



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Professional Master of Education (Primary Teaching)

Entry Requirements and Procedure for 2026

This is a postgraduate teacher education programme for primary teaching (2026–2028) for persons who possess an honour Bachelor Degree at Level 8 or higher, or those who expect to have received successful results of final examinations before Friday, 10 July 2026.

This is a full-time programme, commencing in September 2026 and concluding in summer 2028 and will be delivered in the following higher education institutions:

- DCU Institute of Education, DCU St Patrick's Campus, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. (ioe@dcu.ie). Telephone: (01) 700 9161
Website: <https://www.dcu.ie/>
- Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road, Limerick.
(Admissions@mic.ul.ie). Telephone : (061) 204348 / 205137
Website: <https://www.mic.ul.ie/>
- Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co Kildare.
(froebel.department@mu.ie). Telephone: (01) 4747400.
Website: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/froebel-department-primary-and-early-childhood-education>.
- Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9.
(admissions@mie.ie). Telephone: (01) 8057742.
Website: <https://www.mie.ie/en/>.

A limited number of places will be available on these programmes and successful applicants will be selected by way of competition (see Appendix 2 and 3). 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.

Marino Institute of Education intends to offer one stream on its 2026-2028 PME entirely through the medium of Irish. This option will be of particular interest to those who wish to teach in a Gaelscoil or a Gaeltacht school. Further details about this intended option are available from admissions@mie.ie.

1. Eligibility Criteria

There are two key stages in the application process as set out in this document.

Applicants will be required to provide documentary evidence to their chosen higher education institution of meeting the requirements at (a), (b) and (c) below, as follows.

(a) Oral Irish Examination

All prospective applicants must have **completed** the oral component of **one** of the listed TEG oral examinations and achieved the relevant grade **prior** to the closing date for applications in their chosen Higher Education Institution to satisfy the entry requirements.

- (a) Applicants must achieve 65% or higher on the oral component of the Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) Meánleibhéal 1 (B1) Irish examination, prior to the closing date for applications to satisfy the entry requirements or
- (b) Currently hold a valid certificate in either Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) Meánleibhéal 2 (B2) or Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) Ardleibhéal (C1) Irish examination having achieved a pass grade or higher. A pass grade in the B2 exam is 50% and a pass grade in the C1 exam is 60%.

A successful result in the TEG examination will be valid for two years before the test needs to be retaken.

All candidates must apply separately to do the TEG oral Irish exam, which is administered by the Centre for Irish Language Research, Teaching and Testing in Maynooth University.

Registration is now open for the TEG (B1) Oral examination and the closing date for submitting TEG online applications is **Friday 2 January 2026**. You can register for this examination at: [Register for a TEG exam](#)

The Oral Irish Examination will comprise:-

- conversation on everyday topics, giving information and expressing opinions;
- role play on a given scenario, asking for information, giving information and expressing opinions;
- telling a simple story, describing what is happening in a series of pictures.

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

See [Meánleibhéal 1 \(B1\)](#) for further information.

AND

(b) Minimum Entry Requirements in Irish, English and Math.

One of the following sets of second level qualifications:

(i) in the Leaving Certificate Examination

Subject	Irish	Mathematics	English
Minimum Grade	H4	H7 or O4	H7 or O4
% Mark	60%< 70%	30%<40% or 60%<70%	30%<40% or 60%<70%

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.

Alternatives to a second-level qualification in Irish, English or Maths

A Pass in a University *First Arts* Examination in Irish, English or Mathematics as deemed appropriate by the Higher Education Institution(s) will be accepted in lieu of the Leaving Certificate Examination or GCE/GCSE requirement for the relevant subject.

Alternatives to a second-level qualification in Irish

- Grade C obtained in the Matriculation Examination (which existed up to 1992)

- Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge, Level C1, UG
- Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge, Level B2, UG
- Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge, Maynooth University
- Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) at Level B2, Maynooth University
- Diploma in Arts (Applied Irish), University College Cork
- Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge Fheidhmeach, UCD
- Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge (An Ghaeilge sa Saol Comhaimseartha), University of Limerick
- Diploma in Irish at the University of Ulster

Alternatives to a second-level qualification in Mathematics

- A Pass grade obtained in Mathematics in the Matriculation Examination (which existed up to 1992).
- A merit grade (65-79%) or distinction grade (80-100%) obtained in QQI Level 5 Mathematics Course (5N 1833).

