

## DC905 - Professional Master of Education (PME)

### Points - Scoring System

The basic requirement for entry is an eligible level 8 primary degree on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or its equivalent, as defined [here](#). 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**).

In the case of degree courses assessed by Grade Point Average (GPA), the most recent cumulative grade point average figure will be the relevant one.

Applicants can be made a conditional offer on them being successful in their final degree examination. Applicants who hold an eligible primary degree at the time of application are evaluated on their level 8 degree results. Points will be awarded based on,

1. Performance in an eligible level 8 primary degree and
2. Additional relevant academic qualifications if any
3. Relevant professional experience if any

#### **Points for Academic Performances**

Points are based on the overall percentage mark obtained in the appropriate examination as confirmed by the applicant's university or awarding body, or as determined by DCU Admissions based on information received. In the case of awards other than NUI awards, equivalences will be calculated.

If you are a final year applicant and you have not received your final year results, please enter your previous years percentage marks in the PME Additional Questionnaire. Please see example below on how to calculate your percentage marks.

DCU Admissions reserves the right to make such determinations, judgements, and calculations which it feels appropriate, based on the information in its possession, in assigning points to academic performance results, additional qualifications and professional experience.

**Note:** In DCU, overall percentage marks are not provided on Transcripts. To calculate your overall percentage mark, please apply the following calculation: Multiply the mark awarded for each module by the corresponding ECTS credits to determine a weighed value. Total the weighed values together and divide by the total number of credits for that academic year.

Please refer to the example below for clarification:

Module	Mark Awarded	ECTS	Credits	Weighted Value
ESXXX	55	5	275	
ESXXX	46	5	230	
ESXXX	53	5	265	
ESXXX	64	5	320	
ESXXX	45	10	450	
ESXXX	53	5	265	
ESXXX	46	5	230	
ESXXX	57	5	285	
ESXXX	60	10	600	
ESXXX	60	5	300	
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>3220</b>	

Divide the total weighted value (3220) by the total ECTS credits (60) = Overall percentage mark of 53.6.

### **Points for Undergraduate & Primary Degree Performance**

PERCENTAGE MARK RANGE		GPA RANGE		QCA Range		DCU PME POINTS	
Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Degrees where honours are available	Degrees where honours are not available
78.00	100.00	4.18	1.30	3.88	4.00	51	45
76.00	77.99	4.06	4.17	3.76	3.87	50	44
74.00	75.99	3.94	4.05	3.64	3.75	49	43
72.00	73.99	3.82	3.93	3.52	3.63	48	42
70.00	71.99	3.70	3.81	3.40	3.51	47	41
68.00	69.99	3.58	3.69	3.32	3.39	46	40
66.00	67.99	3.46	3.57	3.24	3.31	45	39
64.00	65.99	3.34	3.45	3.16	3.23	44	38
62.00	63.99	3.22	3.33	3.08	3.15	43	37
60.00	61.99	3.10	3.21	3.00	3.07	42	36
58.00	59.99	2.98	3.09	2.92	2.99	41	35
56.00	57.99	2.86	2.97	2.84	2.91	40	34
54.00	55.99	2.74	2.85	2.76	2.83	39	33
52.00	53.99	2.62	2.73	2.68	2.75	38	32
50.00	51.99	2.50	2.61	2.60	2.67	37	31
48.00	49.99	2.38	2.49	2.48	2.59	36	30
46.00	47.99	2.26	2.37	2.36	2.47	35	29
44.00	45.99	2.14	2.25	2.24	2.35	34	28
42.00	43.99	2.02	2.13	2.12	2.23	33	27
40.00	41.99	1.90	2.01	2.00	2.11	32	26

### Sample Calculations based on the above points table.

1. Student A received 63% in subject X and 52% in subject Y. Both subjects were in an eligible level 8 degree for which an honours award is available. Student A's overall percentage mark is  $(63 + 52) / 2 = 57.50\%$  which is equivalent to 40 points.
2. Student B received 63% in subject X and 52% in subject Y. Both subjects were in an eligible level 8 degree for which an honours award is NOT available. Student B's overall percentage mark is  $(63 + 52) / 2 = 57.50\%$  which is equivalent to 34 points.
3. Student C has taken a two-subject eligible level 8 degree, one subject 'T' for which honours is available and the second subject 'U' for which honours is not available. Student C received 58% in the honours subject 'T' and 54% in pass subject 'U'. To calculate an overall points score for Student C, the 58% honours component is converted to the equivalent in points (i.e. 41 pts). Then the 54% pass component is converted to the equivalent in points (i.e. 33 pts). Both points values are then added and divided by 2 to attain an average points score (i.e.  $41\text{pts} + 33\text{pts} = 74\text{pts} / 2 = 37\text{ points}$ ).
4. Student D has taken an honours level 8 degree programme made up of a number of modules/courses. Student D's overall percentage mark is 64.32%, which is equivalent to 44 points.
5. Student E has taken a pass level 8 degree programme made up of a number of modules/courses. Student E's overall percentage mark is 64.32%, which is equivalent to 38 points.

