

Professional Master of Education (Primary Teaching)

Entry Requirements and Procedure for 2017

1. This is a postgraduate teacher education programme for primary teaching (2017 – 2019) for persons who possess an honours Bachelor Degree at Level 8 or those who expect to have successfully completed final examinations before Friday, 1st July, 2017.

This is a full-time programme, commencing in September 2017 and concluding in summer 2019 and will be delivered in the following Higher Education Institutions:

- DCU Institute of Education, DCU St Patrick's Campus, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. (courseinfo@dcu.ie), Telephone: (01) 884 2212.
- Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road, Limerick. (admissions@mic.ul.ie), Telephone: (061) 204348.
- Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co Kildare. (froebel.department@nuim.ie), Telephone: (01) 4747400.
- Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. (admissions@mie.ie). Telephone: (01) 8057700.

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

Applications to **Mary Immaculate College, Limerick** should be returned directly to the Admissions Office in the College at the address above. Application material is available on the College's website: www.mic.ul.ie.

Applications to the **DCU Institute of Education** should apply 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 is **5p.m. on Friday, 10th March 2017**.

All applicants should also 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**¹ (Major Award at Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications) **or** a major award at Level 9 or a major award at Level 10 on the National Framework of Qualifications, **and**

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

(i) in the Leaving Certificate Examination²

Subject	Irish	Mathematics	English
Minimum Grade (new 2017 Scheme)	H5	H6 or O6	O5 or H6
% Mark	50% - 59%	40%-49%	50% - 59% or 40%-49%

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 Friday, 1st July, 2017 and must provide documentary evidence of meeting these requirements.**

Alternatives to second-level qualifications 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 GCE/GCSE requirement for the relevant subject.

¹ Please note that notice of this requirement (H2.2 Bachelor Degree) which commenced in 2016 was included in the PME Entry Requirements 2014 and the PME Entry Requirements 2015.

² Please note that the overall position on minimum entry requirements from 2018 onwards are being reviewed by the Department of Education & Skills.

In the case of Irish, a Grade C in the Matriculation Examination (which existed up to 1992) will also be accepted in lieu of the Leaving Certificate Examination/GCE/GCSE requirement. In addition, the following are accepted as satisfying the Leaving Certificate Examination/GCE/GCSE requirement:

- Diplóma sa Ghaeilge, Level C1, NUIG
- Diplóma sa Ghaeilge, Level B2, NUIG
- Diplóma sa Ghaeilge, NUI Maynooth
- Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) at Level B2, NUI Maynooth
- 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

In the case of Mathematics, a Pass in that subject in the Matriculation Examination will also be accepted in lieu of the Leaving Certificate Examination/GCSE requirement.

4. Selection Procedure

Eligible applicants will be required to undergo an Interview and an Oral Irish Examination. Applicants who get a "fail" grade in either the Interview or oral Irish Examination 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.

The Oral Irish Examination will comprise:-

- conversation on everyday topics and on books read by the applicant; **and**
- reading correctly and intelligently a suitable passage of prose or poetry and explaining the matter read.

Applicants should note that a high standard of fluency is required in the Oral Irish Examination and should prepare for the examination accordingly.

Applicants will be advised by the relevant Higher Education Institution of the date, time, venue, *etc.*, of their Interview and Oral Irish Examination and must attend these examinations at their own expense. The location will be Dublin and/or Maynooth and/or Limerick.

5. General Information

Gaeltacht Placement

Attendance and Cost: All students who gain entry to the programme are required to attend two residential 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 cost of this compulsory placement will not be met by the Department of Education & Skills.

Student Grants:

Following a change introduced in Budget 2017, the maintenance grant for post-graduate students who meet the qualifying conditions for the special rate of grant has been reintroduced. Such students will be eligible to receive the special rate of maintenance grant from 2017/18 and have their post-graduate tuition fees paid up to the maximum fee limit of €6,270 under the Student Grant Scheme.

Other postgraduate students who don't meet the qualifying conditions for the special rate of grant, may qualify to have a €2,000 contribution made towards the cost of their fees. The income threshold for this payment is €31,500 for the 2016/17 academic year, increasing relative to the number of family dependents.

Students are advised to submit a fully completed online grant application to SUSI so that their eligibility for grant assistance can be assessed. Further information is available 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:* All 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 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