



**Maynooth
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

SCHOOL PLACEMENT

2018-19

Dear Principal,

School placement is a central component of initial teacher education and the time our student teachers spend in school is vital to their preparation for a career in teaching. We would like to thank you, your teachers and your school community for facilitating and supporting our student teachers on placement. We also hope that the process of accommodating students in your school is enriching for your teachers and pupils.



This flyer provides an overview of the school placement arrangements for 2018-19. The change in placement days for PMEs this year has received positive feedback from our student teachers and schools and these will remain the same next year. The only change in placement arrangements for next year relates to Year 2 BSC (Maths and Science) students. Year 2 BSC students will now only be on placement from late January to early May, largely undertaking observation, and they will generally undertake their placement in pairs. We hope that this change will enrich their placement experience and provide a support to schools facilitating their placement. We hope that we will have an opportunity to partner with you around school placement in 2018-19.

Professor Sharon Todd
Maynooth University Department of Education

PLACEMENT DAYS AND TEACHING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2018-19

Professional Master of Education (PME)

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.

PME YEAR 1	PME YEAR 2
<p>Thursdays and Fridays throughout the school year and a 3-week block placement in January</p> <p><i>Year 1 PME student teachers teach:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 classes per week in semester 1 (September to December) following a period of observation until Thursday 27th September 10 classes per week during block placement in January 8 classes per week in semester 2 (February to May) <p>In semester 2, observing/ team teaching a 3rd year examination class is highly desirable</p>	<p>Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the school year</p> <p><i>Year 2 PME student teachers teach:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 classes per week in semester 1 (September to December) 10 classes per week in semester 2 (January to May) <p>In semester 2, observing/ team teaching a 6th year examination class is highly desirable</p>

BSc in Mathematics and Science Education

The BSc Science and BSc Mathematics (with Education) are concurrent initial teacher education courses.

BSc Science Education student teachers undertake their degree in and can teach two of the following subjects to Leaving Certificate level – Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics (in addition to Junior Science).

BSc Mathematics Education students can teach Mathematics and Applied Mathematics to Leaving Certificate level.



BSc YEAR 2	BSc YEAR 3	BSc YEAR 4
<p>Thursdays from 31st January 2019 to Thursday 2nd May 2019 (approx. 10 days)</p> <p><i>Year 2 BSc student teachers will generally undertake placement in pairs and:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observe teaching and learning in Maths and Science classes Assist and team teach with co-operating teachers 	<p>Tuesdays from 2nd October 2018 to 30th April 2019 (approx. 20 days)</p> <p><i>Year 3 BSc student teachers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach 2-3 classes on placement days from October to May (excluding January when they undertake university examinations) 	<p>Mondays in semester 1 and a 2-week block placement from 3rd-14th September 2018</p> <p><i>Year 4 BSc student teachers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach 10 classes per week during block placement Teach 3-4 classes on placement days from September to December

Benefits of facilitating a school placement

As well as teaching / team teaching assigned classes each week, student teachers are present in schools throughout placement days. They are encouraged to become fully involved in the life of the school and to support the wider work of the school. Other activities that student teachers may be able to provide assistance with include:

- **Acting as team teachers under the direction of an experienced teacher**
- **Assisting with one-to-one tuition and small group teaching**
- **Supporting the school's co-curricular and extracurricular activity programme**
- **Providing assistance with school-based subject clubs**
- **Mentoring students for competitions and activities (e.g., Young Scientist, Young Social Innovators, Debating Teams, Young Economist, Development Education, SciFest)**
- **Assisting the school with gathering and analysing data for school self-evaluation as part of research projects**
- **BSc (Science) students can work as lab assistants to support teachers**

Partner schools will also be invited to participate in a range of educational events and CPD opportunities organised by the Maynooth University Department of Education on an ongoing basis.

Arranging school placements

PME student teachers and Year 4 BSc student teachers apply directly to schools for a school placement using a cover letter and CV. Placements are organised for Year 2 and Year 3 BSc students and requests for such placements will be made directly to schools.



Dr. Thomas Walsh



Ms. Anne Lavelle

If you are interested in facilitating a student teacher on placement in 2018-19 or would like any additional information, please contact the School Partnership Coordinator, Dr. Thomas Walsh, or the School Placement Executive Assistant, Ms. Anne Lavelle, at the details below. *If you have particular subjects or a subject combination that you would like to consider, we will do our best to facilitate this for you!*

EMAIL: school.placement@mu.ie TEL: **01 474 7705**

We hope to be able to work in partnership with your school in 2018-19.