#### Note:

- This sample does NOT apply to the Single Honours Level 8 Degree from University College Cork (1989 - 1999).
- In those cases where information is made available concerning honours/pass designation at modular level, weighted average points scores will be calculated.

### Points for Additional Qualifications

Points for Additional Postgraduate Qualifications	
Qualifications	Points
PhD.	10
Master's Degree	6
Higher / Graduate Diploma	3
Higher Certificate	1

Points for Additional Relevant Qualifications	
Qualifications	Points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Primary Degree	4
Diploma	2
Certificate	1

Qualifications which form a subsidiary part of a higher qualification are not awarded points and level 7 as part of a level 8 award e.g., a National Diploma as part of a Degree Programme.

All additional qualifications being submitted for assessment purposes must be awarded prior to 01<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

### **Points for Relevant Professional Experience**

- Up to five points may be awarded in recognition of full-time paid employment which is deemed relevant, and which can be verified. Points will normally be awarded based on one point for year of relevant experience, up to the maximum of five points.
- Up to two additional points may be awarded in recognition of part-time paid employment which is deemed relevant, and which can be verified. Points will normally be awarded based on one point for year of relevant experience, up to the maximum of two points.

Applicants for the PME may have professional experience related to their proposed teaching subjects, or professional experience in working with young people. In recognition of the value of these experiences, some additional points can be awarded. **However, to ensure verifiability, points can only be awarded for paid employment which can be verified through appropriate documentation.** To claim additional points, you will normally need to provide a letter from your employer showing the start and end dates, the salary, and the description of the role, and you should be prepared to provide tax records to support this if required.

Points are only awarded for professional experience which is deemed relevant. The two main categories of experience which are considered relevant are;

- (a) experience of professional work (normally at graduate level) related to the teaching subject, and
- (b) experience of working with young people in a role sufficiently related to teaching. In each case the experience must be over a sustained period and must be of a sufficiently high level to merit the allocation of additional points.

Points are awarded in two categories:

- Full-time paid professional experience. If the experience is deemed relevant, one point is awarded per year of employment, up to a maximum of 5 points.
- Part-time paid professional experience. If the experience is deemed relevant, one point is awarded per year of employment, up to a maximum of 2 points.

Students may make a claim for points in either or both categories and may be awarded up to a maximum of 7 points in total.

Please note that:

1. Points cannot be awarded where the information provided is ambiguous or incomplete.
2. Points awarded for professional experience are entirely at the discretion of the DCU Admissions team.
3. Points are not awarded for teaching in a second-level school while unqualified.


	Normally accepted for points purposes	Not accepted
<b>In education</b>	Full time teaching in a school in another country. Working as a full-time special needs assistant. Working as a full-time classroom assistant. Full time teaching in a third level or FE college.	Working in a non-contact role in a school, such as school caretaker.
<b>In working with young people</b>	Full time employment as a sports coach. Full time employment as a youth organiser. Full time employment as a social worker. Full time employment in a nursery/care setting with children.	Working as a personal trainer.
<b>Related to the teaching subject Normally professional work related to the degree subject, at graduate level</b>	Employment as an Accountant (for Business Studies teachers) Employment as a translator (for language teachers) Employment as a laboratory scientist (for science teachers).	Working in employment not requiring graduate level skills (e.g., serving in a bar, or restaurant). Working in an area not related to the teaching subject (e.g. a history graduate working in an administrative post and seeking to teach history).

**Note:**

Full-time employment is taken to mean full time hours. Continuous employment for at least 9 months is required to claim points for one year.

Part-time can be considered if either;

- (a) Part-time throughout the year, or
- (b) Full-time for a period of three months (e.g. summer employment).



**Recommendation request must be supplied from employer certifying the dates, nature of employment, and salary**

**OR**

**A recommendation request from employer must be supplied to verify work experience being claimed for points purposes.**

Note: DCU may seek tax records as further verification of employment.