p>

HEAR Indicator Queries

Indicator 1: Income

Number of dependent children* in your family	HEAR Income Limit
Less than 4	€46,790
4-7	€51,325
More than 8	€55,630

Add €4,785 to the total family/household income for every sibling/parent enrolled in a full time college, university or post leaving certificate course.

\*A dependant includes:

- a sibling under the age of 16 years on 1 October 2024.
- a sibling over the age of 16 years on 1 October 2024 who is either:
  - attending post primary education.
  - attending a full-time course in FET or higher education.
  - medically certified as permanently unfit for work.
- a parent attending a full time course in FET or higher education

Supporting Document Checklist

This question asks you to tell us who contributed to your family’s income in 2023. Your family income may come from:

- Employment.
- Social Welfare.
- Pensions.
- Rental Property.
- Farming.

Type of Income	Mother/ Guardian 1	Father/ Guardian 2	Document Required
Was your parent/guardian in paid employment in 2023 on a full, part time or temporary basis?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Statement of Liability for 2023</b> from Revenue Commissioners. <b>See Page 19</b>
Was your parent/guardian self-employed, engaged in farming, or receiving rent from rental properties in 2023?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Self-Assessment – Chapter 4 for 2023</b> from Revenue Commissioners or Tax Exemption Letter. <b>See Page 20</b>
Did your parent/guardian receive any social welfare payments in 2023 other than child benefit?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Department of Social Protection (DSP) Form or DSP Statement for 2023. See Page 23</b>
Did your parent/guardian receive any lump sum payments in 2023 from his/her former employer as a result of being made redundant?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Form <b>RP50</b> Notification of Redundancy OR Letter from Employer <b>See Page 24</b>

Was your parent/guardian retired in 2023?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Retirement Lump Sum Letter</b> from Employer (Page 24) and/or <b>Statement of Liability for 2023/ Self-Assessment – Chapter 4 for 2023</b> and/or <b>Department of Social Protection (DSP) Form or DSP Statement for 2023.</b> (Page 23)
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<b>How to request supporting documents from Revenue for 2023?</b>	<p>If your parent(s)/ guardian(s) received income from employment, self-employment, land, farming or receiving rent from rental properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must submit your parent(s)/ guardian(s) Statement of Liability or a Self-Assessment Letter - Chapter 4 for 2023. If they are exempt from paying tax provide a tax exemption letter from Revenue.</li> <li>Supply documents for both parent(s)/ guardian(s). If they are jointly assessed one document is sufficient.</li> <li>Submit all pages including front and back. Statement of Liabilities that are missing pages will not be accepted.</li> <li>In all cases where you are submitting a Self-Assessment Letter - Chapter 4 or Notice of Assessment all pages are required.</li> </ul>
<b>What is a Statement of Liability?</b>	<p>A Statement of Liability is a statement of total income, tax credit and tax paid for a particular tax year for people in paid employment who pay all of their income tax under PAYE (pay as you earn). You do not automatically receive a Statement of Liability statement from Revenue; you must request this document. An Employment Detail Summary will not be accepted.</p>
<b>What is a Self-Assessment Letter - Chapter 4?</b>	<p>A Self-Assessment Letter - Chapter 4 is a statement of total income or profits, tax chargeable and tax paid for a particular tax year for people who are: self-employed, directors, and/or receiving income of any kind where some or all of the tax cannot be collected under the PAYE system. Do not submit Form 11; this will not be accepted.</p>
<b>How do I request a Statement of Liability for 2023?</b>	<p>The quickest and easiest way for your parent(s)/ guardian(s) to get their Statement of Liability is by clicking on the myAccount link on the Revenue website at <a href="http://www.revenue.ie">www.revenue.ie</a>. There is a simple registration process and a PIN will be issued by post in 5-8 working days. They should log in using this PIN and request the Statement of Liability. If your parent(s)/ guardian(s) have chosen to receive correspondence electronically, the Statement of Liability will be available by clicking on the Requests History tab, which is their own personal mailbox, otherwise the Statement of Liability will be posted to them. Your parent(s)/ guardian(s) may also request a Statement of Liability by completing a paper tax return and asking for a Statement of Liability.</p>
<b>How do I request a Self-Assessment Letter - Chapter 4 for 2023?</b>	<p>A Self-Assessment Letter - Chapter 4 will be in your parent(s)/ guardian(s) Revenue On-Line Service (ROS) inbox after they have completed their return and self-assessment for 2023.</p>



