

# Thinking of a Career in Teaching?

## How to prepare now

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# Becoming a Teacher in Ireland

## Primary Teaching

- Postgraduate Courses
- Entry requirements
- Alternative entry requirement options
- How applications work
- How places awarded
- What you can do now to strengthen your application

## Post-Primary Teaching

- Postgraduate Courses
- Entry requirements
- How applications work
- How places awarded
- Teaching Council criteria (LC teaching subjects and your modules)
- What you can do now to strengthen your application



# Post-Primary Teaching Entry 2024



# Post-Primary Teaching – Ireland

## Professional Master of Education – 2 year courses

Courses start each September – apply in final year for course starting after you finish your degree

- NUI Universities (MU, UCD, UCC and UoG) are no longer using a combined application system.
- Each university will run its own application process next year
- Closing dates to be confirmed – usually January
- Dublin City University – closing date usually February
- Trinity College Dublin closing date several rounds from November onwards
- University of Limerick – closing date usually March
- Hibernia College – closing date usually June

# Post-Primary Teaching – Ireland

**Applications for MU going forward will use similar process to previous years**

Places awarded using a points system

Points awarded based on

- Most recent exam results – 2<sup>nd</sup> year if applying in 3<sup>rd</sup> year (year abroad results are not considered)
- Any previous qualifications
- Relevant PAID Professional experience



Points for Undergraduate & Primary Degree Performance

Points table used in previous years

To calculate your points

- (i) Find your marks (average of both subjects) in this column
- (ii) Move across to points Column – these are your points

PERCENTAGE MARK RANGE		GPA RANGE		QCA Range		PAC PME POINTS	
Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Degrees where honours are available	Degrees where honours are not available
78.00	100.00	4.18	4.30	3.88	4.00	51	45
76.00	77.99	4.06	4.17	3.76	3.87	50	44
74.00	75.99	3.94	4.05	3.64	3.75	49	43
72.00	73.99	3.82	3.93	3.52	3.63	48	42
70.00	71.99	3.70	3.81	3.40	3.51	47	41
68.00	69.99	3.58	3.69	3.32	3.39	46	40
66.00	67.99	3.46	3.57	3.24	3.31	45	39
64.00	65.99	3.34	3.45	3.16	3.23	44	38
62.00	63.99	3.22	3.33	3.08	3.15	43	37
60.00	61.99	3.10	3.21	3.00	3.07	42	36
58.00	59.99	2.98	3.09	2.92	2.99	41	35
56.00	57.99	2.86	2.97	2.84	2.91	40	34
54.00	55.99	2.74	2.85	2.76	2.83	39	33
52.00	53.99	2.62	2.73	2.68	2.75	38	32
50.00	51.99	2.50	2.61	2.60	2.67	37	31
48.00	49.99	2.38	2.49	2.48	2.59	36	30
46.00	47.99	2.26	2.37	2.36	2.47	35	29
44.00	45.99	2.14	2.25	2.24	2.35	34	28
42.00	43.99	2.02	2.13	2.12	2.23	33	27
40.00	41.99	1.90	2.01	2.00	2.11	32	26

Sample Calculations based on the above points table

Previous points may be a good indicator of future points – but it is not possible to predict

Other NUI Universities may decide to use a different entry criteria going forward – more information will be available in September

Find your subjects(s) and look across the table to see the points required in each of the universities

Points Round 1 2024

	UCC	UCD	NUIG	MU
Accounting	44	40	35	40
Agricultural Science	42	42	NA	43
Applied Mathematics	NA	No Offers	No Offers	No Offers
Biology	45	41	37	44
Business	47	42*	40	45*
Chemistry	38	No Offers	37	42
Classical Studies	NA	41	NA	NA
Computer Science	No Offers	59	39	No Offers
Politics and Society	42	40	41	44*
Economics	42	42	35	41
English	42*	40*	42*	43*
French	39	42	37*	39*
Gaelige / Irish	39	41	35	37*
Geography	42	40*	42*	46
German	40	45	38	40
History	42*	39*	41*	44*
Home Economics	37	N/A	39*	N/A
Italian	No Offers	43	No Offers	No Offers
Mathematics	38	46	49*	38
Mandarin Chinese	N/A	N/A	N/A	43
Music	41	43	42	42
Physics	46	40	49	44
Physics & Chemistry	NA	No Offers	NA	NA
Religious Education	39	NA	39	38
Spanish	40	42	56	39*

