

Careers and  
Employability Service



# Primary Teaching Entry 2024

Natasha Marron  
Careers Adviser



# Primary Teaching - Ireland

## 2 routes

Full-time / College-based course

- **Maynooth University (Froebel Dept.)**
- **Marino Institute of Education**
- **DCU (Drumcondra Campus)**
- **Mary Immaculate College Limerick**

Distance/On-line course

- **Hibernia College**

Both routes fully recognised by Teaching Council

## Entry Requirements (2024)

Minimum 2.2 Honours degree

Leaving Certificate requirements

- **H4 (HC1/HC2)** in Irish
- **O4/H7 (OC1/OC2/HE)** in Maths
- **O4/H7 (OC1/OC2/HE)** in English

# Honours Leaving Cert Irish?

- At least **H4** in honours Irish required
- What if I don't have this?
  - Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (Level B2) – Contact Maynooth University Centre for Irish Studies for details [www.teg.ie](http://www.teg.ie)
  - Re-sit Leaving Cert Honours Irish
  - Teacher Training in the U.K. \*
- See Hibernia College website [www.hiberniacollege.com](http://www.hiberniacollege.com) for details of other alternative qualifications accepted by them

\* Credit shortfalls may apply – contact Teaching Council for further information

# Other LC alternative qualifications

## Alternatives to a second-level qualification in Mathematics

- A merit grade (65-79%) or distinction grade (80-100%) obtained in QQI Level 5 Mathematics Course (5N 1833)
  - ✓ Colleges offering this course can be found by searching on [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) and through various Night course providers
  - ✓ <https://nightschool.ie/maths/>
- A Pass grade obtained in Mathematics in the Matriculation Examination (which existed up to 1992).

# Full-time Course

- College based
  - Froebel Dept, Maynooth University,
  - Marino Institute of Education
  - DCU (formerly St. Patrick's College Drumcondra)
  - Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
- 2 years
- Cannot guarantee that course will run in future years – course sanctioned on a yearly basis
- Further details of entry requirements / course details on universities websites and on our Careers and Employability Service Information Sheets  
<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers/students/information-and-resources#info>

# When can I apply?

- Full-time courses
  - Course usually starts in September
    - Application closing date usually March/April
    - Online Applications
- Hibernia Colleges
  - 2 intakes: September/April
  - See [www.hiberniacollege.com](http://www.hiberniacollege.com) for details of upcoming intakes

# Primary Applications have 2 steps – Full Time Courses

## (i) Irish Oral

- TEG B1 Oral Exam
- Must get at least 65% in this exam
- More details on TEG B1 here  
<https://www.teg.ie/eolas-molta/teg-mgo.958.html>
- Can be useful to sit TEG B1 in 2<sup>nd</sup> year (you can then re-sit in final year if needed)

## (ii) Course Application

- After getting 65% in TEG B1 you can apply for the course
- Closing dates vary - Applications usually close in March (but reopened again May 2024)
- You must have all your results by July in the year you wish to start the course – August repeats mean you can apply the next year
- Applications are online
- You can apply to all 4 courses

# How are places awarded?

## New entry criteria assessment system used for 2024 Entry at MU, DCU and Mary Immaculate College, Limerick

### Points System

- Points are calculated based results from most recent completed year.
- If applying in final year your points are based on your results from the previous year (year abroad is not included)
- If applying after completing your degree, your points are calculated based on degree results.

More information on [MIC Points system here](#)

### Additional points can be claimed for

- **Additional Qualifications** (to be eligible must be awarded by 1<sup>st</sup> March in year of application)
  - ✓ Undergraduate
  - ✓ Postgraduate
- Relevant **Paid/Unpaid Professional** Experience
  - ✓ Related to work with young people/education/your degree subject



# Additional Points – Professional Experience?

Points are awarded in three categories, where experience is deemed relevant:

- **Full-time paid professional experience.**

One point is awarded per year of employment, up to a maximum of 5 points.

- **Part-time paid professional experience.**

One point is awarded per year of employment (min. 100 hours per year), up to a maximum of 2 points.

- **Sustained voluntary work with young people (e.g., weekly) in an organisational context.**

0.5 points is awarded per year of volunteering, up to a maximum of 2 points.

