

OPTIONS AFTER LEAVING CERTIFICATE

(GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT)





PRESENTER

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Understanding the QQI and NFQ
3. Possible and realistic options for progression available to students (Education, Traineeships, Apprenticeship, Employment)
4. The CAO process
5. Student support (SUSI, Access Schemes, Scholarships)

PART ONE

1. **Welcome and introduction**
2. Understanding the QQI and NFQ
3. Possible and realistic options for progression available to students (Education, Traineeships, Apprenticeship, Employment)

1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION



2: UNDERSTANDING THE QQI AND NFQ

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)

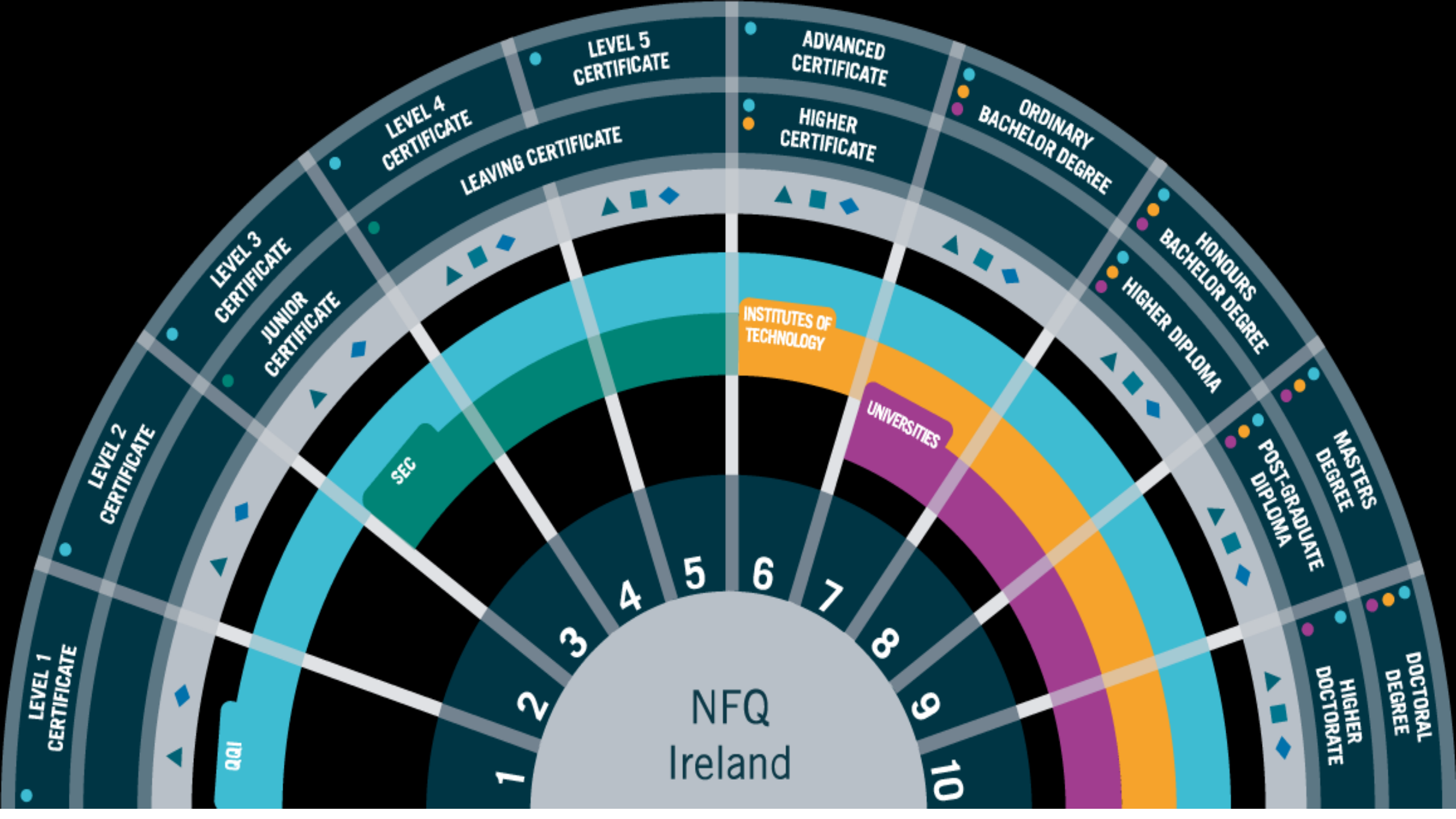
and

National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

Established in 2003,

it is a 10-level, single national entity through which all learning achievements may be measured and related to each other.