Points Round 2 2024

	UCC	UCD	NUIG	MU
Accounting	44	40	35	40
Agricultural Science	42	42	N/A	43
Applied Mathematics	N/A	No offers	No offers	No offers
Biology	42	39	37	44
Business	47	40	37	43*
Chemistry	38	No offers	37	42
Classical Studies	N/A	41	N/A	N/A
Computer Science	No offers	59	39	39
Politics & Society	42	39	37	44*
Economics	42	42	35	41
English	42	40*	42*	42*
French	39	42	37*	39
Gaelige / Irish	39	41	35	34
Geography	42	40	42*	46
German	40	45	37	40
History	42*	39*	40*	44*
Home Economics	37	N/A	39*	N/A
Italian	No offers	43	No offers	No offers
Mathematics	38	40	42	35
Mandarin Chinese	N/A	N/A	N/A	43
Music	41	37*	38	42
Physics	46	40	49	44
Physics & Chemistry	N/A	No offers	N/A	N/A
Religious Education	39	N/A	39	38
Spanish	40	42	40	37

Notes:

Points can vary for each subject in each university

# Points System

- Will still be used by MU
- Also used by DCU
- Your points are based on your most recent full year results – so if applying in final year, you will be using **your second year marks**
- Points required varies each year – points vary in each university and depending on your subjects
  - This is in response to a need to train teachers in shortage subjects
- It is not possible to predict points required for subsequent years



# In addition to grades....How can I increase my points

- **How can I increase my points?**
  - If you don't get a place when you apply you can re-apply the following year with final year results
  - **Additional Qualifications** (only eligible if completed at time of application)
    - Undergraduate e.g. PLC courses / other quals
    - Postgraduate
    - Course must be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> December in year of application
  - Relevant **Paid Professional Experience** – 1 point for each year (full-time or part-time)
- **Another options...Apply to PME in other universities**

The points system for academic performance set out below is designed to take account of all eligible level 8 primary degrees - including two-subject honours degrees, single honours degrees and degrees with one subject at honours level and one subject at pass level. In the case of eligible General Level 8 Degrees of the NUI (i.e. three subject pass degrees), points will be allocated using the schedule for pass papers.

**The following should assist applicants who wish to calculate their points**

The points for academic performances are based on the overall percentage mark obtained in the appropriate examination as confirmed by the applicant's university or awarding body, or as determined by The Postgraduate Applications Centre (PAC) on the basis of information received.

Maximum Points for candidates with an eligible level 8 primary degree for which an honours award is available: 51 points

Maximum Points for candidates with an eligible level 8 primary degree for which an honours award is not available: 45 points

Maximum Points for candidates with a two subject eligible level 8 degree, where honours are available for one subject but not for the other: 48 points

Qualifications	Points
PhD.	10
Masters Degree	6
Higher/Graduate Diploma	3
Higher Certificate	1

Qualifications	Points
2nd Primary Degree	4
Diploma - at least 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time.	2
Certificate - at least 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time.	1

**Qualifications which form a subsidiary part of a higher qualification are not awarded points and level 7 as part of a level 8 award e.g., a National Diploma as part of a Degree Programme.**

**All qualifications being submitted for assessment purposes must be awarded prior to 01 December 2018.**

# PAID Professional Experience

- Must provide documentation e.g. letter from employer
- Full-time /Part-time **paid** professional experience
  - In education
  - Working with young people
  - Related to teaching subject

Examples: In education / With young people

- Full-time Teaching in another country – using your degree subject
- TEFL Teaching to groups
- Working full-time as a special needs assistant or classroom assistant
- Full-time employment as a sports coach, youth organiser or in a nursery/care setting with children

