



Example of promoting participation: Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) Ireland

Case study overview

Within the Republic of Ireland, the higher education institutions (HEIs) provide third (3rd) level education (post-secondary school). Access to higher education for individuals can be applied for using a number of different routes. The traditional route would be for entry into higher education directly on completion of secondary level education. However, widening access to higher education via alternative routes and including those who in the past not normally had access to education is becoming commonplace. Individuals with disabilities and from socio-economically challenged backgrounds now have the ability to undertake further studies. In order to facilitate wider access to, and participation in, education then national level legislation, national and institutional level initiatives, and support services are made available. Two schemes within the Republic of Ireland that support access to education are **HEAR (Higher Access Route to Education)** and **DARE (Disability Access Route to Education)**:

DARE –

“The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on a reduced points basis to school leavers under 23 years old with disabilities who have completed an Irish Leaving Certificate.”



The **DARE** scheme was set-up to provide access for school leavers would not meet the entry requirements to enter higher education due to the impact of their disability, but who would have the ability to succeed in higher education. A range of “activities are undertaken to promote the DARE scheme, including:

1. A **dedicated website** which provides the necessary information on the scheme.
2. An **application Information leaflet** which provides information on what the DARE scheme is about, how to apply and contact details.
3. **Contact persons in the Colleges** taking part in DARE.
4. **DARE application advice clinics** at different locations around the country each year.
5. **Promotion of the scheme** at local level and national level education events.

References

- [1] DARE – Disability Access Route to Education. ONLINE, available:
<http://accesscollege.ie/dare/index.php>
- [2] HEAR – Higher Education Access Route. ONLINE, available:
<http://www.accesscollege.ie/hear/index.php>

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