# How are places awarded?

## Marino Institute of– Interview based

- View [Interview criteria here](#)
- Why people do not get places? Interview Performance / Knowledge of the teaching profession /
  - **Not sufficient research into teaching** –
    - **Spend time in a school if possible**
    - Classroom observation
    - Talking with teachers
    - Becoming familiar with curriculum and current issues

# Hibernia College: Professional Master of Education

- 2 intakes per year –  
September and April
- 2 year course
- 24 weeks teaching  
practice (3 blocks)
- Contact Hibernia  
College for application  
form
- Application fee €95
- Personal statement important
- Interview
  - Must demonstrate awareness of  
teaching as a career
  - Classroom observation and other  
experience with young people  
important

# What can you do now?

## Irish

- **Practice your Irish**
- Not possible get a place on the full-time PME Primary course without 65% in TEG B1 Oral Exam
- Consider sitting the TEG exam in 2<sup>nd</sup> year so that you have it completed before final year
- Additional points awarded for higher marks in TEG exam
- Candidates who have passed higher levels of TEG (B2, C1 and C2) receive 10 additional marks.
- Hibernia PME offer alternative Irish Oral as part of their interview process

Exam	Grade	Extra No. of Marks Awarded
TEG B1 Irish Oral	65% to 79%	None
	80% to 89%	5
	90% to 100%	10
TEG B2/C1 Irish Oral	50% or over	10

## Points

- Work hard in Second Year.
- The better your grades in your second-year exams, the better your chances of getting a place
- Consider your grades and your interests when choosing subjects
- Experience working with young people to gain additional points

\*Application procedure and/or use of interview in selection process may be subject to change in future years

### Points for relevant Professional Experience

Up to five points may be awarded in recognition of full-time paid employment which is deemed relevant, and which can be verified. Points will normally be awarded on the basis of one point for year of relevant experience, up to the maximum of five points

Up to two additional points may be awarded in recognition of part-time paid employment which is deemed relevant, and which can be verified. Points will normally be awarded on the basis of one point for year of relevant experience, up to the maximum of two points

Applicants for the PME may have other relevant experience, independent of their academic programme(s), related to working with young people in a voluntary capacity. The experience must be over a sustained period and must be of a sufficiently high level to merit the allocation of additional points. In recognition of the value of these experiences, some additional points can be awarded. To claim additional points, you will normally need to provide a letter from an official of the organisation with whom you volunteered showing the start and end dates, your contribution in terms of time, and a description of the role.

Points are awarded in three categories:

- i. Full-time paid professional experience. If the experience is deemed relevant, one point is awarded per year of employment, up to a maximum of 5 points.
- ii. Part-time paid professional experience. If the experience is deemed relevant, one point is awarded per year of employment (min. 100 hours per year), up to a maximum of 2 points.
- iii. Sustained voluntary work with young people (e.g., weekly) in an organisational context. If the experience is deemed relevant, 1 point is awarded per year of volunteering, up to a maximum of 4 points.

Applicants may make a claim for points in any or all of these categories and may be awarded up to a maximum of 11 points in total.

Please note that:

1. Points cannot be awarded where the supporting information provided is ambiguous or incomplete.
2. The acceptance of points awarded for professional and voluntary experience is entirely at the discretion of the PAC PMed team, representing the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University.
3. Points are not awarded for teaching in a school while unqualified.

## Points for Relevant Experience

- View all points criteria here  
[https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/system/temporary/filefield\\_paths/PMEd%20Froebel%20Department%20Points%20System%202024.pdf](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/system/temporary/filefield_paths/PMEd%20Froebel%20Department%20Points%20System%202024.pdf)

## Examples of relevant professional experience

	Normally accepted for points purposes	Not accepted
In education	Full time teaching in a school in another country. Working as a full-time special needs assistant. Working as a full-time classroom assistant. Full-time teaching in a HE or FE institute or in a centre of education as designated by the Education Act 1998. Teaching in a post-primary school as a qualified teacher.	Working in a non-contact role in a school, such as school caretaker. Working as an unqualified substitute teacher in a school. Paid internship which contributed to an academic qualification.
In working with young people	Verified full-time employment as a sports coach. Verified full-time employment as a youth organiser. Verified full-time employment as a social worker. Verified full-time employment in an early childhood setting. Verified full-time employment as a tutor in the arts (e.g., music, drama, dance).	Working as a personal trainer. Paid internship which contributed to an academic qualification.
In voluntary work with young people	Verified sustained volunteering as a sports coach, arts tutor, youth leader, etc.	Childminding or babysitting.