Related to teaching subject (normally at graduate level)

e.g., Employment as

- Accountant (Business Studies teacher) or Graduate level business related work experience
- Translator (Languages teachers)
- Laboratory Technician (Science teachers)

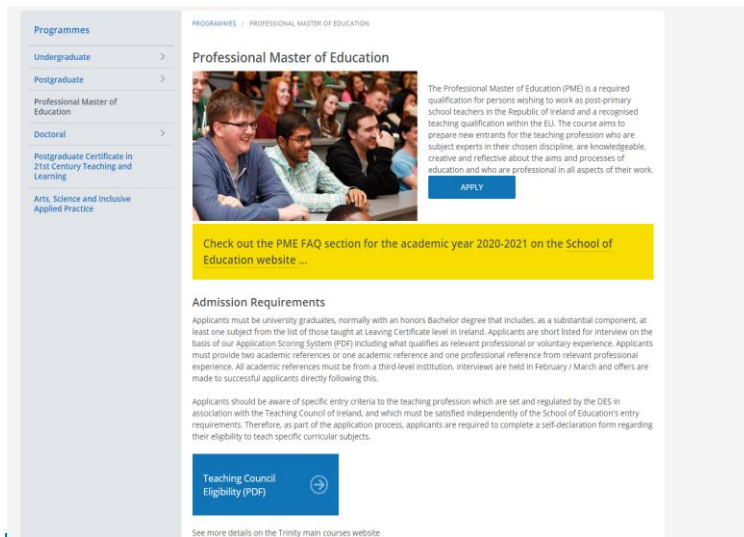
- 1 point awarded for each year of experience

# Dublin City University PME

- Closing Date: usually February
- Application Fee: €100
- Places awarded using points system  
Application to DCU on the website
- Part-time course (2 years)
- Currently Tuesday & Wednesday  
5pm – 8pm
- When applying to DCU it is requested that you have arranged your teaching practice before you send in your application

# Trinity College: Professional Master of Education

- Closing Date: various rounds starting in November
- Application fee: €55
- Apply online to TCD at <http://www.tcd.ie/Education/courses/pme/index.php>
- Apply for a PME in a specific subject
- Even though you apply through one subject you will still be qualified to teach both of your teaching subjects\*
- Places awarded on basis of
  - On-line application Form
  - Interview
- Teaching Experience or other work with young people important



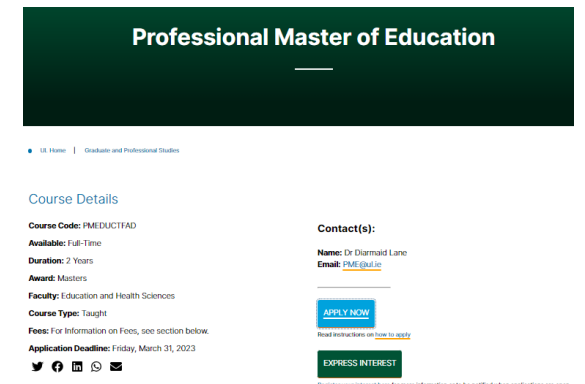
\*Assuming you meet usual Teaching Council criteria

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# University of Limerick –Professional Master of Education

Two-year course

- Business
  - Languages
    - French, German, Gaelige, Spanish, Japanese, English as a foreign language
  - Mathematics
  - Music
  - Science
  - Physical Education (must have relevant degree)
  - Technological Education
- Closing date: usually March
  - Need 2.2 Honours in your degree results but don't need to have completed your degree to apply
  - Apply online <http://www.ul.ie>
    - Application Form / Interview
    - Languages: Oral
    - Music: Audition



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# Hibernia College:

## Professional Master of Education

- 2 intakes per year – September and April
- 24 weeks teaching practice (3 blocks)
- Online application
- Application fee €95
- Personal statement important
- Interview
  - Must demonstrate awareness of teaching as a career
  - Classroom observation and other experience with young people important

