

Admission Guidelines and Procedures for Direct Entry

1. CAO Applicants

Most of the applicants for entry to programmes of education at Carlow College, St. Patrick's (hereafter Carlow College) make their applications via the [Central Applications Office \(CAO\)](#). To do so, they register with the CAO and any offer of a place at Carlow College is made to the applicant by the CAO and is accepted by the applicant via the CAO application system.

For the CAO, applicants may make their application via the CAO on the basis of:

- Irish Leaving Certificate Exams;
- QQI FET / HETAC Level 5/6 Exams;
- FETAC Level 5/6 (NCVA Level 2/3) Exams;
- GCI / GCSE (England, Wales and Northern Ireland Exams);
- Other School Leaving Exams (e.g. Baccalaureate, Scottish Exams, pre-1985, Irish & UK Exams (pre-1996), Leaving Exams outside of UK and Ireland, Leaving Cert Applied, Level 3 BTEC, GNVQs, Irish Matric Exams, Pre-U, EPQ, etc.);
- Further Education (other than QQI FET / FETAC Level 5/6 and NVCA Level 2/3);
- Third-Level Higher Education; and
- Mature Applicants

2. Direct Entry Pathways

Carlow College also has entry pathways to the College which are not processed by the CAO. These pathways all involve an applicant making an application directly to the College, being assessed by the College, and, if successful in their application, being made an offer directly by the College.

Examples of such direct entry applicants are:

- applicants intending to undertake a programme on a part-time basis;
- applicants seeking Recognition of Prior Learning to a programme;
- applicants seeking to transfer into a programme from another programme in the College or from a programme in another Higher Education Institution; and
- Non-EEA applications.

In all the cases listed above, the Admissions Guidelines and Procedures to Carlow College are detailed in the [Learner Admission, Progression and Recognition Policy](#).

3. Direct Entry: Undergraduate Programmes Not Listed on the CAO

In the context of the College's ongoing development of degree programmes at Levels 7 and 8, a new category of potential 'direct entry applicant' arises. In cases where a new programme of Carlow College has been validated by Quality and Qualifications Ireland or by some other recognised body and has not yet been listed within the CAO system, applications for the entry to such programmes may be made directly to the College. Such applications are categorised as: *Applicants Seeking Entry to a Validated Degree Programme for which a CAO Listing is Pending*.

It is the College's intention that all its validated undergraduate degree programmes shall be listed under the CAO system as soon as practically feasible. Hence, the College anticipates this category of application will pertain to any given programme for its initial years of entry only.

The Admission Guidelines and Procedures for this type of Direct Entry are detailed at: <https://www.carlowcollege.ie/guidelines-for-direct-entry/>.

4. Postgraduate Programmes

All Carlow College postgraduate programmes are direct entry only and each programme has its own programme-specific application form and entry requirements. As such, The Admission Guidelines and Procedures for this type of Direct Entry are detailed at: <https://www.carlowcollege.ie/guidelines-for-direct-entry/>.

5. Enquiries and Queries

The Admissions Office welcomes enquires from prospective learners on any aspect of the admissions process and will respond to queries from the public via phone, fax, email and in person. The Admissions Office is located in the Front Hall of the College and the contact details are: 059 9153243 or 059 9153268 (Phone); 059 9140258 (Fax) and admissionscc@carlowcollege.ie (Email).