Candidates must provide documentary evidence (transcript of results) to their chosen higher education institution of meeting the minimum entry requirements or an approved alternative by **10 July 2026**.

AND ALSO

(c) Academic Qualification

Applicants must possess:

- **Minimum H2.2 Honours Bachelor Degree** (Major Award at Level 8 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications) which has an ECTS credit weighting of at least 180 credits.

Applicants must provide evidence to their chosen Higher Education Institution that their degree is placed as a major award at the appropriate level on the National Framework of Qualifications in advance of the closing date for applications in their chosen Higher Education Institution(s).

Prospective students for the Irish-medium stream on the PME programme in Marino Institute of Education

In addition to the minimum entry and academic requirements in 1 (b) and 1 (c) above, all prospective applicants to the Irish-medium stream must have **completed** the full exam in relation to **one** of the listed TEG examinations below and achieved the relevant grade **prior** to the closing date for applications in their chosen Higher Education Institution to satisfy the entry requirements.

- Applicants must achieve (65%+) on the **full Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) Level B1 exam (oral, aural and written components)**. The full B1 TEG results must be submitted by 10 April

2026 (<https://www.teg.ie/exam-levels/me%C3%A1nleibh%C3%A9al-1-b1.309.html>).

or

(b) Currently hold a valid certificate in the **full Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) Meánleibhéal 2 (B2) or Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) Ardleibhéal (C1) Irish examination (oral, aural and written components)** having achieved a pass grade or higher. A pass grade in the B2 exam is 50% and a pass grade in the C1 exam is 60%.

A successful result in the TEG examination will be valid for two years before the test needs to be retaken.

All candidates must apply separately to do the TEG Irish exam, which is administered by the Centre for Irish Language Research, Teaching and Testing in Maynooth University.

Applications for the full TEG (B1) examination will be available in January 2026. You can register for this examination at: [Register for a TEG exam](#)

2. Application and selection process

All relevant information in relation to the application and selection process is available on the Higher Education Institutions' websites.

Please refer to your chosen Higher Education Institution's website for details of the application and selection process including the closing date for applications.

The closing date for receipt of applications for the four HEIs listed above is Friday 10 April 2026.

3. General Information

1.Tréimshe Foghlama sa Ghaeltacht (Gaeltacht Learning Period):

All students who gain entry to the PME programme are required to complete two placements in the Gaeltacht. Each placement will be of two weeks' duration. This is a compulsory part of the programme and must be completed by all primary initial teacher education students.

A grant is payable by the Department of Education and Youth for students' attendance on the Tréimshe Foghlama sa Ghaeltacht (Gaeltacht Learning Period).

In order to avail of this grant, students must be attending one of the following four State-funded providers of primary Initial Teacher Education: -

- DCU
- Mary Immaculate College
- Marino Institute of Education
- Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University

2. Student Grants:

SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) is Ireland's single national awarding authority for all higher and further education grants. Further information regarding the Student Grant Scheme for the academic year 2026/2027 will be available in coming months on the SUSI website at <https://www.susi.ie/>

3. 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 they have 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:* Incoming teacher education students may be 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 significant 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 have 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

Appendix 2

As highlighted above, a limited number of places will be available on these programmes and successful applicants will be selected by way of competition. The application process will depend upon the higher education institute to which you are applying, for example:

Dublin City University, Mary Immaculate College and Froebel Department Maynooth will employ a Points' Scoring System, in place of an interview-based process. Within the Points' Scoring System, points will be allocated for

- performance in an eligible honour Bachelor Degree at level 8 or higher, and
- additional relevant academic qualifications if any
- relevant professional experience if any
- relevant voluntary experience if any

Those who have not yet completed their degree at the time of applying are evaluated on the examination results of the most recently completed academic year (not ERASMUS or equivalent).

For further details on scoring systems please contact individual HEIs.

Appendix 3

The selection criteria for candidates undertaking the interviews in Marino Institute of Education are:

Suitability to teach (20%); motivation (15%); interpersonal skills (20%); communication ability (20%); relevant talents and aptitudes (10%) ; evidence of leadership and initiative (10%); and relevant experience (5%).