ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION COURSES FOR PRIMARY TEACHERS 2017

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 is held in each of the following Higher Education Institutions 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 2017. Mature applicants must not be less than 23 years of age on 1 January of the year of entry (1 January 2017 for entry in autumn 2017)

Persons who successfully complete this course may be registered with the Teaching Council under Route 1: Primary.


General
- Grade H5 (50%-59%) on a Higher Level paper in not less than three subjects

- Grade O6 (40%-49% Ordinary Level) or H7 (30%-40% Higher Level) in three other subjects in accordance with the Rules and Programme for Secondary Schools

Essential Subjects
Subject | Irish | Mathematics | English
--- | --- | --- | ---
Minimum Grade (new 2017 Scheme) | H5 | H6 or O6 | O5 or H6
% Mark | 50% - 59% | 40% - 49% | 50% - 59% or 40% - 49%

H – Higher Level
O – Ordinary Level

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 for 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/GCE/GCSE requirement for that particular subject.

In the case of Irish, a Grade C in the Matriculation Examination (which existed up to 1992) will also be accepted in lieu of the Leaving Certificate Examination/GCE/GCSE requirement. In addition the following are accepted as satisfying the Leaving Certificate Examination/GCE/GCSE requirement.

- Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge, Maynooth University,
- Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) at Level B2, Maynooth University
- Diploma in Arts (Applied Irish), University College Cork,
- Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge Fheidhmeach, UCD,
- Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge, Level C1, NUIG
- Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge, Level B2, NUIG
- Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge (An Ghaeilge sa Saol Comhaimseartha), University of Limerick
- Diploma in Irish at the University of Ulster,
In the case of Mathematics only, a pass in that subject in the Matriculation Examination (discontinued) will also be accepted in 2016 in lieu of the Leaving Certificate Examination/GC(S)E requirement.

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 2017 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 5.15 p.m. on 5th April 2017.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Total Marks Available</th>
<th>Pass Mark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interview</td>
<td>100 Marks</td>
<td>40 Marks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Irish Examination</td>
<td>40 Marks</td>
<td>16 Marks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, St Patrick’s Campus, Drumcondra; Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University; and Marino Institute of Education and one 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 2017 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 students of primary initial teacher education are required to attend a residential course in the Gaeltacht. It should be noted that this is a compulsory part of the course. From the start of the 2012/13 academic year, the cost of this compulsory course is no longer met by the Department of Education & Skills.
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.

**Student Grants:** A new online only grant application system is in place. Applications are to be made online through the single awarding authority, Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) at [www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie)

**Scholarships:** Easter Week Commemoration Scholarships, Gaeltacht University Scholarships and Irish Language Third Level Scholarships will be replaced with a new single scheme of bursaries based on merit. Details of the new scheme are available from Higher Education - Equity of Access Unit, Department of Education & Skills, Tullamore, Co. Offaly (Telephone: 057932 5317).

**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:** The 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 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.
Appendix 1
Higher Education Institutions – Contact Details

Marino Institute of Education
Griffith Avenue
Dublin 9
Telephone: (01) 805 7752
Email: admissions@mie.ie
Website: www.mie.ie

Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education
Maynooth University
Maynooth, Co. Kildare
Telephone: (01) 708 3822
Email: admissions@nuim.ie
Website: www.maynoothuniversity.ie

Mary Immaculate College
South Circular Road
Limerick
Telephone: (061) 204 300
Email: admissions@mic.ul.ie
Website: www.mic.ul.ie

DCU Institute of Education
DCU St Patrick’s Campus
Drumcondra,
Dublin 9
Telephone: (01) 884 2096
Email: courseinfo@dcu.ie
Website: 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

- 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1992 – 2016 Scheme</th>
<th>% Awarded</th>
<th>New Scheme 2017 onwards</th>
<th>% Awarded 2017 onwards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>H1 / O1</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>85-90</td>
<td>H2 / O2</td>
<td>80-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>80-85</td>
<td>H3 / O3</td>
<td>70-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
<td>75-80</td>
<td>H4 / O4</td>
<td>60-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B3</td>
<td>70-75</td>
<td>H5 / O5</td>
<td>50-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>65-70</td>
<td>H6 / O6</td>
<td>40-50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>60-65</td>
<td>H7 / O7</td>
<td>30-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>55-60</td>
<td>H8 / O8</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>10-25</td>
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