



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Press Release 6 April 2023

Minister Foley announces extension of deadline for applicants to primary initial teacher education due to increase in course places in 23/24

Minister for Education Norma Foley TD today announced a deadline extension for applicants to primary initial teacher education having recently announced an historic increase in the number of course places available for 23/24 year.

The decision to extend the deadline for applications to the primary Professional Master of Education (PME) programme by the four State-funded providers of primary initial teacher education: Dublin City University, Maynooth University, Marino Institute of Education and Mary Immaculate College, was taken to ensure the maximum number of students could avail of this recent expansion.

As part of the Department's comprehensive programme to support the supply of teachers, Minister Foley recently announced an increase to the number of places on the primary Professional Master of Education programme nationally.

A further Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) examination will take place on May 12th. Those wishing to take the examination should apply to TEG by April 20th (www.teg.ie).

The closing date for applications to the programme for the relevant higher education institutions has been extended until 2nd June.

Minister Foley said: "Primary school teaching is an inspiring and rewarding career. I was delighted to announce 610 extra places on primary initial teacher education programmes over 2023 and 2024, which will help to meet the demand for our high quality primary teachers.

"I warmly welcome the efforts of the relevant higher education institutions to facilitate applicants for those places with an extended deadline and an opportunity for students to take the TEG exam, as part of this process, if necessary."