

NEED MORE INFO?

For further information on details of registration or should you have any special requirements, please contact your college after acceptance of your course offer.

If you would like further information on the information being gathered please contact:

National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education, Higher Education Authority, Brooklawn House, Crampton Avenue, Dublin 4.
E: access@hea.ie

The **HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY**, through its National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education, is committed to achieving greater educational access and opportunity for groups who are under-represented in higher education - such as people facing social and economic barriers, people with a disability and adult/mature students. The Office administers the Student Assistance Fund, the Fund for Students with Disabilities and the Millennium Partnership Fund for Disadvantage.

The **Equal Status Acts 2000-2004** protect against harassment and discrimination outside of the workplace in the delivery of goods and services. Educational establishments are prohibited from directly or indirectly discriminating in relation to admission, the terms or conditions of admission, access to any course, access to any facility or benefit provided, or any term or condition of participation in the establishment, expulsion of a student or any other sanction against a student.

The **Institutes of Technology Act 2006** and **Universities Act 1997** require institutions to have equality of access policies for people from sections of society who are under-represented in higher education. The **Higher Education Authority Act 1971** requires the HEA to promote equality of opportunity in higher education and to review equality policies. The **Qualifications Act 1999** requires the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) and Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) to monitor institutes of technology and further education providers for quality assurance in access, transfer, progression and equality plans.

From 2007 your college has been gathering information as part of registration on students' social, economic and cultural background.

The purpose of gathering this information is to measure equality of access to higher education and to help put in place the resources needed to attract and support students of all backgrounds.

This leaflet sets out the questions that will be asked and explains how the information will be used and safeguarded.

HEA

Higher Education Authority
An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

EQUALITY ACCESS

STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL.

This leaflet is also available in alternative formats, go to www.hea.ie or contact 01 2317100.

YES IT'S CONFIDENTIAL!

As with all other information gathered during registration, the responses gathered on student background are confidential and each college has a data protection policy in place. Individual student data is returned without names and addresses to the HEA and the personal information you provide will never be disclosed without prior consent to any third parties such as government departments, social welfare, vocational education committees or local authorities. The information will be gathered in accordance with the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003 to protect your right to privacy.

WHAT WILL YOU BE ASKED?

The cultural, social and economic questions that you will be asked at registration are set out below for your information. You may wish to discuss these with your parent or guardian. The purpose of asking the questions is two-fold. First, to measure the extent to which people with a disability, of different ages, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds are participating in higher education, and second, to help put in place services and supports for students so that they can successfully participate in and complete higher education.

All students are encouraged to respond to the questions, however they are not mandatory and non-response will not impede your registration at college or affect your eligibility for financial assistance schemes.

PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

Do you have any of the following long-lasting conditions? Circle Yes or No as appropriate.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| (a) Blindness, deafness or a severe vision or hearing impairment | YES NO |
| (b) A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying | YES NO |
| (c) A specific learning difficulty (e.g. dyslexia) | YES NO |
| (d) A psychological or emotional condition (Includes a mental health difficulty) | YES NO |
| (e) Other, including any chronic illness | YES NO |

If you answered 'Yes' to any of the conditions specified above, do you require additional educational support(s)?

YES | NO

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

Please indicate the status of your parent(s)/guardian(s) as it applies to you.

MOTHER/GUARDIAN	FATHER/GUARDIAN
Employed/At work <input type="checkbox"/>	Employed/At work <input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployed <input type="checkbox"/>	Unemployed <input type="checkbox"/>
Home Duties <input type="checkbox"/>	Home Duties <input type="checkbox"/>
Retired <input type="checkbox"/>	Retired <input type="checkbox"/>
Deceased <input type="checkbox"/>	Deceased <input type="checkbox"/>
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>

If your parent(s) is employed please state the principal present occupation of your parent(s)/guardian(s), giving the precise job title. If not in paid employment please record the LAST occupation held.

MOTHER/GUARDIAN	FATHER/GUARDIAN	
In respect of present (or last) occupation please indicate:	MOTHER/GUARDIAN	FATHER/GUARDIAN
Employee <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-Employed (incl. farmer) without paid employees <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-Employed (incl. farmer) with paid employees <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If your parent(s)/guardian(s) are farmers:

200 acres or over <input type="checkbox"/>	50-99 acres <input type="checkbox"/>	Under 30 acres <input type="checkbox"/>
100-199 acres <input type="checkbox"/>	30-49 acres <input type="checkbox"/>	

CULTURAL AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND

What is your ethnic or cultural background?

Choose ONE section from A to D, then tick the appropriate box.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A White | <input type="checkbox"/> | C Asian or Asian Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1 Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Irish Traveller | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 Any other Asian background | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Any other White background | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| B Black or Black Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> | D Other, including mixed background | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 African | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other, write in description | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Any other Black background | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Are you a student from a country outside the EU?

- If so, circle Yes or No as appropriate. Do you have:
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|---|----------|
| (a) A student visa | YES NO | (c) Refugee status in Ireland | YES NO |
| (b) An employment permit | YES NO | (d) Leave to remain in Ireland on humanitarian or other grounds | YES NO |

None of the above. Please specify