# Teaching Council: Registration

- For each teaching subject the Teaching Council have a list of requirements including the modules you must take as part of your degree.
- It is important to refer to this list when making your module selections.
- Details of the new system for qualification assessment can be found at <https://www.teachingcouncil.ie/en/news-events/latest-news/curricular-subject-requirements.pdf>

## Politics & Society

*In order to meet the registration requirements set down in the Teaching Council (Registration) Regulations in respect of the curricular subject of Politics and Society, an applicant must meet **all** of the following criteria:*

- Applicants must hold a degree-level qualification, with Politics/Political Science or Sociology, **or** a combination of **at least three** of the following areas: Politics/Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology, Law, European Studies, Public Administration, Government, Development, Media Studies, Economics, History, Geography, International Relations or Philosophy comprising a minimum total of 60 ECTS credits or equivalent.
- The qualifying degree must be equivalent to **at least Level 8** on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and must carry at least 180 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credits (or equivalent).
- Applicants must also have completed a post-primary initial teacher education (age range 12-18 years) carrying a minimum of 120 ECTS credits (or equivalent).

An Chomhairle  
Mhúinteoirí  
The Teaching Council

Teaching Council  
Registration  
Curricular Subject  
Requirements  
(Post-Primary)

For persons applying for registration  
on or after 1 January 2023

Published 11 November 2020


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# What can you do now?

- The better your grades in 2<sup>nd</sup> year the higher your points when applying for the PME Post-Primary in final year
- **Choose subjects wisely...consider...**
- Subjects you will enjoy studying over the next few years...if you enjoy a subject, you are more likely to do well in it.
- Some subjects are more in demand (Languages, Maths, Science) than other therefore the points needed (in some colleges) will be lower
- Think about which subjects you will enjoy teaching longer term

# What can you do now?

- Have a look at all of the courses – links on our Info Sheets
- Check Teaching Council subject criteria and ensure your modules meet the criteria – contact the Careers and Employability Service if you have any questions
- Check that you meet the course entry requirements
- If you don't talk to us / identify how you can get the missing requirements – getting this sorted in 2<sup>nd</sup> year can remove stress in final year.
- Consider getting any relevant experience related to work with children/teaching etc. to gain additional points
  - Voluntary work also useful for TCD/UL/Hibernia



# Primary Teaching Entry 2024





# Primary Teaching - Ireland

## 2 routes

Full-time / College-based course

- **Maynooth University (Froebel Dept.)**
- **Marino Institute of Education**
- **DCU (Drumcondra Campus)**
- **Mary Immaculate College Limerick**

Distance/On-line course

- **Hibernia College**

Both routes fully recognised by Teaching Council

## Entry Requirements (2024)

Minimum 2.2 Honours degree

Leaving Certificate requirements

- **H4 (HC1/HC2)** in Irish
- **O4/H7 (OC1/OC2/HE)** in Maths
- **O4/H7 (OC1/OC2/HE)** in English

# Honours Leaving Cert Irish?

- At least **H4** in honours Irish required (Entry 2023)
- What if I don't have this?
  - Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (Level B2) – Contact Maynooth University Centre for Irish Studies for details [www.teg.ie](http://www.teg.ie)
  - Re-sit Leaving Cert Honours Irish
  - Teacher Training in the U.K. \*
- See Hibernia College website [www.hiberniacollege.com](http://www.hiberniacollege.com) for details of other alternative qualifications accepted by them

# Other LC alternative qualifications

## Alternatives to a second-level qualification in Mathematics

- A merit grade (65-79%) or distinction grade (80-100%) obtained in QQI Level 5 Mathematics Course (5N 1833)
  - ✓ Colleges offering this course can be found by searching on [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) and through various Night course providers
  - ✓ <https://nightschool.ie/maths/>
- A Pass grade obtained in Mathematics in the Matriculation Examination (which existed up to 1992).