<p><b>What if parent(s)/ guardian(s) cannot get a Self-Assessment Letter - Chapter 4 document?</b></p>	<p>A Notice of Assessment (Chapter 4) will be issued by Revenue to parent(s)/ guardian(s) who file a paper tax return to Revenue and who do not complete a self-assessment on that return. The majority of self-employed Revenue customers receive a Self-Assessment Letter - Chapter 4.</p>
<p><b>What if my parent(s)/ guardian(s) have a 'Notice of Amended Assessment (Chapter 4)' or 'Notice of Amended Assessment (Chapter 5) for 2023'?</b></p>	<p>If your parent(s)/ guardian(s) have a 'Notice of Amended Assessment (Chapter 4)' or 'Notice of Amended Assessment (Chapter 5) for 2023' from Revenue you should send this document to the CAO. Where a Notice of Amended Assessment (Chapter 4) or Notice of Amended Assessment (Chapter 5) for 2023 is received HEAR will not require a Self-Assessment Letter - Chapter 4 or Notice of Assessment (Chapter 4).</p>
<p><b>How long will it take for Revenue to issue a Statement of Liability or Self-Assessment Letter - Chapter 4?</b></p>	<p>It is essential that you apply for a Statement of Liability early. A Statement of Liability can take up to 8 weeks to issue. If your parent(s)/ guardian(s) do not have a Self-Assessment Letter - Chapter 4 (or a Notice of Assessment) for 2023 they need to complete their Tax Return and Self-Assessment for 2023 on ROS as soon as possible.</p>
<p><b>If one parent/ guardian was PAYE and one parent / guardian was self-employed what document do I submit?</b></p>	<p>A Self-Assessment Letter - Chapter 4 for 2023 if parent(s)/ guardian(s) are jointly assessed by Revenue. A Statement of Liability for 2023 and a Self-Assessment Letter - Chapter 4 for 2023 is required if parents/ guardians are separately assessed by Revenue.</p>
<p><b>What if my parent(s)/ guardian(s) earned income from outside the Republic of Ireland in 2023?</b></p>	<p>HEAR requests that you provide supporting documents for the tax year 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023. You should provide the Revenue equivalent documents from that country confirming total income and tax paid. <b>Company payslips or statements of income are not acceptable.</b> Contact a member of the HEAR team for further information.</p>
<p><b>What if my parent(s)/ guardian(s) earned income from Northern Ireland or the UK in 2023?</b></p>	<p>The UK tax year runs April – April, therefore applicants with parent(s)/guardian(s) in receipt of UK income can submit a HMRC statement covering April 2022 - March 2023 or April 2023 - March 2024. EU Comm Cert of Revenues is acceptable to calculate income.</p> <p>Acceptable UK Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Statement of Earnings and Tax (issued by Her Majesty's Revenue &amp; Customs (HMRC))</li> <li>• NOAs are also issued by HMRC.</li> </ul> <p><b>Unacceptable UK Documents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A UK P60 is equivalent to an Irish P60 and is therefore not acceptable. (An Irish Employment Detail Summary is not accepted).</li> </ul>
<p><b>What if my parent/ guardian is self-employed and is also in receipt of a Social Welfare payment?</b></p>	<p>Submit a copy of a Self-Assessment Letter - Chapter 4 for 2023, plus a Department of Social Protection form or statement as outlined on page 23 of HEAR Application Handbook.</p>



**Important Note:**

HEAR requires evidence of a full year's income for 2023 (i.e. 52 weeks).  
If you have indicated income from both parents you must submit documents detailing both their incomes.

Where an applicant's supporting documents shows a household income of less than €10,000 for 2023: In setting it's criteria, HEAR takes advice from experts in budgetary and personal finance from state bodies and other organisations. These experts advised HEAR that where an applicant evidences a total income of less than €10,000, it is highly unlikely that the applicant has provided a full picture of their household income for the full year 2023 (i.e. 52 weeks).

In such cases, applicants should provide clarifying third party documentary information as to why supporting documents shows income of less than €10,000. Where an applicant has not done so, an applicant may not be eligible for the HEAR. (This is not required by those living in Direct Provision Centres.)

**HEAR Indicator 2: Medical Card**

**Why does HEAR use Medical Card/ GP Visit Card as an Indicator?**

Possession of a Medical Card/ GP Visit Card is used as a proxy for low family income in the assessment of eligibility for HEAR. The medical card and GP visit card schemes are designed to help people on low incomes pay the cost of accessing medical care. In the majority of cases, the cards are given to people who would experience financial hardship if they had to pay the full costs of medical care themselves. The schemes are generally means-tested. If you or your family qualify for a medical card or a GP visit card, you are likely to have a low income. Medical Card holders are also entitled to other benefits within the education system.  
To meet this Indicator, you or your family have to have Medical Card/ GP Visit Card that was in date on **31 December 2024**.

**How do I provide evidence of a Medical Card?**

In order to assess your application, HEAR seeks permission to contact the HSE directly to verify that you or your parent(s) or guardian(s) have a medical card or a GP visit card that is in date on **31 December 2024**. You can supply us with the information for yourself or your parent(s)/guardian(s).