### Note:

Full time employment is taken to mean full-time hours. Continuous employment for at least 9 months is required to claim points for one year.

Part time can be considered if either

- (i) part time throughout the year (minimum 100 hours), or
- (ii) full time for a period of three months (e.g. summer employment).

### Verification required for paid employment

- Letter from employer certifying the dates, nature of employment, and salary.  
OR
- A completed employer reference form (Blank form available through PAC).

Note: tax records may be requested as further verification of employment.

### Verification required for voluntary work

Letter on headed notepaper from an official of the organisation with whom you volunteered.

## Types of Relevant Experience

- View all points criteria here  
[https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/system/temporary/filefield\\_paths/PMEd%20Froebel%20Department%20Points%20System%202024.pdf](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/system/temporary/filefield_paths/PMEd%20Froebel%20Department%20Points%20System%202024.pdf)

# What can you do now?

Prepare for interview\* – school observation or talking to teachers...

- Find out as much as you can about the primary curriculum
- How are subjects taught at different levels throughout the school?
- How are special educational needs supports provided in the schools?
- How are phonics taught? What is Aisteaír?
- Any recent/upcoming changes to the curriculum? ... Primary Languages curriculum? Well-being initiatives?
- Have a look at all of the courses.
- Check that you meet the entry requirements
- If you don't talk to us / identify how you can get the missing requirements – getting this sorted in 2<sup>nd</sup> year can remove stress in final year.

\*Application procedure and use of interview in selection process may be subject to change in future years

# What can you do now?

Careers – Teaching Pathways – can help to move through all the information in an organized way – Pathways are available on Careers Connect

The screenshot displays the 'Careers Service' interface. At the top, a navigation bar contains icons for Queries, Events, Appointments, Jobs, Forms, and Pathways. A red arrow points to the Pathways icon. Below this, the 'Careers Service' section features four main tiles: 'Ask Us', 'Pathways', 'Book now', and 'News'. A red arrow points to the 'Pathways' tile. Below these tiles, a row of four smaller tiles is visible: 'Careers Service website', 'Resources', 'Future Ready Connect', and another partially visible tile. To the right, an 'Upcoming bookings' section shows a message: 'You don't have any upcoming bookings, have a look at our search pages to see what's available.' Below this, there are three large tiles for 'Primary Teaching', 'Post-Primary Teaching', and 'TEACHERS WANTED'. A red arrow points to the 'Primary Teaching' tile. Below these are two more tiles: 'Build your CV' and 'Getting Started - Career Ideas'.





# Have you used the Careers & Employability Service yet?

- Explore your career options
- Search for jobs and internships
- Research postgrad study options
- Create a professional CV & practice your interview skills
- Attend employer, alumni and career events and workshops
- Open to all students from 1st year to postgraduate – never too early to start!
- Use Careers Connect to engage with us
  - Appointments
  - Send us your Questions
- Drop-in Help-desk (Term-Time) – for quick questions



## CAREERS CONNECT PORTAL

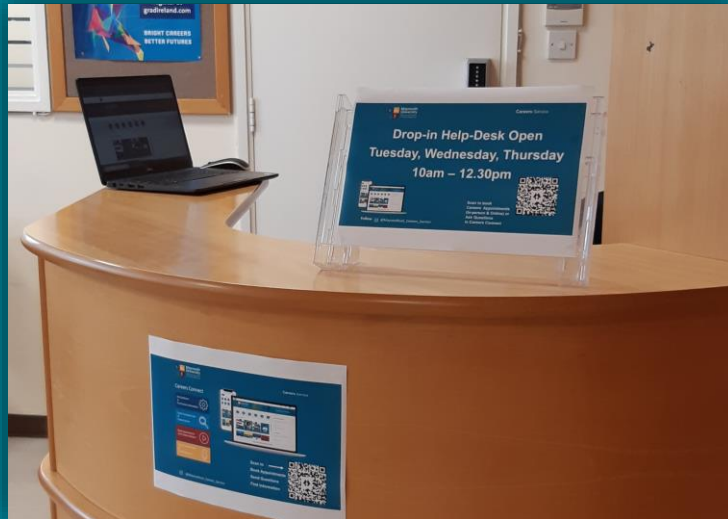


**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

[www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers)

**FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

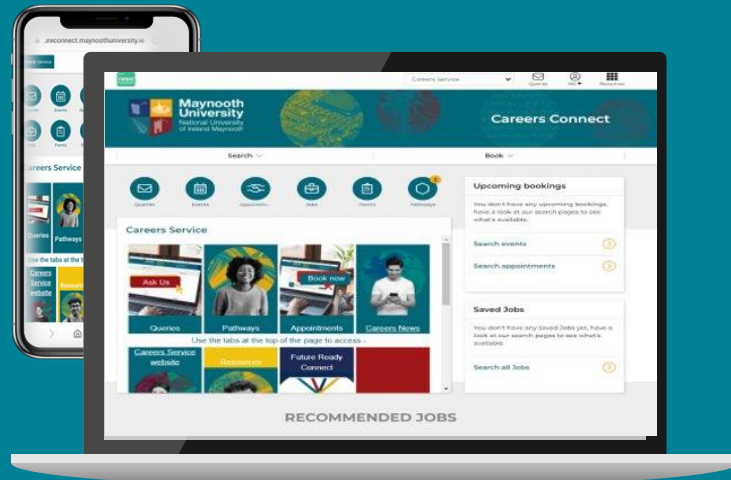




## Careers Help Desk

The Careers Help Desk will be open (Term-Time)

- Tuesday 10.00 am to 12.30 pm.
- Wednesday 10.00 am to 12.30 pm.
- Thursday 10.00 am to 12.30 pm.



## Careers Appointments

- Book through Careers Connect – In-person and Online

**Book appointments and send us your questions  
through Careers Connect (Monday- Friday)**

## Careers Connect

Ask Questions & Find Careers Information



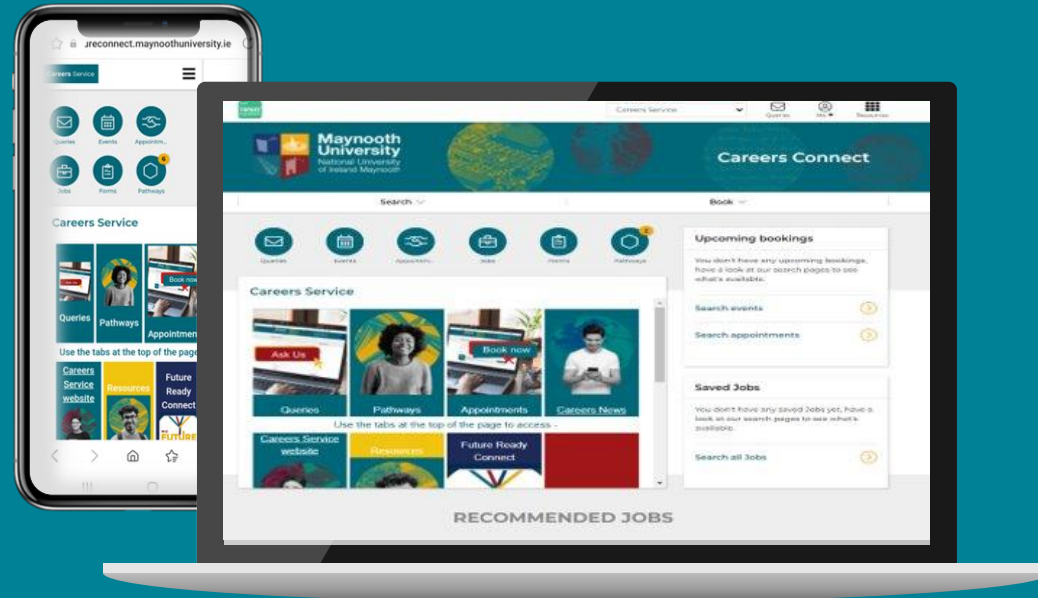
Search Graduate Jobs & Careers Events



Book Appointments with Careers Advisers



Careers Interest Tests & Useful Resources



Find out more – Scan me

