



**Maynooth  
University**  
National University  
of Ireland Maynooth

# Becoming a Post-primary Teacher

**Maynooth University  
Department of  
Education**



[maynoothuniversity.ie/education](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/education)

## Welcome to Maynooth University Department of Education

Here at Maynooth University we are passionate about education.

We offer a vibrant milieu in which to pursue studies relevant to a wide variety of educational contexts. Through our Bachelor of Science (with Education) and Professional Master of Education (PME), we have developed a reputation for preparing teachers of the highest calibre to work in post-primary schools.

Our faculty is deeply engaged in questions affecting education and society, and our research interests reflect a diverse and interdisciplinary approach to the study of education. Together we offer a supportive environment dedicated to your studies as well as your academic and professional development.

Please feel free to contact us by email, phone or in person if you wish to discuss any of the courses outlined in this booklet.

We would be delighted to work with you within our dynamic educational community as you prepare to become an educational professional in the post-primary sector.

With best wishes,

*Sharon Todd*



**Sharon Todd**  
**Professor and Head of Department**

## What is unique about studying to become a post- primary teacher in Maynooth University?

- Maynooth University Department of Education has a long tradition of and an excellent reputation for preparing post-primary teachers since the first cohort of students graduated in 1927 with a Higher Diploma in Education
- School placement is a feature of every year of courses where students have an opportunity to develop their teaching practice incrementally – Maynooth University has developed very strong links with partner schools throughout the years
- Students have opportunities to learn in large lecture-style settings as well as in small seminar and tutorial groups
- Courses meet all the Teaching Council requirements to be registered as a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) following completion of the Level 9 Professional Master of Education degree
- Lecturers are closely involved in a range of research and development projects relating to all aspects of education, ensuring students are abreast of the most recent policy, practice and research
- Students will be eligible to participate in international exchange programmes and to become involved in the Education Society of Maynooth University
- Studying at Maynooth University offers that unique ‘Maynooth experience’ to students, where you will have top quality teaching and learning facilities, friendly staff, a beautiful campus, and a fun social life

## BSc Science (with Education)

The BSc Science (with Education) is a concurrent initial teacher education course, offering students the opportunity to undertake a BSc degree in Science and a study of education in preparation for a career in second-level teaching. Students can choose to study any two subjects to degree level

from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths. The four-year double honours degree course (Level 8) is followed by a one-year Professional Master of Education (Level 9) that prepares students to teach Junior Cycle Science/ Maths and to teach Leaving Certificate classes in both of their degree subjects.

### Course Outline (MH212)

Year 1	Physics (15 credits)	Chemistry (15 credits)	Biology (15 credits)	Maths (15 credits)	Education
Year 2	Education (20 credits)		Any 2 of the 4 science subjects (20 credits each)		
Year 3	Education (20 credits)		Continue with 2 of the 4 science subjects (20 credits each)		
Year 4 Level 8 Degree	Education (20 credits)		Continue with 2 of the 4 science subjects (20 credits each)		
Year 5 Postgraduate Level 9	Professional Master of Education (60 credits)				



## BSc Maths (with Education)



The BSc Maths (with Education) is a concurrent initial teacher education course, offering students the opportunity to undertake a BSc degree in Maths and a study of education in preparation for a career in second-level teaching. Students study Maths to degree level (Level 8) and following the completion of a one-year Professional Master of Education (Level 9), they are qualified to teach Maths and Applied Maths to all levels in post-primary schools.

### Course Outline (MH212)

Year 1	Maths (15 credits)	Applied Maths (15 credits)	Computer Science (15 credits)	Physics (15 credits)	Education
Year 2	Education (20 credits)		Mathematics (20 credits)	Mathematical Physics (20 credits)	
Year 3	Education (20 credits)		Mathematics (40 credits)		
Year 4 Level 8	Education (20 credits)		Mathematics (40 credits)		
Year 5 Postgraduate Level 9	Professional Master of Education (60 credits)				

## School Placement on the BSc

### Year 1

- Primary School Placement
- One week – Teach 2 topics in Maths and Science to 6th class pupils

### Year 2

- Post-primary placement on Thursdays
- Observe in semester 1/ Small group teaching and team teach 2 lessons in semester 2

### Year 3

- Post-primary placement on Tuesdays
- Teach 3-4 class periods throughout year

### Year 4

- Post-primary placement - Block in September and Mondays in semester 1
- Teach 10 classes per week on block placement/ 3-4 classes on Mondays

### Year 5

- Post-primary placement every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Teach 8-10 lessons throughout year