# Full-time Course

- College based
  - Froebel Dept, Maynooth University,
  - Marino Institute of Education
  - DCU (formerly St. Patrick's College Drumcondra)
  - Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
- 2 years
- Cannot guarantee that course will run in future years – course sanctioned on a yearly basis
- Further details of entry requirements / course details on universities websites and on our Careers and Employability Service Information Sheets  
<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers/useful-resources/information-sheets>

# When can I apply?

- Full-time courses
  - Course usually starts in September
    - Application closing date usually March/April
    - Online Applications
- Hibernia Colleges
  - 2 intakes: September/April
  - See [www.hiberniacollege.com](http://www.hiberniacollege.com) for details of upcoming intakes



# Primary Applications have 2 steps – Full Time Courses

## (i) Irish Oral

- TEG B1 Oral Exam
- Must get at least 65% in this exam
- More details on TEG B1 here  
<https://www.teg.ie/eolas-molta/teg-mgo.958.html>
- Can be useful to sit TEG B1 in 2<sup>nd</sup> year (you can then re-sit in final year if needed)

## (ii) Course Application

- After getting 65% in TEG B1 you can apply for the course
- Applications usually close in March
- You must have all your results by July in the year you wish to start the course – August repeats mean you can apply the next year
- Applications are online
- You can apply to all 4 courses

# How are places awarded?

**New entry criteria assessment system used for 2024 Entry at MU, DCU and Mary Immaculate College, Limerick**

## Points System

- Points are calculated based results from most recent completed year.
- If applying in final year your points are based on your results from the previous year (year abroad is not included)
- If applying after completing your degree, your points are calculated based on degree results.

More information on [MIC Points system here](#)

## Additional points can be claimed for

- **Additional Qualifications** (to be eligible must be awarded by 1<sup>st</sup> March in year of application)
  - ✓ Undergraduate
  - ✓ Postgraduate
- Relevant **Paid/Unpaid Professional** Experience
  - ✓ Related to work with young people/education/your degree subject

# Additional Points – Professional Experience?

Points are awarded in three categories, where experience is deemed relevant:

- **Full-time paid professional experience.**

One point is awarded per year of employment, up to a maximum of 5 points.

- **Part-time paid professional experience.**

One point is awarded per year of employment (min. 100 hours per year), up to a maximum of 2 points.

- **Sustained voluntary work with young people (e.g., weekly) in an organisational context.**

0.5 points is awarded per year of volunteering, up to a maximum of 2 points.

# How are places awarded?

## Marino Institute of– Interview based

- View [Interview criteria here](#)
- Why people do not get places? Interview Performance / Knowledge of the teaching profession /
  - Not sufficient research into teaching –
    - Spend time in a school if possible
    - Classroom observation
    - Talking with teachers
    - Becoming familiar with curriculum and current issues

# Hibernia College:

## Professional Master of Education

- 2 intakes per year – September and April
- 2 year course
- 24 weeks teaching practice (3 blocks)
- Contact Hibernia College for application form
- Application fee €95
- Personal statement important
- Interview
  - Must demonstrate awareness of teaching as a career
  - Classroom observation and other experience with young people important



# What can you do now?

## Irish

- Practice your Irish
- Not possible get a place on the full-time PME Primary course without 65% in TEG B1 Oral Exam
- Consider sitting the TEG exam in 2<sup>nd</sup> year so that you have it completed before final year
- Additional points awarded for higher marks in TEG exam

- Candidates who have passed higher levels of TEG (B2, C1 and C2) receive 10 additional marks.

- Hibernia PME offer alternative Irish Oral as part of their interview process

Exam	Grade	Extra No. of Marks Awarded
TEG B1 Irish Oral	65% to 79%	None
	80% to 89%	5
	90% to 100%	10
TEG B2/C1 Irish Oral	50% or over	10

## Points

- Work hard in Second Year.
- The better your grades in your second-year exams, the better your chances of getting a place
- Consider your grades and your interests when choosing subjects
- Experience working with young people to gain additional points

\*Application procedure and/or use of interview in selection process may be subject to change in future years

### Points for relevant Professional Experience

Up to five points may be awarded in recognition of full-time paid employment which is deemed relevant, and which can be verified. Points will normally be awarded on the basis of one point for year of relevant experience, up to the maximum of five points

Up to two additional points may be awarded in recognition of part-time paid employment which is deemed relevant, and which can be verified. Points will normally be awarded on the basis of one point for year of relevant experience, up to the maximum of two points

Applicants for the PME may have other relevant experience, independent of their academic programme(s), related to working with young people in a voluntary capacity. The experience must be over a sustained period and must be of a sufficiently high level to merit the allocation of additional points. In recognition of the value of these experiences, some additional points can be awarded. To claim additional points, you will normally need to provide a letter from an official of the organisation with whom you volunteered showing the start and end dates, your contribution in terms of time, and a description of the role.

