

DC905 – Professional Master of Education – Post Primary

Frequently Asked Questions

All applications to the programme are managed by Dublin City University via the [DCU Student Application Portal](#) under the code DC905. Please refer to the [DCU website](#) for all queries relating to programme application.

1. How long is the programme?

The programme is two years in duration.

2. Is the programme part-time?

No, the PME (Post-Primary Teaching) is a two-year, full-time, evening delivery programme. Lectures are held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 4-8pm. Additionally some modules and tutorials are delivered online. Furthermore, you are required to spend a minimum of 8 hours per week in a second level school completing teaching and placement related activities.

3. Is my degree recognised for registration as a teacher in post-primary schools?

You need to consult the [Teaching Council's Curricular Subject Registration Requirements](#) to see if your undergraduate qualifications meet the requirements set out by the Teaching Council of Ireland, the professional standards body for teaching in Ireland. As part of the application process, you will need to confirm that your degree complies with these requirements. **We do not pre-assess applications to ascertain if your qualifications meet the Teaching Council's criteria.**

4. How many credits do I need in my undergraduate subject(s) to become a teacher?

The Teaching Council sets the criteria for registration as a teacher of specific subject(s). You must meet the requirements for *at least one curricular subject* to be considered for registration as a teacher, upon completion of the Professional Master of Education (PME). As part of the PME application process you will be asked to complete a [Subject Declaration Form](#) for the subject(s) you wish to be registered to teach. This allows you to match the credits in your degree subject(s) against the Teaching Council's requirements for that curricular subject.

If you are offered a place on the PME, your declaration form, along with transcripts of your undergraduate examination results, will be forwarded to the Teaching Council. The Teaching Council will then confirm if you will be eligible to register as a teacher and which curricular subject(s) will be recorded on the Register of Teachers following successful completion of the PME. Please note DCU does not assess your Subject Declaration forms. These are assessed by the Teaching Council.

If you are unsure if your undergraduate degree meets these requirements, please check with the institution where you completed your undergraduate degree. If you have any

queries in relation to the module names, codes and credits etc., please contact the department(s) where you did your undergraduate degree.

5. What do I do if my degree is not currently recognised by the Teaching Council?

You need to identify and confirm where your credit shortfall exists. You will need to engage in further studies to address these shortfalls. It is up to you to identify the modules you need to complete and to apply to the relevant provider. We do not provide advice on what modules you should complete in order to meet the Teaching Council's Post-Primary Curricular Subject Requirements. If you decide to proceed with the Professional Master of Education without confirming that your qualifications will be recognised for registration with the Teaching Council, DCU will not accept liability.

6. Can I apply for the PME if I have only one subject in my degree?

Yes, your application is considered based on meeting the requirements for one curricular subject.

7. Can I make up a credit shortfall in my second subject while completing the PME?

Yes, it is possible to complete additional modules while registered as a full-time student on the PME programme. However, modules taken to address a credit shortfall are classified as stand-alone modules and are entirely separate from the PME programme. It is up to you to identify the credit shortfall, select the module(s) that will provide you with the relevant credits and apply to the relevant provider. We do not provide advice on what modules you should complete in order to meet the Teaching Council's Post-Primary Curricular Subject Requirements. There may be a limit to the number of stand-alone modules you can take in any one academic session, in addition to a full-time programme.

8. (a) What is a Subject Specialism?

Registered teachers must be qualified to teach *at least one subject from the post-primary school curriculum*. Subject Specialisms provide methodological and pedagogical support on how to teach your subject(s).

(b) What Subject Specialisms do you offer?

A full list of Subject Specialisms available as part of the PME in DCU can be viewed [here](#).

(c) If I have two teaching subjects, do I teach one in Year 1 and the other in Year 2, or do I teach both subjects each year?

You can teach one subject in Year 1 and the other subject in Year 2, or you can teach a combination of both subjects in Year 1 and Year 2 depending on the needs of the host school.

(d) What if I want to change my Subject Specialism choices for Year 1 or Year 2?

If you are offered a place on the programme, you will be able to confirm your Subject Specialism selections during the registration process. There will be a further opportunity to review your selection during the Semester 1 Change of Module Period.

9. Do I need to secure a school placement before starting the PME programme?

Yes. If you fail to secure a placement you may not register as a student on the PME programme. Furthermore, you must always maintain a placement to stay on the PME programme. You will have to change placement school in Year 2 of the Programme. You only need to secure your Year 1 placement at the time of application.

10. What are the school placement requirements?

Over the course of two years, all students must complete a minimum of 220 hours (minimum of 4 hours per week) of actual teaching in a post-primary school with students between the ages of 12 and 18 years, with a minimum of 15 students in a class. Students are required to spend at least another 220 hours (approximately 4 hours per week) over two years in placement related activities such as: induction into the school, observing the working school day, extra-curricular activities, classroom observation, department planning, school self-evaluation, school-based continuing professional development (CPD) and any other activities that contribute to the life of the school. Placement takes place every week throughout the entire school year and across all semesters of the programme. This allows the student teacher to gain experience of the full life cycle of a school, to plan and implement teaching and learning for an entire school year and to become immersed in the life of the school.

11. What are schools being asked to do when hosting a DCU PME student?

Schools are asked to offer students the opportunity to teach subjects from the second level curriculum for a minimum of 4 hours per week. Provide PME students with classes that contain a minimum of 15 students. Assign one or more mentor teachers to support the student teacher during their placement. Facilitate a period of systematic observation at the start of the school year. Facilitate the student teacher's participation in non-teaching activities and encourage them to become involved in the life of the school (approximately 4 hours per week). **Agree a placement timetable that will allow the PME student to attend lectures in DCU commencing at 4pm on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.**

12. Does the placement school need to be within a certain radius of DCU?

Currently we do not operate a radius limit on the PME programme. However, students need to be able to attend lectures which begin at 4pm on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The PME programme is a masters level programme and has a heavy workload. The intense nature of the programme should be considered when factoring in travel time to the university.

13. I want to register as a teacher of Irish or a curricular language. Do I need to complete my Immersive Educational Experience prior to applying for the PME?

Applicants wishing to register with Irish or a curricular language should provide verifiable evidence of an immersive educational experience in the language. The immersive experience must be for a minimum of 4 weeks duration.

The 4 weeks may be completed in either one block of 4 weeks (Option 1), or in two blocks of 2 weeks (Option 2). In Option 2, at least one block (a minimum of 2 weeks) must be in a setting where the language is the vernacular. Either option can be undertaken during the PME. For further information, please see the Teaching Council's [Guidance on Immersive Educational Experience](#).

14. Is a minimum qualification in Irish necessary to apply for the PME?

There is no general requirement to have Irish to obtain a place on the PME. Irish is only a requirement for those who wish to register as teachers of Irish.

15. When does the programme start?

The programme starts in late August each year. Students are required to complete an Induction Programme which runs in advance of the official commencement of the DCU semester. Further information on the induction programme will be provided on successful application to the programme.

16. When are lectures scheduled? Do I need to attend all lectures?

Lectures are held on the DCU St Patrick's Campus Drumcondra on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 4pm to 8pm. Additionally, you are required to complete online modules and online tutorials. Attendance and participation are requirements for each module. Students may be asked to attend additional one-off sessions such as field work studies for Geography etc.

17. What are the fees for the PME programme?

Fees are updated each year. In 2024/25 Fees are:

EU Status Fee: Year 1 €4,800 - Year 2 €5,500

Non-EU Fee: Year 1 €9,900 - Year 2 €9,900

18. How do I get an application form?

There is no application form. All applications are made online at DCU Student Application Portal under the code DC905.