

**DEPARTMENT OF ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION  
MASTERS IN ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

**DURATION: 1 YEAR FULL-TIME    TAUGHT MASTERS (LEVEL 9)    Code: MHA92    CLOSING DATE: 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024**

The **MEd** in Adult and Community Education is particularly suited to those who are seeking ways of understanding the connections between theoretical frameworks and the assumptions that underpin their work practices. This programme will provide the opportunity for participants to:

- Critically reflect on their experience in the field
- Develop the public debate on social justice and critical citizenship
- Have a thorough grounding and an understanding of the background to and influences on research in adult and community education

**COURSE STRUCTURE 90 CREDITS MADE UP AS FOLLOWS**

- AD601: Advanced theories in adult and community education
- AD602: Advanced Gender Studies in Adult and Community Education
- AD603: Power, Politics and Society: Adult Education in Context
- AD604: History of Adult and Community Education
- AD605: Ethical Perspectives on Adult Education
- AD607: Key Concepts in Adult Learning
- AD610: Thesis and Research Completion in Adult and Community Education
- AD611: Research methods in ACE
- AD612: Group Supervision and Reflexive Research

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Candidates must have a primary degree with a minimum grade of 2:1 in one of the social sciences (Adult Education, community work, social care, sociology, political science, economics, psychology, anthropology, education etc.) or have a minimum grade of 2:1 in the Postgraduate Diploma in Adult, Community and Further Education/the Higher Diploma in Further Education. Selection will be based on application, interview and references. Interviews will take place mid-June. The interview will include a discussion of the candidate's proposed research topic. Should we consider late applications, late interviews will take place in August.

Minimum English language requirements: • IELTS: 6.5 minimum overall score, • TOEFL (Paper based test): 585 • TOEFL (Internet based test): 95 • PTE (Pearson): 62, Maynooth University's TOEFL code: 8850

These are the minimum entry requirements and meeting these requirements will not guarantee an offer of entry onto the programme. *Please note: The University may waive these entry conditions in certain cases.*

**HOW TO APPLY ( Closing Date 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024) - please use PAC Code: MHA92**

PAC Online application only <http://www.pac.ie/maynoothuniversity>

The following documents should be uploaded to your online application form:

Certified copies of all official transcripts of results for all non-Maynooth University qualifications listed **MUST** accompany the application. Failure to do so will delay your application being processed. Non-Maynooth University students are asked to provide two academic references and a copy of birth certificate or valid passport.

**CONTACT:**

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**Website:** <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/adult-and-community-education>

**Department of Adult and Community Education, School of Education, Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare**

## DETAILS OF COURSE CONTENT

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### AD601: ADVANCED THEORIES IN ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

**Module Objective:** To provide the opportunity to students to continue to explore theories underpinning the work with adults, in order to develop the students own epistemological stance.

**Module Content:** Critical engagement with the theories and major debates of around the field of adult and community education. The development of own epistemological positioning with regards to the field. Extending the knowledge base of the field through dialogue, writing and scholarly discussion.

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### AD602: ADVANCED GENDER STUDIES IN ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

**Module Objective:** To provide the opportunity to explore feminist theory and theories of masculinities in the context of working with adults in order to develop the students, own epistemological stance.

**Module Content:** Critical engagement with the key concepts in Gender Studies. Analysis of Feminist Theories and theories of Masculinities. Appraisal of the Impact of women's movement on Irish Society. Exploration of the emergence of new gender movements: gay and lesbian studies; gender in new Irish populations.

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### AD603: POWER, POLITICS AND SOCIETY: ADULT EDUCATION IN CONTEXT

**Module Objective:** To provide the opportunity to students to contextualize the work with adults with a wider social perspective.

**Module Content:** This module will engage with the key issues and concepts around power and politics, in the context of work with adults, both contemporary and historical. It will enable the students to critical analyze the sociological debates within academic literature. It will provide the opportunity for students to interrogate their own perspectives on power and politics in the practice of work with adults.

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### AD604: HISTORY OF ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

**Module Objective:** To provide the opportunity to students to contextualize their work with adults with the background of the story of adult education in Ireland and in the wider world.

**Module Content:** This module will provide an account of the origins and development of adult and community education. It will look at the connections and links that this field has with other fields, for example, in applied social studies, in community studies, in equality studies, in labour history and within the women's movement, and within other social movements.

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### AD605: ETHICAL PERSPECTIVES ON ADULT EDUCATION

**Module Objective:** To provide the opportunity to students to develop their own ethical perspectives in their work with adults.

**Module Content:** This module will provide the underpinning theories of ethics in work with adults. It will contextualize these theories with the wider obligations and responsibilities in work with adults. It will provide students with the opportunity to engage with these theories in order to build their own perspectives in order to conduct their research.

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### AD607: KEY CONCEPTS IN ADULT LEARNING

**Module Objective:** To describe the key features of the major schools of learning theory and engage with current debates in the field. Support and develop adult learning

**Module Content:** This module will introduce students to key concepts in adult learning, facilitating critical reflection on the students' own positions, experiences and practice.

Specifically, it will focus on exploring 1. The learning process across the lifespan through different models of learning with a particular focus on current debates and practices surrounding lifelong learning. 2. Key concepts in social perception or how we come to understand other people: non verbal behaviour, causal attribution, culture. 3. Key concepts in reflective practice: how we understand ourselves, self and identity, becoming a reflexive learner, models of reflective practice. 4. Group processes: 'Stages' of group development and the impact of the group on behaviour; group roles, psychological dynamics. 5. Facilitating learning – models of motivation, authentic and transformative leadership.

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### AD610: THESIS AND RESEARCH COMPLETION IN ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

**Module objective:** To provide the opportunity to students to complete a thesis on a topic of their own choosing.

**Module Content:** On completion of this module, students will have completed their research thesis. To this end, they will have completed:(a) Literature review (b)Statement of the issue(s) to be addressed in the MEd thesis (c) identified the sources of data used in the research (d) identified their research approach (e) completed an analysis and findings from their research (f) identified future development, if appropriate

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### AD611: RESEARCH METHODS IN ACE

**Module Objective:** To introduce students to research theories and methods in Adult and Community Education/ Adult Guidance and Counselling and to explore the most appropriate for their own research.

**Module Content:** Students will have the opportunity to develop an understanding of the background to and influences on research in Adult and Community Education/ Adult Guidance and Counselling. They will have the opportunity to explore the roles of different types of research in this field. They will have explored the relationship between theory and practice. Finally, they will have been provided with the knowledge and support to enable them to identify, research and write a research project/thesis.

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### AD612: GROUP SUPERVISION AND REFLEXIVE RESEARCH

**Module objectives:** To provide the students the opportunity to develop their research methodologies and practice and to explore various aspects of research and writing with staff and colleagues in an open and discursive environment.

**Module content:** This module involves exploring critical theoretical and practical issues of research design and implementation. Group seminar sessions will encompass a diversity of topics including: looking at research reports, the importance of considering policy, as well as thinking about critical reading and writing. A significant component of the seminars will involve student input through presentations and group facilitation.