Points are awarded in three categories:

- i. Full-time paid professional experience. If the experience is deemed relevant, one point is awarded per year of employment, up to a maximum of 5 points.
- ii. Part-time paid professional experience. If the experience is deemed relevant, one point is awarded per year of employment (min. 100 hours per year), up to a maximum of 2 points.
- iii. Sustained voluntary work with young people (e.g., weekly) in an organisational context. If the experience is deemed relevant, 1 point is awarded per year of volunteering, up to a maximum of 4 points.

Applicants may make a claim for points in any or all of these categories and may be awarded up to a maximum of 11 points in total.

Please note that:

1. Points cannot be awarded where the supporting information provided is ambiguous or incomplete.
2. The acceptance of points awarded for professional and voluntary experience is entirely at the discretion of the PAC PMEd team, representing the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University.
3. Points are not awarded for teaching in a school while unqualified.

## Points for Relevant Experience

- View all points criteria here  
[https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/system/temporary/filefield\\_paths/PMEd%20Froebel%20Department%20Points%20System%202024.pdf](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/system/temporary/filefield_paths/PMEd%20Froebel%20Department%20Points%20System%202024.pdf)

## Examples of relevant professional experience

	Normally accepted for points purposes	Not accepted
In education	Full time teaching in a school in another country. Working as a full-time special needs assistant. Working as a full-time classroom assistant. Full-time teaching in a HE or FE institute or in a centre of education as designated by the Education Act 1998. Teaching in a post-primary school as a qualified teacher.	Working in a non-contact role in a school, such as school caretaker. Working as an unqualified substitute teacher in a school. Paid internship which contributed to an academic qualification.
In working with young people	Verified full-time employment as a sports coach. Verified full-time employment as a youth organiser. Verified full-time employment as a social worker. Verified full-time employment in an early childhood setting. Verified full-time employment as a tutor in the arts (e.g., music, drama, dance).	Working as a personal trainer. Paid internship which contributed to an academic qualification.
In voluntary work with young people	Verified sustained volunteering as a sports coach, arts tutor, youth leader, etc.	Childminding or babysitting.

### Note:

Full time employment is taken to mean full-time hours. Continuous employment for at least 9 months is required to claim points for one year.

Part time can be considered if either

- (i) part time throughout the year (minimum 100 hours), or
- (ii) full time for a period of three months (e.g. summer employment).

### Verification required for paid employment

- Letter from employer certifying the dates, nature of employment, and salary.  
OR
- A completed employer reference form (Blank form available through PAC).

Note: tax records may be requested as further verification of employment.

### Verification required for voluntary work

Letter on headed notepaper from an official of the organisation with whom you volunteered.

## Types of Relevant Experience

- View all points criteria here  
[https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/system/temporary/filefield\\_paths/PMEd%20Froebel%20Department%20Points%20System%202024.pdf](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/system/temporary/filefield_paths/PMEd%20Froebel%20Department%20Points%20System%202024.pdf)

# What can you do now?

Prepare for interview\* – school observation or talking to teachers...