## Why study for a BSc (with Education) in Maynooth University?

- The BSc course allows for the integrated concurrent study of undergraduate degree subjects as well as education in preparation for a career in post-primary teaching
- Students can choose to study any two subjects to degree level, in any combination, from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths - Maynooth University is the only institution that offers this flexibility
- There are regular exit points for students who wish to focus on a Science/ Mathematics degree and not pursue the educational modules – At the end of Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4
- After four years, students graduate with a BSc with Education (180 credits in Science/Maths and 60 credits of Education); this ensures that other career options are open to graduates
- BSc students have automatic entry to the second year of the Professional Master in Education (PME) – normally a highly competitive entry process applies through PAC for undergraduate students
- While most graduates progress to teach at post-primary level, others continue their studies to a Master's or Doctoral level or work in the world of industry

[maynoothuniversity.ie/bsc-maths-education](https://maynoothuniversity.ie/bsc-maths-education)

[maynoothuniversity.ie/bsc-science-education](https://maynoothuniversity.ie/bsc-science-education)

“Throughout the course I completed placements in many different types of schools, each placement presented unique challenges and rewards, but I felt supported by our wonderful lecturers every step of the way. Five final year Science Education students headed to Uganda for a three week teaching placement in June 2014. This was one of the most rewarding experiences of our lives...

So far I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as a fully qualified teacher. My successes this year are undoubtedly due to the fantastic education I received in the friendly and vibrant Maynooth University.”

Mary Gormley (BSc Graduate),  
Maths & Science Teacher,  
Coolmine Community School

“While I didn't stay in teaching, the skill set that the B.Sc provided me with has really helped in my development as a scientist...I think I'm the only one in my masters class not afraid of oral presentations. Being a qualified teacher really impressed the supervisor during my interview for the PhD and it definitely helped in gaining the position.

Make sure you tell the up and coming classes that they will be prepared for any career they like after the course, both in Science and Education.”

Sinéad McKeon (BSc Graduate),  
PhD Student, Trinity Biomedical  
Sciences Institute



## Professional Master of Education (PME) (post-primary)

The Professional Master of Education (PME) course is a two-year full-time programme leading to the award of a Level 9 Professional Master's degree. The PME is a consecutive programme that builds on subject content knowledge developed during a student's undergraduate degree and is designed to prepare high quality teachers for today's post-primary schools. Students undertake a study of the principles of teaching, learning

and assessment, develop practical teaching skills, engage in critical reflection on the foundation disciplines of education and participate in supervised teaching placements in at least two second-level schools.

During the programme, students develop the classroom skills, perceptive understanding and judgement that they need in order to become competent and reflective teachers.

### Course Outline (PEM01)

The programme is divided into four major areas of study:

- A structured **school-based experience**; including classroom observation, supervised teaching, analysis of teaching, and development of a reflective portfolio
- **Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Curriculum**; an integrated study of the principles and practice of teaching
- **Teacher as Critically Reflective Practitioner**; an integrated study of the foundations of education, including perspectives from educational psychology, sociology of education, history of education and philosophy of education
- **Subject specific methods**; a detailed study of the curriculum, concepts, methods and resources of the specific subjects in which the student is specialising

## School Placement on the PME

### Year 1

Term 1  
Monday & Friday

- Observe
- Teach 4 class periods/week

January  
3 weeks

- Block Teaching
- Teach 10 class periods/week

Terms 2 & 3  
Monday & Friday

- Observe 3rd year classes
- Teach 8 class periods/week

### Year 2

Term 1  
3 days

- Observe
- Teach 8 class periods/week

Terms 2 & 3  
3 days

- Observe 6th year classes
- Teach 10 class periods/week

“Maynooth University PME/BSc students are very well supported during training by the university staff who work closely with the co-operating schools. Maynooth graduates are committed to the academic and personal development of their students and to helping each of them to fulfil their potential.”

John Bean, Principal, Hartstown Community School

## Why the Professional Master of Education (PME) at Maynooth University?

- Students are provided with subject-specific methodology seminars in their degree subjects by expert educationalists in order to prepare them to teach these subjects at all levels in post-primary schools
- On school placement, students are visited regularly by highly experienced placement tutors and university tutors who will support the development of students' teaching practice
- School placements are structured to allow student teachers to apply what they are learning on a weekly basis, while block placements allow a more intense and concentrated engagement with school-based work
- A particular focus is placed on development education and students will have opportunities to participate in international exchanges to deepen their understanding of development issues
- Assessment on the PME is facilitated through ongoing assignments & presentations throughout the two years. There are no end-of-year examinations

[maynoothuniversity.ie/professional-master-education](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/professional-master-education)



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