- If you have a medical card in your own name you should enter your own PPS number in Section 3 of the HEAR online application form.
- If you do not have a medical card/GP visit card in your own name but your parent/guardian does you should enter their name, date of birth and PPS number in in Section 3 of the HEAR online application form.

**Important Note**

Drugs Payment Scheme (DPS) cards and Long Term Illness (LTI) cards are not acceptable and will not meet the HEAR medical card indicator.

**Indicator 3: Means Tested Social Assistance Payment**

To meet the Social Welfare indicator, your parent(s) or guardian(s) must have received a means-tested social assistance payment(s) from the Department of Social Protection for at least 26 weeks in the year ending 31 December 2023.

<p><b>Why we use Social Welfare Payment(s) as an indicator</b></p>	<p>Receipt of a Social Assistance payment is used as a proxy for low family income in the assessment of eligibility for HEAR. This is possible because certain Social Welfare payments are means-tested and only paid to those who do not have enough income to support themselves.</p>
<p><b>What is a Social Welfare Payment?</b></p>	<p>Social Welfare payments are broadly divided into three types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributory payments are based on your Pay-Related Social Insurance (PRSI) record. Whether you qualify for a payment depends on having a certain number of PRSI contributions. These types of payments are commonly referred to as Social Insurance payments.</li> <li>• Non-contributory payments require you to satisfy a means-test and be an ongoing resident in the State. These types of payments are commonly referred to as Social Assistance payments.</li> <li>• Payments and benefits such as Child Benefit and Free Travel do not depend on PRSI contributions or means.</li> </ul> <p>Only means tested social assistance payments count as a HEAR indicator.</p>
<p><b>What are the Means tested Social Assistance payments?</b></p>	<p>The means tested social assistance payments are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back to Education Allowance (BTEA)</li> <li>• Back to Work Enterprise Allowance – Self-employed year 1</li> <li>• Back to Work Enterprise Allowance – Self-employed year 2-4</li> <li>• Back to Work PAYE work</li> <li>• Carer's Allowance</li> <li>• Deserted Wife's Allowance</li> <li>• Disability Allowance</li> <li>• Family Income Support (FIS)/Working Family Payment (WFP)</li> <li>• Farm Assist</li> <li>• Guardian's Payment (Non-Contributory)</li> <li>• Jobseeker's Allowance (JA)</li> <li>• Jobseeker's Transitional Payment</li> <li>• One-Parent Family Payment (OFP)</li> <li>• Part-Time Job Incentive Scheme</li> <li>• Pre-Retirement Allowance (PRETA)</li> <li>• Prisoner's Wife Allowance</li> <li>• Blind Pension</li> <li>• Rent Allowance</li> <li>• State Pension (Non-Contributory)</li> <li>• Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA)2</li> <li>• Widow's or Widower's (Non-Contributory) Pension</li> </ul>

**Indicator 4: Socio Economic Group**

<b>Why does HEAR use Socio-economic Group as an indicator?</b>	<p>Research clearly shows that participation in higher education is not evenly spread across the socio-economic groups. Children of higher professionals, employers, managers, lower professionals, skilled manual workers and farmers are more likely to go on to college than the children of non-manual, semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers group. The HEAR scheme is designed to increase the number of students from these under-represented socio-economic groups in third level education.</p> <p>To meet this indicator, you must belong to a group that is under-represented in higher education.</p>
<b>What is a Socio-economic Group?</b>	<p>A socio-economic group is a measure of your social background based on your parents' or guardian's occupation and employment status. The measure is used by the Central Statistics Office to analyse the social background of the Irish population.</p>
<b>How do I know what SEG I belong to?</b>	<p>SEG is coded by an expert company. The SEG is calculated by the responses given in the online HEAR application form to Question 6.</p> <p>6.1 Parent's/ Guardian's employment status 6.2 Parent's/ Guardian's Type of Employment 6.3 Parent's/ Guardian's Main Job Title</p>

**SEG Categories**

<b>Eligible SEG Groups</b>	<b>Ineligible SEG groups</b>
<b>Non Manual workers</b> Cooks, Bar Staff, Office Administrators, Civil Service Clerical Officers, Receptionists.	<b>Employers and Manager</b> Office Managers, Company Directors, IT Managers, Business Owners or Farmers with Paid Employees.
<b>Semi-skilled manual workers</b> Security Guards, Hotel Porters, Caretakers, Care Assistants, Carers.	<b>Higher Professionals</b> Engineers (Civil, Electrical, Mechanical etc.), Solicitors, Accountants, Medical Doctors.
<b>Unskilled manual workers</b> Cleaners, Labourers, Refuse Collectors, General Operatives.	<b>Lower Professionals</b> Nurses, Teachers, Financial Consultants, Physiotherapists, IT Technicians.
<b>Agricultural Workers</b> Farm Machinery Drivers, Farm Workers, Forestry Workers	<b>Manual Skilled -</b> Plumbers, Plasterers, Butchers, Mechanics, Electricians, Bus Drivers.
<b>State Labour Intervention Scheme</b> Community Employment (CE) participants, FÁS Scheme Workers, TUS Scheme Workers.	<b>Own Account workers</b> Self-employed workers, for example: Taxi Drivers, Business Owners, Shop Owners.
<b>Never Worked, Housewife, Permanently Ill</b>	<b>Farmers</b>
<b>Student</b>	<b>All others – uncodable.</b>
<b>Applicants in the Care of the State</b>	