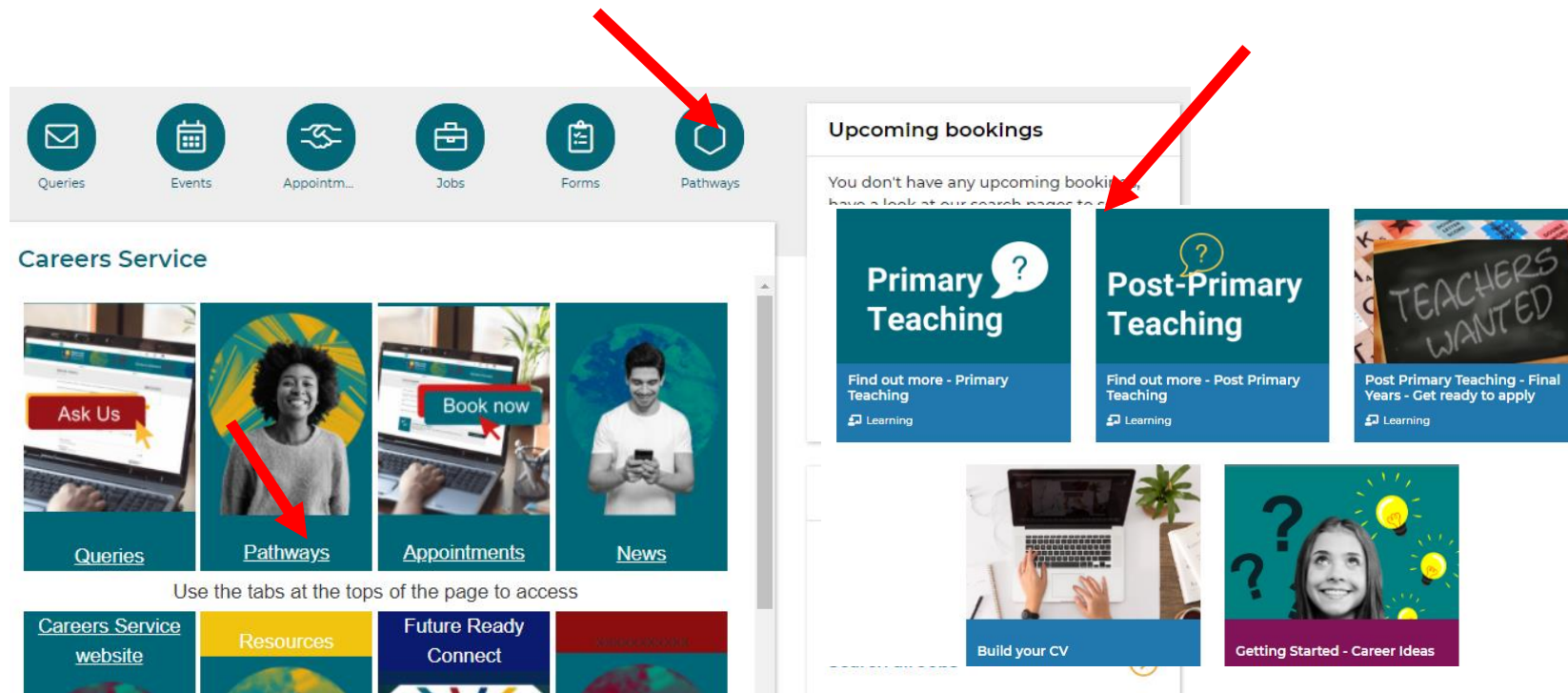
- Find out as much as you can about the primary curriculum
- How are subjects taught at different levels throughout the school?
- How are special educational needs supports provided in the schools?
- How are phonics taught? What is Aisteaír?
- Any recent/upcoming changes to the curriculum? ... Primary Languages curriculum? Well-being initiatives?
- Have a look at all of the courses.
- Check that you meet the entry requirements
- If you don't talk to us / identify how you can get the missing requirements – getting this sorted in 2<sup>nd</sup> year can remove stress in final year.

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\*Application procedure and use of interview in selection process may be subject to change in future years

# What can you do now?

Careers – Teaching Pathways – can help to move through all the information in an organized way – Pathways are available on Careers Connect



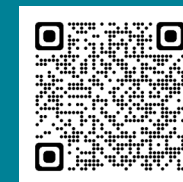


# Any questions?

- Use **Careers Connect** to engage with us
  - Appointments
    - Teams Appointments or In-Person Appointments
  - Send us your Questions - Click Queries ✉



CAREERS CONNECT PORTAL



WEBSITE

[www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers)



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