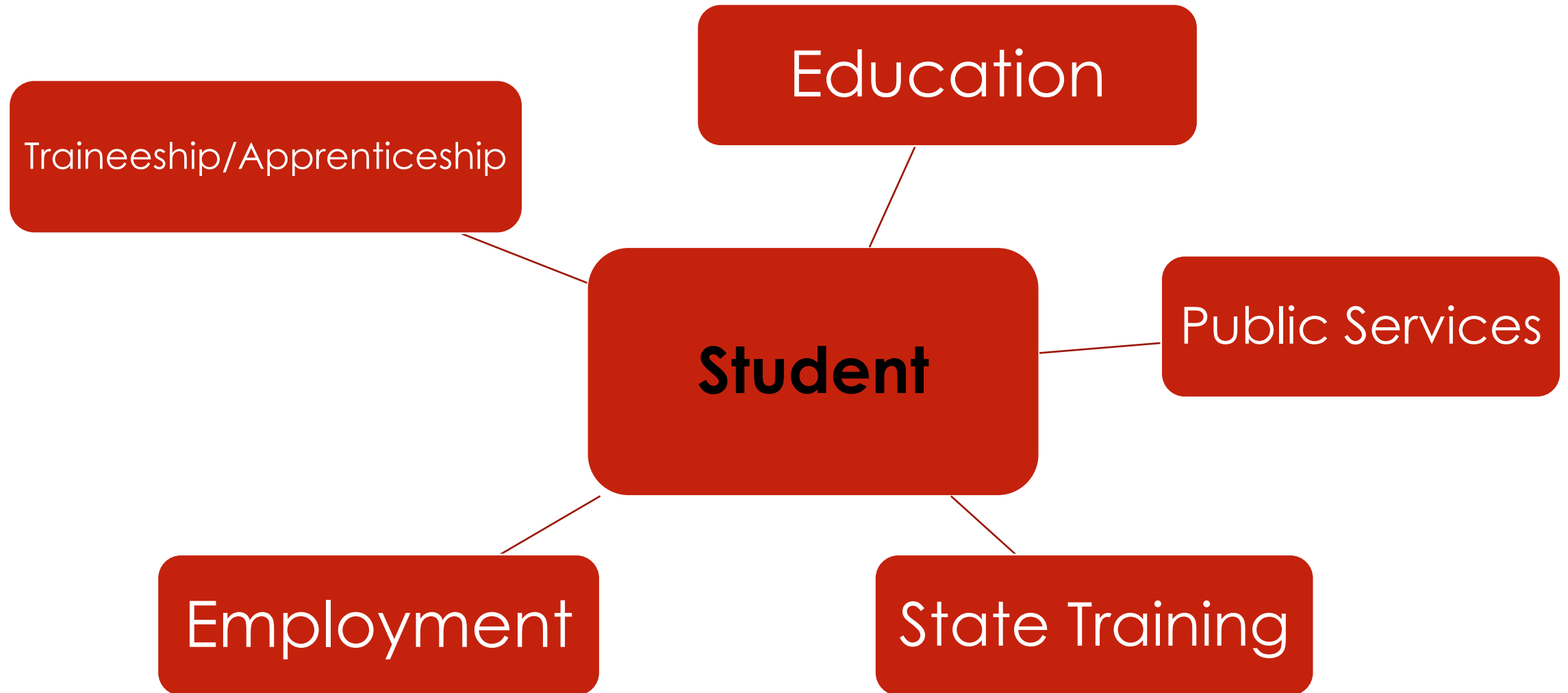




3:OPTIONS AFTER SCHOOL

- Education (CAO, PLC and Study abroad)
- Traineeships and Apprenticeship
- Public Service
- State Training
- Employment

OPTIONS AFTER SCHOOL



EDUCATION

- Central Application Office (CAO)
- Post Leaving Certificate (PLC)
- Study abroad



CAO AND PLC

Central Application Office (Higher Education Institutions)

Level 6

Level 7

Level 8

Post Leaving Certificate (Further Education Institutions)

Level 5

Level 6

alternative progression scheme to higher education or employment PLC

POST LEAVING CERTIFICATE

Alternative progression route to higher education or employment

- Suits students who are not sure of what career they want to pursue or are not ready to attend third level college.
- Back up option for students also applying through the CAO as most Colleges of Further Education have progression links with Higher Education Institutions (Universities and Institute of Technology)

