

Professional Master of Education (Primary Teaching)

Entry Requirements and Procedure for 2021

1. This is a postgraduate teacher education programme for primary teaching (2021–2023) for persons who possess an honours Bachelor Degree at Level 8 or those who expect to have successfully completed final examinations before Monday, 5th July 2021.

This is a full-time programme, commencing in September 2021 and concluding in summer 2023 and will be delivered in the following Higher Education Institutions:

- DCU Institute of Education, DCU St Patrick's Campus, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. (ioe@dcu.ie).
- Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road, Limerick. (admissions@mic.ul.ie). Contactable on Microsoft Teams/Lilian.Monahan@mic.ul.ie
- Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co Kildare. froebel.department@mu.ie; Telephone: (01) 4747400.
- Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. (admissions@mie.ie). Telephone: (01) 8057742.

A limited number of places will be available on these programmes and successful applicants will be selected by way of competition. Applicants are advised that shortlisting may apply.

Persons who successfully complete this programme are eligible to be registered by the Teaching Council under Route 1: Primary and will thereby be eligible for appointment in primary schools.

2. Application Procedure & Closing Date

Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) for all candidates

Please note that all prospective applicants must have completed and achieved 65% or higher in the oral component of the Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) Meánleibhéal 1 (B1) Irish examination prior to the closing date (i.e. 29th March 2021) to satisfy the entry requirements.

Registration is now open and the closing date for TEG online applications is **5pm on Wednesday, 6th January 2021**. If you have not already registered for the Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) (ORAL) examination, you will need to register at [this link](#).

The oral Irish examination will be administered by the Centre for Irish Language Research, Teaching and Testing in Maynooth University and all

candidates must apply separately to do this oral Irish exam. More information, including examination guidelines, is available here: <http://www.teg.ie/about-exams/teg-pme-primary-teaching.860.html>

Applications to each Higher Education Institution (HEI).

- Applications to **Mary Immaculate College, Limerick** should be made using the ‘**How to Apply**’ section of the PME course page at <https://www.mic.ul.ie/pme>.
- Applications to the **DCU Institute of Education** should be made through the Postgraduate Applications Centre www.pac.ie/dcu . (Course code DC970). All supporting documentation must be submitted via Pac.ie by the closing date of the course.
- Applications to **Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University** and **Marino Institute of Education, Dublin** should be completed online at maestro.mie.ie/appcentre.

The **closing date** for receipt of completed applications to the four institutions named above is **5p.m. on Monday, 29th March 2021**.

All applicants should note the selection procedure detailed in section 4 below.

3. Conditions of Eligibility

Applicants must have the following academic qualifications:

- (a) **Minimum H2.2 Honours Bachelor Degree** (Major Award at Level 8 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications) which has a ECTS credit weighting of at least 180 credits.

AND

- (b) one of the following sets of second level qualifications:

- (i) in the Leaving Certificate Examination

Subject	Irish	Mathematics	English
Minimum Grade	H4	H7 or O4	H7 or O4
% Mark	60%< 70%	30%<40% 60%<70%	30%<40% or 60%<70%

H – Higher Level
O – Ordinary Level

The grades and % marks in the 1992-2016 grading scheme and the new 2017 scheme are set out at Appendix 1

- (ii) in the Northern Ireland GCSE and GCE A Level Examinations: a Grade C at GCE A Level Irish; a Grade C at GCSE Level in both English and English Literature or Grade B at GCSE Level in either; and a Grade D at GCSE Level in Additional Mathematics or a Grade C at GCSE Level in Mathematics.

Applicants must provide evidence to the Higher Education Institution that their degree is placed as a major award at the appropriate level on the National Framework of Qualifications. **Applicants must meet all entry requirements by Monday, 5th July 2021 and must provide documentary evidence of meeting these requirements.**

Alternatives to a second-level qualification in Irish, English or Maths

A Pass in a University *First Arts* Examination in Irish, English or Mathematics will be accepted in lieu of the Leaving Certificate Examination or GCE/GCSE requirement for the relevant subject.

Alternatives to a second-level qualification in Irish

- Grade C obtained in the Matriculation Examination (which existed up to 1992)
- Diplóma sa Ghaeilge, Level C1, NUIG
- Diplóma sa Ghaeilge, Level B2, NUIG
- Diplóma sa Ghaeilge, Maynooth University
- Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) at Level B2, Maynooth University
- Diploma in Arts (Applied Irish), University College Cork
- Diplóma sa Ghaeilge Fheidhmeach, UCD
- Diplóma sa Ghaeilge (An Ghaeilge sa Saol Comhaimseartha), University of Limerick
- Diploma in Irish at the University of Ulster

Alternatives to a second-level qualification in Mathematics

- A Pass grade obtained in Mathematics in the Matriculation Examination (which existed up to 1992).
- A merit grade (65-79%) or distinction grade (80-100%) obtained in QQI Level 5 Mathematics Course (5N 1833).

