Access Eligibility Criteria

Young Adult Applicants (21 years or younger Jan 1st, 2025)

UCD Access to Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Law (AHSSL) Programme

The Access Criteria is in line with the <u>Higher Education National Access Plan 2022-28</u> which aims to ensure equity of access to higher education. It is to support applicants who have experienced socio-economic disadvantage and/or educational disadvantage. Each applicant is screened at the short-listing stage to determine eligibility for the programme.

Young adult applicants must be 21 years or under on January 1st 2025 and satisfy three of the access indicators listed below.

If you were **22 or over on January 1st, 2025** – you are considered a mature applicant and do not need to complete the Access Criteria section of the form.

ACCESS INDICATORS

Provide proof that you are eligible for HEAR (Higher Education Access Route) from either the 2024 or 2025 academic year OR

 \Rightarrow You must meet **three** of the below criteria to be eligible.

- 1. You have attended a DEIS post primary school for at least two years.
- 2. Your household income in 2024 must be on or below €55,924.
- 3. You or your family are in receipt of a medical card/ GP visit card that was in date on 31 December 2024.
- 4. Your family received a means tested payment from the Department of Social Protection for at least 26 weeks in 2024 (Appendix I: List of Payments).
- 5. You live in an area of urban or rural disadvantage. To meet this indicator your address must be in an area classified as disadvantaged, very disadvantaged or extremely disadvantaged.
- 6. Your parents have not gone to college

Before completing the Access Eligibility section, please read the information below.

- If you have applied for HEAR please remember to tick this in the application form.
 - \Rightarrow You will also need to forward your HEAR eligibility email from HEAR/CAO as soon as you receive it.
- In addition to the access criteria listed above, special consideration is given to applicants in the <u>National Access Plan 2022-28 Priority Groups</u>
 - \Rightarrow Please complete this section of the form if applicable.
- If you are unsure if you meet the eligibility criteria; you can complete the application form and provide a letter of support outlining your suitability for the Access to AHSSL Programme.
 - ⇒ This letter must be from a person who has supported you in a professional capacity like the following: Guidance Counsellor/Principal/Sports Coach/Other

 \star We cannot accept letters from friends or family members.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

- Your application will require you to submit evidence and documentation.
- Documents can be uploaded with the application form **OR** we will contact you after you submit your application about the required documents.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Financial Documents:

- If your parent(s)/guardian(s) were in paid employment in 2024 on a full, part time or temporary basis.
 - \Rightarrow Please provide a Statement of Liability from 2024 (Formerly a P21), this can be requested from the <u>revenue website</u>. (See Appendix II)
- If your parent(s)/guardian(s) were self-employed, engaged in farming, or receiving rent from rental properties in 2024.
 - ⇒ Please provide a Self-Assessment Chapter 4 for 2023 from Revenue Commissioners or Tax Exemption Letter
- If your parent(s)/guardian(s) received social welfare payments in 2024, other than child benefit.
 - ⇒ Please complete this Social Welfare form, it can be stamped at your local Intreo. (See Appendix I)
- If your parent(s)/guardian(s) retired in 2024
 - ⇒ Please provide a Statement of Liability for 2024 or Self-Assessment Chapter 4 for 2023 and/or <u>DEASP Form</u> for 2023 signed and stamped.

Medical Card Documentation

If you or your parent(s)/guardian(s) are in receipt of a **medical card/ GP visit card** that was in date on 31 December 2024

 \Rightarrow Please complete this <u>Medical Card Verification Form.</u>

If you are or were in care of the state/TUSLA (The Child and Family Agency)

Please contact UCD Access & Lifelong Learning for further information on supporting documentation and support with the form.

- ⇒ You can email/phone <u>all@ucd.ie/</u> (01) 716 7123 OR
- ⇒ Contact Therese, University Access Student Support on <u>therese.fitzgerald@ucd.ie</u>

Educational Documentation

There are no standard educational requirements, such as the Leaving Certificate

- ⇒ It is important to include educational history in your application and upload any relevant exam results or certificates for e.g. Junior Certificate, Leaving Cert Applied, FET/QQI Awards and any other non-certificates.
- \Rightarrow To demonstrate a desire to pursue third level programmes and a level of learning ability suitable to do so.
- ⇒ To demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively in English at a level suitable to commencing the programme.

*Candidates who already hold a higher education qualification will be considered ineligible.

Appendix I: List of Social Protection Payments

The most common means-tested social assistance payments are:

- Carer's Allowance
- Disability Allowance
- Working Family Payment (WFP) (formerly known as Family Income Support, FIS)
- Jobseeker's Allowance (JA)
- One-Parent Family Payment (OFP)
- State Pension (Non-Contributory)

Other acceptable means-tested social assistance payments are:

- Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Self-employed year 2-4
- Back to Work PAYE work
- Deserted Wife's Allowance
- Guardian's Payment (Non-Contributory)
- Jobseeker's Transitional Payment
- Part-Time Job Incentive Scheme
- Pre-Retirement Allowance (PRETA)
- Prisoner's Wife Allowance
- Blind Pension
- Rent Allowance
- Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA)2
- Widow's or Widower's (Non-Contributory) Pension

Appendix II: Images of Acceptable Financial Documents

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Sample Notice of Assessment (Chapter 4) for 2022

Sample Notice of Amended Assessment (Chapter 5) for 2022