POST LEAVING CERTIFICATE

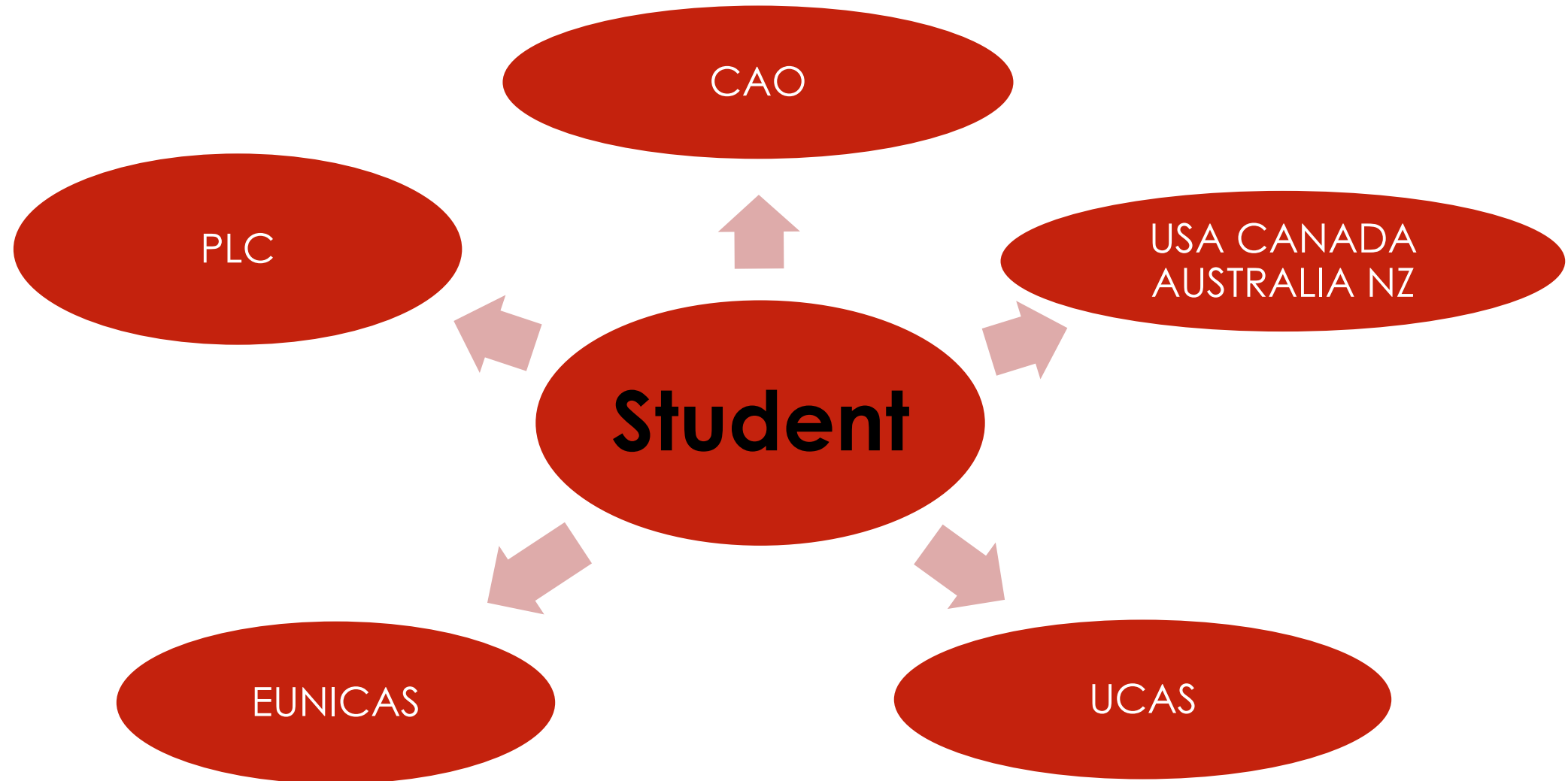
- Application is made directly to the college from January onwards. (**Interview, reference and portfolio may be required**).
- Entry requirements is completion of the Leaving Certificate or Leaving Cert Applied (**you do not need points for admission**).
- Courses are one year (full time or part time) and cover a broad range of subject areas.
- Students will know if they are successful before the Leaving Cert.
- Progression to Third Level

STUDY ABROAD

- UCAS (Brexit) www.ucas.com (Oct 15th or Jan 15th deadline for application)
- EUNICAS <https://www.eunicas.ie/>
- America/Canada
- Australia/New Zealand



EDUCATION





OPTIONS AFTER SCHOOL

- Education (CAO, PLC and Study abroad)
- **Traineeships and Apprenticeship**
- Public Service
- State Training
- Employment

TRAINEESHIPS AND APPRENTICESHIP

www.solas.ie/programmes/traineeship/

These are industry supported programmes



OPTIONS AFTER SCHOOL

- Education (CAO, PLC and Study abroad)
- Traineeships and Apprenticeship
- **Public Service**
- State Training
- Employment

PUBLIC SERVICES

- Gardaí (www.publicjobs.ie)
- Defence Forces (www.military.ie)
- Prison Services
- Emergency Services



OPTIONS AFTER SCHOOL

- Education (CAO, PLC and Study abroad)
- Traineeships and Apprenticeship
- Public Service
- **State Training**
- Employment

STATE TRAINING

Agriculture and Food Development Authority (Teagasc)

Provides research and education services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities



BIM provides flexible training programmes to support the development and growth of the Irish Seafood industry





EMPLOYMENT

Student may decide to join the labour force or take a year out before returning to education or training



PART TWO

1. **The CAO process**
2. Student support (SUSI, Access Schemes, Scholarships)



THE CAO PROCESS

- CAO online application opens on the 5th of November 2020, so was the HPAT applications **(most of our girls have made their application online in school)**
- CAO is a Mechanism used for application for courses at 3rd Level in Ireland (NFQ Level 8, 7 & 6).