AND ALSO

(c) Oral Irish Examination

Applicants must achieve 65% or higher on the oral component of the Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) Meánleibhéal 1 (B1) Irish examination, prior to the closing date for applications (i.e. 29th March 2021) to satisfy the entry requirements.

A successful result in the TEG oral will be valid for two years before the test needs to be retaken. Candidates who have achieved a minimum of 65% on the TEG oral exam in the last two years are eligible to apply.

The Oral Irish Examination will comprise:-

- conversation on everyday topics, giving information and expressing opinions;
- role play on a given scenario, asking for information, giving information and expressing opinions;
- telling a simple story, describing what is happening in a series of pictures.

Applicants should note that a high standard of fluency is required in the Oral Irish Examination and should prepare for the examination accordingly. See http://www.teg.ie/_fileupload/guides/B1_treoir_PME_EN.pdf for further information.

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4. Selection Procedure

Interview

Eligible applicants will be required to undergo an interview. This interview will be conducted in English. Up to 100 marks may be awarded for performance in the interview. Applicants who get a "fail" grade in the interview will be eliminated from the competition. The purpose of the interview is to ascertain the suitability of the applicant for participation in a primary teacher education programme.

Additional marks awarded for students who complete the TEG oral examination at a high level.

- Up to 10 additional marks may be awarded for students who successfully complete the TEG oral examination at a high level and these marks will be added to their interview score. Candidates achieving from 90-100% receive 10 additional marks, candidates achieving from 80-89% receive 5 additional marks.
- Candidates who complete the TEG oral examination and obtain 65-79% receive no additional marks but are deemed to have passed the test and are eligible for the programme.
- Candidates who have passed higher levels of TEG (B2, C1 and C2) receive 10 additional marks.

Interview Locations

In the event of Covid-19 restrictions, interviews may be held either remotely or in person in accordance with guidance provided by Government. If held in person, the location will be Dublin and/or Maynooth and/or Limerick.

Applicants will be advised by the relevant Higher Education Institution of the date, time, venue, *etc.*, of their interview. Candidates will not be reimbursed for expenses incurred due to interview.

5. General Information

Covid-19

Applicants should be aware that HEIs may need to continue to operate under Covid-19 restrictions for the 2021/22 academic year which may necessitate amendments to the delivery of certain elements of the PME programme as required, in order to abide with the prevailing Government health advice at the time.

Tréimshe Foghlama sa Gaeltacht (Gaeltacht Learning Period):

All students who gain entry to the PME programme are required to complete two placements in the Gaeltacht. Each placement will be of two weeks' duration. It should be noted that this is a *compulsory* part of the programme. The Department of Education announced its intention to restore the Gaeltacht grant for students on State-funded Initial Teacher Education programmes with effect from the academic year 2020/21.

Student Grants:

SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) is Ireland's single national awarding authority for all higher and further education grants. Further information regarding the Student Grant Scheme for the academic year 2021/2022 will be available in coming months on the SUSI website at www.susi.ie

Fitness to Practise:

1. *Garda Vetting:* Before a student's registration can be completed, the student must undergo a process of Garda vetting in order to establish whether (s)he has any convictions or criminal charges pending. Where this process confirms the existence of such, the matter is referred to a Vetting Committee within the Higher Education Institution which decides whether the student can continue with his/her programme of study.

2. *Medical Requirements:* Some incoming teacher education students are required to complete a Health Status Information Form, indicating whether they have any significant ongoing illnesses or disabilities which might adversely impact their capacity to meet the requirements of the programme, including School Placement. Entrants who declare significant health conditions, disabilities or psychological conditions will be assessed on an individual basis to evaluate whether, with reasonable accommodations, they would have the ability to undertake the demands of the programme. Individuals will not be excluded on the grounds that they possess a particular condition or disability if it is deemed likely that it would be possible for that person to fulfil the requirements of the

programme with reasonable accommodation(s). The Higher Education Institutions will advise students as to the procedure to be followed in this regard.

During this full-time teacher education programme, participants may **not** engage in business or in any other programme of study without the prior permission of the Higher Education Institution's President/Head of Department.

Further information regarding the programme is available from the applicant's Higher Education Institution of choice.

Appendix 1

Leaving Cert Grading Schemes (1992-2016 Scheme and New Scheme 2017)

1992 – 2016 Scheme	% Awarded	New Scheme 2017 onwards	% Awarded
A1	90-100	H1 / O1	90-100
A2	85<90	H2 / O2	80<90
B1	80<85		
B2	75<80	H3 / O3	70<80
B3	70<75		
C1	65<70	H4 / O4	60<70
C2	60<65		
C3	55<60	H5 / O5	50<60
D1	50<55		
D2	45<50	H6 / O6	40<50
D3	40<45		
E	25<40	H7/O7	30<40
F	10<25	H8/O8	0<30