

## Press Release

**27 March 2023**

### **Minister Foley announces 30 extra spaces on the Bachelor in Education Through the Medium of Irish degree in Marino Institute of Education**

The Minister for Education, Norma Foley T.D., today announced that there would be 30 additional spaces available on the primary teaching programme, The Bachelor of Education Through the Medium of Irish (B.Oid.) this year. This announcement comes with the confirmation of 610 additional places on initial teacher education (ITE) programmes over a two-year period.

Having begun just four short years ago, 60 students will be welcomed into their first year on the B.Oid. degree in September 2023. The students on this degree programme come from Gaelcholáistí, from Gaeltacht post-primary schools and from post-primary schools where Irish is a second language. The degree will see its first cohort of graduates applying for teaching jobs this summer.

The Minister's announcement signals another big step for the programme at Marino Education Institute and for the All-Irish education sector. The Bachelor's degree in Education through the medium of Irish was a result of The Gaeltacht Education Policy 2017-2022 in an effort to address the shortage of teachers with a high standard of Irish, in Gaeltacht schools in particular.

The B.Oid. degree has a range of opportunities and benefits for students including an initial bursary of €1,000 given to students upon beginning their degree to help with accommodation or travel costs. In addition to this, Gaeltacht students can apply for a discount of €2,590 on campus accommodation under the MIE Accommodation Scheme.

Referring to the Minister's announcement, Marino Institute of Education's President, Professor Teresa O'Doherty said that, "Marino Institute of Education's community is delighted that the Bachelor of Education Through the Medium of Irish programme is increasing and in doing so, allows those who want to undertake primary teaching through the medium of Irish more opportunities to do so. We are very proud of our students and their teaching and language journey and we know that our graduates will contribute greatly to education through the medium of Irish and to the Irish language community in the future."

Students interested in the degree will have one final opportunity in May 2023 to sit the TEG B1 exam, a requirement of the degree. The deadline to register for this exam is the 20 April 2023.