THE CAO PROCESS

The CAO system is based on matching number of qualified applicants with number of course places based on students meeting these requirements

- College requirement
- Point requirement
- Course point score

Offer will be made if these three criteria are met



HOW ARE POINTS CALCULATED?

- Points total is calculated from **SIX** best subjects
- Entry Requirements (e.g. Pass in Maths and English) can be satisfied over more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate- with some exceptions –e.g. Medicine



CAO BOOKLET AND WEBSITE

The CAO booklet should be used in conjunction with College websites & prospectus
College websites & prospectuses should be consulted before making an application

Important date on page two of CAO booklet

White pages – instructions to be read by candidate

Yellow pages – Lists of courses, by college



COURSE CHOICE AND LEVELS

- There are two separate application on one form
- Student have two course choice lists (level 8 and level 6 & 7, and they can apply for 10 courses on each list (20 course choices in all))

Two identical application forms are shown side-by-side. Each form has a white background with a light gray border. At the top, the word 'APPLICATION' is written in a bold, dark blue font. Below the title, there are several horizontal lines for text entry, some with small rectangular boxes. A large red circle with a white number inside is centered on each form: a '1' on the left form and a '2' on the right form. At the bottom of each form, there are more horizontal lines and a small rectangular box.



COURSE CHOICE AND LEVELS

Choices on one list (level 8) do not in any way affect course choices on the other list (level 6 & 7).

It is possible to receive an offer on both lists.

You may then decide to accept either your Level 7/6 or your Level 8 offer.



RESTRICTED COURSES

Are courses that requires

- more than Leaving Certificate points
- Portfolio, test, audition, interview, test

Restricted courses cannot be applied for after **February 1st** due to extra assessments required

Must apply by February 1st



CHANGE OF MIND FACILITY

It is recommended that student use the facility to change course choice and the order of preference.

They should avoid using this facility close to the deadline (July 1st 2021)

DECISION TIME



PLACE YOUR COURSE CHOICE IN GENUINE ORDER OF
PREFERENCE

1

☒

2

☒

3

☒



CORRESPONDENCE WITH CAO

It is very important to record all correspondence with CAO throughout the application process up until when your daughter is in college

A receipt of all postage should be kept safe for reference purposes

ACCEPTING AN OFFER

- The offers stage (**round one**)

Once you receive an offer all other choices below this offer is deleted off your application form

- Round two and three

You may be offered a place further up on your order of preference

You will never be offered a place further down

There can be no delays at the offer/acceptance stage



IMPORTANCE OF ORDERING YOUR PREFERENCE

Accepting the new offer will automatically cancel the previous acceptance

You can be offer a higher preference in subsequent rounds, but you can never be offered a choice that is below your initial offer

ROLES FOR PARENTS/GUARDIAN

- Encourage your child to apply early
- Help your child to research their courses
- Watch out for important deadlines
- Remind your child to review all CAO correspondence carefully
- Return offer acceptance notices on time
- Make sure your child lists their courses in Genuine order of preference



PART TWO

1. The CAO process
2. **Student support (SUSI, Access Schemes, Scholarships)**



STUDENT SUPPORT

Students are encouraged to look at all available schemes and put the time and effort into applying if they feel they are eligible



STUDENT SUPPORT

Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI)

<https://susi.ie>

Scholarships

Students are encouraged to research and avail of any scholarship that may be relevant to them



ACCESS ROUTE

<https://accesscollege.ie/>

Any applicant that is deemed disadvantaged (Financial or disability) has an opportunity of **EQUALITY OF ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION** through the

- HEAR
- DARE



DARE AND HEAR

The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) is a third level alternative admissions scheme for school leavers whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education.

Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a college and university scheme that offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

QUESTION TIME



IMPORTANT WEBSITES

- <https://www.qqi.ie/>
- www.ucas.com
- eunicas.ie
- CAO handbook
- www.cao.ie
- www.qualifax.ie
- www.careersportal.ie
- www.accesscollege.ie
- www.studentfinance.ie
- www.susi.ie
- www.apprenticeship.ie
- College Prospectuses available in school
- Individual college websites

PROGRESSION ROUTE

