



Dear Students/ Parents/Guardians,

I have listed important information below for your attention.

Guidance Information

CAO

The CAO closing date for **restricted** courses is February 1st 2021. Please see CAO Important Dates for all deadlines. <https://www.cao.ie/?page=timetableevents&bb=importantdates>

Students applying for **HEAR &/or DARE** must fill out the relevant sections **online** on their CAO by February 1st 2021. (please refer to St. Augustine's Dare Application Guidelines for further details).

<http://www.staugustines.ie/images/DARE-Application-Guidelines.2020docx.pdf>

Supporting Documents must be sent to CAO headquarters by **March 2021**. **I emailed CAO and received a response today 20/02/2021 and the deadlines in March are still standing** However it is recommended to send documents earlier than this to allow CAO adequate time to process the application and time for the applicant to raise a query.

- CAO Information for parents/guardians and relevant documents can be found on www.cao.ie.

SUSI GRANT

Parents/Guardians can check if they are eligible for the SUSI Grant by completing the eligibility reckoner test on www.susi.ie. Susi generally opens in March/April. Students applying for a SUSI grant must also tick the relevant box on their CAO form.

Exemptions.

Step 1. Any student exempt in Irish/French/German, please contact the School Principal (principal@staugustines.ie) and ensure that a Department of Education & Skills Exemption Form has been filled out.

<https://www.education.ie/en/Parents/Information/Irish-Exemption/>

Step 2. Any student with an Irish/French/German **exemption**, applying for an NUI University needs to be granted an NUI exemption and also an exemption by Non NUI Universities. Please find attached below a link for an NUI exemption form for NUI colleges.

NUI Colleges are: UCC,UCD, Maynooth, NUIG.

<http://www.nui.ie/college/docs/exemption.pdf>

NOTE: A separate exemption form must be filled out for Non NUI Colleges such as Trinity, UL, DCU etc...All forms are available online.

Step 3. If an exemption has been granted, CAO needs to be aware of this. Please do not assume that the school or CAO will know this information. It is advised that students and/or their parents/guardians contact NUI/relevant college and CAO directly.

FETAC & Teagasc Courses

6th Year students applying for post leaving certificate FETAC courses in; Waterford College of Further Education, Colaiste Cathal Naofa, Cork College of Commerce require applications directly. You must online soon so you are in the first round of interviews. Round 1 interviews usually take place in February/March. Round 2 interviews will take place in May. Please note due to Covid-19 this may change.

Students applying for Teagasc please apply online on www.teagasc.ie.

Next step for parent/guardian.

Please ensure your son/daughter has applied for college/exemptions/access routes/etc where applicable.

Please ask your son/daughter to log on to their CAO to ensure they are happy with their choices to-date.

The CAO will close from February 1st 2021-May 2021 so restricted courses like Medicine (Hpat), voice, art, dance music etc can be assessed.

Note: If there is a change in the assessment dates/criteria due to Covid-19, the relevant college will be in contact with the applicant.

CAO will open again in May and will remain open until **July 1st 2021**. Choices can be changed and re-arranged in May if the student wishes. (please note restricted courses at this time will have been assessed). The final date for CAO changes is July 1st 2021.

A list of **campus accommodation** is posted on my webpage and other relevant articles. Please log onto st.augustines.ie, click on guidance, then click into articles.
https://careersportal.ie/careerguidance/office.php?school_id=674

It is very important that students/parents/guardians keep an eye on the **School APP** for up to- date guidance information. All 6th years should be on the 6th year chatboard for daily updates. I am on zoom daily for 6th year queries. Email guidance@staugustines.ie for an appointment. Those under 18 require parent/guardian consent.

I wish each student the best of luck in their distance learning, their chosen career path and also in their Pre-Leaving Certificate Examinations 2021. Please email me if you need assistance. guidance@staugustines.ie.

Kind regards,
Elaine Moore
School Guidance Counsellor.

E.Moore
Guidance Counsellor

Guidance & Counselling Department
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St. Augustine's College
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