

FAQs – Appeals and the Appeal Process*

What if I am unhappy with my Calculated Grade?

You can appeal to the Department of Education and the appeals process has three stages. Due to the nature of the model, the professional judgment of the school will not form part of the appeals process. It is open to a candidate to appeal his/her calculated grades.

The appeals process will open on **14 September at 9.00 am** and students will be able to access it via the Calculated Grades Student Portal. Students will have until **5.00 pm on 16 September** to submit an appeal. There is no appeal fee.

The appeal process will include a **three-stage process**:

Stage 1: Checks will be undertaken to ensure that the intended information was recorded correctly by the school and that the information was transferred correctly into the data collection system.

Stage 2: There will be also be a review to ensure that the data was correctly received and processed in the national standardisation process conducted by the Department.

Stage 3: Students unhappy with the outcome of this process can seek a review by Independent Appeal Scrutineers.

Any Leaving Certificate 2020 students will also have the opportunity to sit the postponed written Leaving Certificate exams. Students sitting these exams who also opted to receive Calculated Grades will be credited with the **higher subject grade** achieved between the Calculated Grade and the written examination.

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) is finalising plans to run the standard written Leaving Certificate Exams, beginning on 16 November next. The exams will take place at evenings and weekends and further details will be provided by the SEC at a later date.

Students who remain unhappy with the process also have recourse to the Office of the Ombudsman, or in the case of students under 18 years of age, to the Ombudsman for Children.

When is the appeals process open and when does it close?

The appeals process will open on 14 September at 9.00 am and students will be able to access it via the Calculated Grades Student Portal. Students will have until 5.00 pm on 16 September to submit an appeal.

How will Appeals work with the timing of College entry in 2020/21?

It is not possible to give guarantees at this stage as to whether students who successfully appeal their Calculated Grades will be able to take up studies in 2020/21. However, where possible, higher education institutions will attempt to facilitate the uptake of places in the academic year 2020/21. The ability for students to take up places will depend in part on the number of appeals received, the nature of the appeal, and the higher education course being applied for.

The aim is that, if the checks on the school-entered data and correct transfer and processing of the data by the Department (i.e. stages 1 and 2 of the appeal) can be done within the normal timeframe for appeals, this should allow students receiving further round offers to start college a little later than other students but still in the coming academic year.

The appeals scrutineers' stage (stage 3) will take longer and successful appeals at that stage will not be completed in time for students to start college in the 2020/21 academic year. Instead they will be able to take a deferred offer for 2021/22.

**This information has been supplied by the Department of Education in support of the Leaving Certificate Helpline 2020.*