



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



An Roinn Oideachais  
agus Scileanna  
Department of  
Education and Skills

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**AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS AGUS SCILEANNA**

**RIACHTANAIS IONTRÁLA DO CHÚRSAÍ OIDEACHAIS  
MAR MHÚINTEOIR BUNSCOILE 2020**

**COMÓRTAS DO SCOLÁIRÍ LÁNFHÁSTA**

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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS**

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR INITIAL TEACHER  
EDUCATION COURSES FOR PRIMARY TEACHERS  
2020**

**MATURE STUDENTS' COMPETITION**

## 1. Application for admission to a Bachelor of Education Degree Programme as a mature candidate

A four-year full-time course leading to a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) Degree awarded by the following Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for primary teachers:

- Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9
- Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road, Limerick
- DCU Institute of Education, DCU St Patrick's Campus, Drumcondra , Dublin 9
- Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co Kildare

(Contact details for the Higher Education Institutions are set out at *Appendix 1*)

Applications are made through the Central Applications Office (CAO) by 1st February 2020. Mature applicants must not be less than 23 years of age on 1 January of the year of entry (1 January 2020 for entry in autumn 2020)

Persons who successfully complete this course may be registered with the Teaching Council under Route 1: Primary. Link to Website: <https://www.teachingcouncil.ie>.

## 2. Minimum Academic Requirements 2020 – Leaving Certificate Examination

### (a) Minimum grades required in essential subjects

Subject	Irish	Mathematics	English
Minimum Grade <sup>1</sup>	H4	H7 or O4	H7 or O4
% Mark	60% < 70%	30% < 40% 60% < 70%	or 30% < 40% or 60% < 70%

H – Higher Level

O – Ordinary Level

### (b) General grades required in the leaving certificate.

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix 3 for equivalent grades in pre-2017 marking scheme

In parallel with meeting the minimum grades required in Irish, English and Mathematics, students must have achieved the following grades across their overall results.

- Grade H5 (50%<60%) on a Higher Level paper in not less than three subjects
- Grade O6 (40%<50% Ordinary Level) or H7 (30%<40% Higher Level) in three other subjects in accordance with the Rules and Programme for Secondary Schools.

The grades and % marks in the 1992-2016 grading scheme and the new 2017 scheme are set out at Appendix 3

### **Combination of results in different Leaving Certificate Examinations**

Applicants may combine results obtained at the Leaving Certificate Examination in different years for the purpose of meeting the academic requirements.

### **Acceptable alternatives to a second-level qualification in Irish, English or Mathematics**

A Pass in a University *First Arts* Examination in Irish, English or Mathematics will be accepted in lieu of the Leaving Certificate Examination or GCE/GCSE requirement for the relevant subject.

### **Acceptable alternatives to a second-level qualification in Irish**

- Grade C obtained in the Matriculation Examination (which existed up to 1992)
- Diplóma sa Ghaeilge, Level C1, NUIG
- Diplóma sa Ghaeilge, Level B2, NUIG
- Diplóma sa Ghaeilge, Maynooth University
- Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) at Level B2, Maynooth University
- Diploma in Arts (Applied Irish), University College Cork
- Diplóma sa Ghaeilge Fheidhmeach, UCD
- Diplóma sa Ghaeilge (An Ghaeilge sa Saol Comhaimseartha), University of Limerick
- Diploma in Irish at the University of Ulster

### **Acceptable 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).

The minimum academic requirements for **GC(S)E and GCE A Level and AS Level Examinations** are set out in Appendix 2.

### **3. Selection Process**

Once applicants have satisfied the minimum academic requirements, selection is on the basis of a competitive General Interview and a competitive Oral Irish Examination. The CAO will e-mail eligible applicants with a link to the supplementary application form and instructions regarding other necessary steps. The CAO will include applicants who have indicated that they are taking a Leaving Certificate/GC(S)E in 2020 as ‘provisionally eligible’ on the basis that their actual Leaving Certificate results will be unknown until August.

The closing date for the return of the completed supplementary application form and attachments to the Institution(s) is **5.15p.m. on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.**

The results of these tests will be graded and allocated points as follows:

Interview	<b>Total Marks Available</b>	<b>Pass Mark</b>
	100 Marks	40 Marks
Oral Irish Examination	<b>Total Marks Available</b>	<b>Pass Mark</b>
	40 Marks	16 Marks

Applicants who have failed the General Interview on two previous occasions are not eligible for the competition. Part of the General Interview may be conducted in Irish.

Information on the General Interview and Oral Irish Examination is available from the Higher Education Institutions.

Applicants who get a "fail" grade in either the General Interview or the Oral Irish Examination are eliminated from the competition. The remaining applicants are placed in an order of merit determined by the results of the General Interview and Oral Irish Examination combined.

There are two separate order of merit lists – one common list for Dublin City University, Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University and Marino Institute of Education and a separate list for Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

Where two or more applicants obtain the same points, their placement on the order of merit will be determined by random selection.

Each Institution will fill its places by reference to the relevant order of merit list and offers are made through the CAO using the normal allocation process, working down through the applicant's preferences to find the highest preference for which the applicant is entitled to receive an offer, if any.

Some high merit applicants will be made offers through the CAO in early July (Round A). The remaining applicants including those awaiting 2020 examination results may be made offers through the CAO in Mid- August (Round 1). If necessary, offers may be made in subsequent rounds. Please note that any offer will be subject to fulfilling the minimum entry requirements. An offer by one of the Institutions listed above is subject to the applicant not receiving a higher offer from a Higher Education Institution through the CAO for another course.

