

# EQUAL ACCESS

# TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL

## WHAT IS THE **EQUAL ACCESS SURVEY**?

The Equal Access Survey is an annual, **voluntary** set of questions asked of all first-year undergraduate students to Higher Education Authority (HEA)-funded institutions. This survey includes but is not exclusive to new entrants. The questions are asked as part of the registration process at the start of the academic year.

## WHO CONDUCTS THE **EQUAL ACCESS SURVEY**?

The Equal Access Survey is conducted by your institution and data from the survey is returned to the HEA for analysis purposes.<sup>1</sup>

## WHY IS THE **EQUAL ACCESS SURVEY CONDUCTED**?

With information obtained from the Equal Access Survey, the HEA can measure **progress on national targets relating to equity of access to higher education and can develop the evidence base to inform policy in this area.**

## WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?

To help progress the goal of equal access to higher education for all, information is gathered on the **disability, ethnicity (including members of the Irish Traveller and Roma communities), lone parenthood status** and commute time of students to higher education.<sup>2</sup>

## IS COMPLETING THE **EQUAL ACCESS SURVEY MANDATORY**?

While all students are encouraged to complete the Equal Access Survey, it is **not mandatory**. However, answering the survey questions will help in developing a better understanding of the student population and their needs. **Non-response may have an impact on institutional funding allocations.**



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Through the **National Access Plan**, the HEA promotes equality of access for groups who are underrepresented in higher education including people who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, members of Irish Traveller and Roma communities, and people who have disabilities, including intellectual disabilities. The HEA also administers the Fund for Students with Disabilities, the Student Assistance Fund, the Programme for Access to Higher Education and the Springboard+ initiative.

**If you would like further information, please contact [access@hea.ie](mailto:access@hea.ie)**

<sup>1</sup> Only aggregate anonymous data is published.

<sup>2</sup> The information gathered is protected by robust data protection policies in your institution and in the HEA, in full compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and data protection legislation, and subject to oversight by the Data Protection Commission. Please see the HEA's Data Privacy Notice at [https://hea.ie/about-us/data\\_protection/](https://hea.ie/about-us/data_protection/).

# COTHROIME ROCHTANA

# AR AN ARD-OIDEACHAS DO CHÁCH

## CÉARD IS SUIRBHÉ AR CHOTHROIME ROCHTANA ANN?

Is suirbhé bliantúil é an Suirbhé ar Chothroime Rochtana, ina gcuirtear sraith de cheisteanna **deonacha** ar mhic léinn fochéime sa chéad bhliain in institiúidí atá maoinithe ag an Údarás um Ard-Oideachas (ÚAO). Cuirtear iontrálaithe nua san áireamh sa suirbhé seo ach tá sé oscailte do mhic léinn eile. Cuirtear na ceisteanna ar na mic léinn mar chuid den phróiseas clárúcháin ag tús na bliana acadúla.

## CÉ A DHÉANANN AN SUIRBHÉ AR CHOTHROIME ROCHTANA?

Déantar an Suirbhé ar Chothroime Rochtana i d'institiúid agus tugtar sonraí ón suirbhé don Údarás um Ard-Oideachas chun críoch anailíse.<sup>1</sup>

## CÉN FÁTH A DHÉANTAR AN SUIRBHÉ AR CHOTHROIME ROCHTANA?

Agus eolas ón tSuirbhé ar Chothroime Rochtana acu, is féidir leis an Údarás um Ard-Oideachas spriocanna náisiúnta maidir **le cothroime rochtana ar ardoideachas a thomhas agus an bonn fianaise a fheabhsú chun cur le polasaithe sa réimse seo.**

## CÉN T-EOLAS A BHAILÍTEAR?

Chun dul chun cinn a dhéanamh ar an aidhm cothroime rochtana ar ardoideachas do chách, bailítear eolas maidir **le míchumas, eitneacht (amhail daoine ó phobal Taistealaithe na hÉireann agus ón bpobal Romach), stádas tuismitheora aonair** agus cé chomh fada agus a thógann sé do mhic léinn an turas chun a n-institiúidí a dhéanamh.<sup>2</sup>

## AN BHFUIL AN SUIRBHÉ AR CHOTHROIME ROCHTANA ÉIGEANTACH?

Cé go spreagtar gach uile mac léinn an Suirbhé ar Chothroime Rochtana a dhéanamh, **níl sé éigeantach**. Cabhraíonn na freagraí áfach le tuiscint níos fearr a fhorbairt ar na mic léinn agus ar na riachtanais acu. **Mura líontar an suirbhé d'fhéadfadh impleachtaí a bheith i gceist leis an méid maoinithe a fhaigheann do choláiste ón Stát.**



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Cuireann an **tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas** cothroime rochtana ar an ardoideachas chun cinn do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas, mic léinn lánfhásta nach raibh an deis acu riamh cheana an t-ardoideachas a rochtain, iad siúd ag tabhairt aghaidh ar bhaic shóisialta agus eacnamaíocha agus grúpaí mionlaigh, an Lucht Taistil agus Romach san Áireamh. Reáchtálann an tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas an Ciste do Mhic léinn Faoi Mhíchumas, an Ciste Cúnaimh do Mhic Léinn, an Clár do Rochtain ar an Ard-Oideachas agus an tionscnamh Springboard+.

**Má tá tuilleadh eolais uait, déan teagmháil, le do thoil, le [access@hea.ie](mailto:access@hea.ie)**

<sup>1</sup> Ní fhoilsítear ach sonraí chomhiomlán, gan ainm.

<sup>2</sup> Tá an t-eolas a bhailítear cosanta ag polasaithe dainge cosanta sonraí ó d'institiúid agus ón Údarás um Ard-Oideachas, i lánchomhlíonadh an Rialachán Ginearálta maidir le Cosaint Sonraí (RGSC) agus reachtaíocht maidir le cosaint sonraí, agus faoi réir iniúchta an Choimisinéir Cosanta Sonraí. Tabhair do d'aire le do thoil, Fógra an Údaráis um Ard-Oideachas maidir le Príobháideachas Sonraí ar [https://hea.ie/about-us/data\\_protection/](https://hea.ie/about-us/data_protection/).