

The Application Process for a Professional Master's in Education (Post-primary)

Process for Determining Suitability of Qualifications for the Purposes of Post-primary Teaching

List of acronyms

PME - Professional Masters in Education

NFQ - National Framework of Qualifications

HEI - Higher Education Institution

NUI - National University of Ireland

ECTS - European Credit Transfer System

CEFR - Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

FAQS

1. I want to apply for a PME (Post primary) - how do I ensure that I meet the requirements for at least one curricular subject?

You must check that your qualification is a major award at level 8 on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and meets the criteria for at least one of the post-primary curricular subjects as listed here.

2. How do I apply for a PME?

In order to apply for a PME, you need to contact the relevant Higher Education Institution (HEI) who administers the PME.

One of the requirements for entry on to the PME is that you meet the requirements for at least one of the post-primary curricular subjects. As part of the application process for the PME you will be required to complete a subject declaration form, which sets out the requirements for the named subject, and confirm that you meet the requirements for that specific curricular subject(s) as listed [here](#).

3. Where do I send the Subject Declaration Form?

The subject declaration form should be returned to the HEI to whom you are applying. Under no circumstances should it be returned to the Teaching Council.

4. I hold a degree awarded outside the State. How can I complete the Subject Declaration Form?

The HEI providing the PME programme cannot make assumptions as to the NFQ level of your qualification or the European Credits Transfer System (ECTS) weightings. If these are not shown on the transcript of results, it is the responsibility of the

applicant to have same confirmed by the university in which they completed their degree and /or Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) (in relation to degree level).

5. I hold a degree which predates the ECTS Credit System?

The HEI in which you completed your degree will be in the best position to confirm the NFQ level. In terms of ECTS credits HEIs have acknowledged that three-year honours degrees are equivalent to 180 ECTS. This equates each year of study to 60 ECTS credits.

If a year is equal to 60 ECTS credits you just need to confirm if all modules studied in a particular year are of equal credit value or weighting and divide 60 by the number of modules e.g. 10 modules per year equates to 6 ECTS credits per module or 6 modules per year equates to 10 ECTS credits per module etc.

6. I don't meet all the requirements for my chosen subject. Can I apply for the PME and complete these extra studies while completing my ITE studies?

No, you are required to meet all subject requirements prior to accepting a place on a PME (with the exception of the Immersive Educational Experience and Language Competency requirements for languages - evidence of both of these requirements can be submitted either prior to entry onto the PME or at the point of registration with the Teaching Council).

7. I have completed a module that includes more than one subject area e.g. an English literature module that contains both Prose and Poetry. How do I reflect this on the Subject Declaration Form?

If you have completed a module that contains the study of more than one area, you should divide the ECTS credits for that module between the areas as accurately as possible. The HEI in which you completed your degree may be able to guide you in this regard or a breakdown may be provided in the relevant module descriptor or course handbook.

8. I have not completed the Immersive Educational Experience requirement for languages. Can I apply for the PME?

In order to attain the required competence and fluency to teach to the highest leaving certificate level, it is preferable that PME applicants have completed the Immersive Educational Experience. However, if the HEI to whom you are applying is satisfied that you meet all other requirements, it can allow you to complete the Immersive Educational Experience element of the requirements during the PME. Under no circumstances will graduates be granted registration with the Teaching Council until they provide evidence of the Immersive Educational experience.

9. I have not completed the Language Competency requirement for languages. Can I apply for the PME?

In order to attain the required competence and fluency to teach to the highest Leaving Certificate level, it is preferable that PME applicants can evidence the Language Competency requirement. However, if the HEI to whom you are applying is satisfied that you meet all other requirements, it can allow you to evidence the Language Competency requirement element during the PME. Under no circumstances will graduates be granted registration with the Teaching Council until they provide evidence of the Language Competency requirement.

10. I am still completing my degree and/or further studies to enable me to meet the requirement for a curricular subject. Can I record these studies and ECTS on the Subject Declaration Form?

Yes. If you are in the final year of your degree or completing further studies to enable you meet the Teaching Council's registration requirements for a curricular subject, you can record details of these ongoing studies, provided all relevant studies will have been successfully completed prior to taking up a place on the PME.

11. I am an engineering graduate. How do I ensure that I meet the curricular subject requirements for mathematics?

Graduates of engineering programmes may find that while they have studied some mathematical content during their engineering degree, they may not have studied a full 60 ECTS credits of pure mathematics and the focus of their study has been mathematics with a sole focus on engineering application.

While most engineering graduates have adequate study of analysis, they tend not to have studied algebra, geometry or probability and statistics in pure mathematics form to the level required.

Engineering graduates are advised to ensure they have studied at least 60 ECTS credits in mathematics and have studied appropriate modules in:

- Algebra (must include a module or modules in linear algebra)
- Geometry (must include a module or modules in Euclidean and Non-Euclidean Geometry)
- Probability
- Statistics (must include a module or modules in statistical inference).

In circumstances where graduates do not meet the subject requirements for mathematics, modules of study in the appropriate areas can be completed at recognised HEI providers of mathematics programmes or from a distance learning provider, e.g., the Open University.