**Indicator 5: DEIS School**

<p><b>Why does HEAR use DEIS as an Indicator?</b></p>	<p>Schools that are part of the DEIS scheme are some of the most disadvantaged schools in the country. Traditionally, few students from these schools go on to third level education. Also, children from DEIS schools tend to leave school earlier and do less well academically than students from other schools.</p> <p>To meet this indicator, you must have completed five years in a DEIS secondary school(s).</p>
<p><b>What is DEIS?</b></p>	<p>Delivering Equality of Opportunity In Schools (DEIS) is an initiative of the Department of Education and Skills aimed at lessening educational disadvantage and bringing about social inclusion in primary and second level education. Further information on DEIS including listing of all DEIS schools is available on the DES website: <a href="http://www.education.ie">www.education.ie</a></p>
<p><b>I went to a DEIS school for 4 years but changed schools last year as my family moved house.</b></p>	<p>To meet this indicator, you must have completed 5 years in a DEIS secondary school(s).</p>
<p><b>My school was not listed on the application but it is a DEIS School</b></p>	<p>The list of schools on the online application included every second level DEIS school in the country listed as the <u>official school name</u>. HEAR can only assess on the information provided on the online application.</p>
<p><b>I went to a DEIS school for 5 years but repeated my Leaving Cert in another school this year.</b></p>	<p>If you attended more than one second level school you are asked on the online application to enter details of all schools.</p> <p>HEAR can only assess on the information provided on the online application.</p>

**Indicator 6: Area**

<p><b>Why does HEAR use disadvantaged area as an indicator?</b></p>	<p>There is very strong international evidence that living in a disadvantaged area can negatively affect educational attainment and progression to higher education.</p>
<p><b>How does HEAR decide if an area is disadvantaged or not?</b></p>	<p>HEAR uses information from a deprivation index of relative affluence or disadvantage. The index is based on information gathered in the 2022 Census. The country is divided up into small areas and each area is assigned an average score ranging from extremely disadvantaged up to very affluent.</p> <p>To meet this indicator you must live in an area that is disadvantaged, very disadvantaged or extremely disadvantaged.</p> <p>When you apply to HEAR, your address is checked against this index and you are given a score that indicates how disadvantaged your neighbourhood is.</p>
<p><b>Where can I get more information on Geo coding?</b></p>	<p>Further information is available at <a href="http://www.pobal.ie">www.pobal.ie</a></p> <p>If you are interested in finding out more information about this indicator, please contact your local HEI or you can also refer to <a href="https://www.pobal.ie">https://www.pobal.ie</a></p> <p>To check the classification of your address please use the Area Deprivation User Guide prepared by Pobal.</p>

**How can I find out if my address is in a disadvantaged area?**

Further information is available at [www.pobal.ie](http://www.pobal.ie)

Click on the following link

<https://data.pobal.ie/portal/apps/sites/#/pobal-maps>

- Select Deprivation Maps.
- Select the Pobal HP deprivation index 2022 and Small Area.
- Follow the instructions provided and zoom to County level to view Small Area.
- You can search by your address or Eircode using the search function.

**I am a Ukrainian student. Can I apply to HEAR?**

Ukrainian students are welcome to apply to HEAR for reduced points entry into higher education however it is important to note that HEAR does not provide financial support for students

Ukrainian applicants are encouraged to check current information on the costs of attending a higher education institution here. Guidance for Displaced Ukrainian Students for Sept 2024 Entry and beyond | Irish Universities Association ([www.iua.ie/press-releases/ukraine/guidance-for-displaced-ukrainian-students-for-sept-2024-entry-and-beyond/](http://www.iua.ie/press-releases/ukraine/guidance-for-displaced-ukrainian-students-for-sept-2024-entry-and-beyond/))

Please note: all applicants to HEAR must fulfil the schemes eligibility criteria in order to be considered for a reduced points offer. This includes the provision of supporting documents for the tax year 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

Applicants must provide the Revenue equivalent documents from Ukraine confirming total income and tax paid. Company payslips or statements of income are not acceptable AND a certified English translation is required for income documentation not issued originally in English.