Successful applicants who accept places are required to enter the Higher Education Institutions in autumn (actual dates available from the individual Institutions). In special circumstances, at the discretion of the Higher Education Institution authorities, the date of entry may be deferred for a limited period.

#### **4. Additional Information**

##### **Proficiency in Irish language:**

**1. Gaeltacht Course – Attendance and Cost:** All primary initial teacher education (ITE) students are required to attend residential courses (2 x 2 weeks course) in the Gaeltacht. It should be noted that this is a *compulsory* part of the course. The Department of Education and Skills will be

restoring the Gaeltacht grant for students on State funded Initial Teacher Education programmes with effect from the academic year 2020/21.

**2. Oral Irish Test:** In addition, applicants should note that students will be subject to an oral Irish test at the end of their first year of initial teacher education, and must pass this test in order to continue to the second year of the course. Students who fail this oral Irish test may, at the discretion of the Higher Education Institution, be allowed to repeat the test.

### **3. Student Grants:**

SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) is Ireland's single national awarding authority for all higher and further education grants. Students are advised to submit a fully completed online grant application to SUSI so that their eligibility for grant assistance can be assessed. It is anticipated that the 2020/21 Scheme will open for applications in April 2020. Further information regarding the Student Grant Scheme is available on the SUSI website at [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie).

### **4. Fitness to Practise:**

1. *Garda Vetting:* Before a Higher Education Institution can complete a student registration, the Higher Education Institution requires that all incoming teacher education students are required to 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 Institution which decides whether the student can continue with his/her programme of study.

2. *Medical Requirements:* Some Higher Education Institutions require that all incoming teacher education students complete a medical information form, indicating whether they have any significant ongoing illnesses or disabilities which might adversely impact their capacity to meet the requirements of the course, 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 possess a particular condition or disability if it is deemed likely that it would be possible for that person to fulfil the requirements of the course with reasonable accommodation(s). The Higher Education Institutions will advise students as to the procedure to be followed in this regard.

## **5. Marino Institute of Education - Bachelor in Education through the Medium of Irish (Primary Teaching)**

The Bachelor of Education through the Medium of Irish (Primary Teaching) course at Marino Institute of Education is a 4-year initial teacher education programme through the medium of Irish which commenced in September 2019. This course forms part of the implementation of the Policy on Gaeltacht Education 2017-2022.

Applications are invited from mature students for the above programme (CAO course codes: CM003/CM004). The minimum entry requirements for this course include a H3 in Leaving Certificate Irish. In addition to the minimum entry requirements, candidates must also achieve 50% or higher in the Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) Level B1 examination. Candidates who have not already done so should apply for this examination by 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 ([www.teg.ie/oid](http://www.teg.ie/oid)). Applicants will also be required to complete a Mature Student Supplementary Information Form and return it directly to the Admissions Office, Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9 by 5.00pm Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Eligible candidates will be required to undertake a general interview and an Irish Oral test and will be selected on a competitive basis. Full details regarding this course are available online at [www.mie.ie/oid](http://www.mie.ie/oid).

## **Appendix 1**

### **Higher Education Institutions – Contact Details**

**Marino Institute of Education**

Griffith Avenue

Dublin 9

**Telephone:** (01) 805 7742

**Email:** [admissions@mie.ie](mailto:admissions@mie.ie)

**Website:** [www.mie.ie](http://www.mie.ie)

**Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education**

Maynooth University

Maynooth, Co. Kildare

**Telephone:** (01) 708 3822

**Email:** [admissions@mu.ie](mailto:admissions@mu.ie)

**Website:** [www.maynoothuniversity.ie](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie)

**Mary Immaculate College**

South Circular Road

Limerick

**Telephone:** (061) 204 300

**Email:** [admissions@mic.ul.ie](mailto:admissions@mic.ul.ie)

**Website:** [www.mic.ul.ie](http://www.mic.ul.ie)

**DCU Institute of Education**

DCU St Patrick's Campus

Drumcondra,

Dublin 9

**Telephone:** (01) 8842212

**Email:** [ioe@dcu.ie](mailto:ioe@dcu.ie)

**Website:** [www.dcu.ie](http://www.dcu.ie)



## **Appendix 2**

### **Minimum Qualifications in GC(S)E and GCE AS and A Level Examinations for admission to the Bachelor of Education Degree Course**

#### **General**

- Six subjects must be presented, at least three subjects at GCE A Level and the remaining subjects at GCE AS or GC(S)E level. The six subjects must include Irish, English and Mathematics.
- A subject may be counted from only one of the examinations, GC(S)E, GCE AS Level or GCE A Level.
- Only subjects taken at one sitting of a particular examination, GC(S)E, GCE AS Level or GCE A Level, will be accepted. Examinations taken in the same academic year are regarded as the same sitting.

#### **Specific requirements in Irish, English & Mathematics.**

- Grade C at GCE A level in at least three subjects, including Irish
- Grade C at GC(S)E Level in both English and English Literature, or Grade B at GC(S)E Level in either English and English Literature.
- Grade D at GC(S)E Level in Additional Mathematics or Grade C at GC(S)E Level in Mathematics
- Grade C in one other subject at GC(S)E level

Applicants must satisfy the matriculation requirements of the University to which the Higher Education Institution is affiliated.

### Appendix 3

#### 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