



Support for students with dyslexia taking Gaeilge and other modules on Institute of Education programmes

The principle of making allowances for someone with particular assessed learning difficulties applies equally to English and Irish. Apart from some specific issues outlined below, we would expect students on early childhood, primary, post-primary and further education programmes to be granted the same accommodations as other programmes. In a professional context, educators with dyslexia would have access to and be expected to avail of technologies to overcome any spelling difficulties.

In relation to Irish, students on the BEd and Professional Master of Education Primary (PMEP) programmes, take two types of module in Irish - language skills modules and language methodology modules. **A spelling and grammar waiver can apply to examinations in most aspects of those modules with the exception of the assessment of grammatical items as teachers need to be able to display mastery of these areas in order to teach them in the classroom.** These aspects of Irish would be assessed as part of language skills modules.

In the case of **language methodology modules**, the focus in these models is on approaches to teaching Irish to pupils in classroom settings. Students with or without dyslexia would be expected and encouraged when on School Placement or completing assignments to make use of tools such as Gaelspell to ensure that their spelling is correct in classroom materials. Where a student with dyslexia is answering examination questions on a computer, having access to Gaelspell, spell-checking software, would not be a problem provided similar accommodations would be made for examinations in English. In a situation where such a student was being assisted by a scribe, one would expect the scribe to spell correctly the words dictated by a student as would happen for examinations in English.

In the **language skills modules** where specific grammar-based questions/tasks in the Irish language are being assessed in examinations, access to technologies such as Gaelspell would unfairly disadvantage other students and that would not be acceptable. In such circumstances, the lecturer assessing the script could be alerted that a student has been assessed as having dyslexia and could take that into account in relevant sections of the answers. A system of inserting a coloured sheet where a student has received approved accommodations should be implemented. Language skills modules can be identified, in general, by an FN code as they are taught by Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge.