



# THINK ABOUT TEACHING

## Coming Soon

In September 2018 Maynooth University launches a yearlong Foundation Course for Aspiring Teachers. The course aims to diversify the Irish classroom by fostering a culture among students from the **most educationally disadvantaged groups** to consider the teaching profession as a desirable and achievable career option. The yearlong preparation course will support students academically, personally and socially; providing a pathway to degree courses within the Maynooth University in both primary and secondary education.



The programme is targeting students from particular groups for entry onto the Foundation Course, these are individuals considered the most disadvantaged in terms of education experience, they include;

- Individuals from DEIS schools with persistently low rates of progression to Higher Education
- Irish travellers
- Students on a vocational or applied leaving cert track or youth reach
- Individuals living in direct provision
- Lone parents
- Students who are in the care of the state
- Individuals who may be the first in their family to attend university
- Students with significant physical or sensory disabilities
- Individuals who belong to groups that are under-represented in higher education based on their own occupation or employment status of their parents/guardians
- Individuals coming from areas of deep or concentrated economic disadvantage



Formal recruitment for the foundation course will begin in April of 2018 but before then we are asking guidance counselors, education providers, community groups and potential students to share this information sheet and register their interest in the course by emailing the course coordinator, Dr Katriona O'Sullivan at [turn2teaching@mu.ie](mailto:turn2teaching@mu.ie). Or on 01 474 7576.

### Course Details

The foundation course will be a yearlong with contact hours ranging from 12 hours per week to 16 hours per week depending on the type of teaching degree students are interested in pursuing. Students will be asked to decide upon entry whether they would like to do primary teaching or secondary science or secondary social science and arts.

**Primary Teaching:** The students who want to become primary teachers will attend an intensive programme of Irish language competency that results in meeting the national requirement for entry into Initial Primary Teacher Education; this programme includes placements in a gaelscoil and a 2-week stay in a Gaeltacht. Extra supports will be provided for students who have children to facilitate attendance in all activities. Students will also participate in math competency classes as well as a programme of supportive, academic development classes that aim to help student embed within the university. The average contact hours for this programme are 18 hours per week.

**Secondary Science and Math Teaching:** The students who want to become secondary science and math teachers will attend the programme of supportive, academic development classes that aim to help student embed within the university alongside biology, physics, chemistry and advanced math course. The average contact hour for this programme is 14 hours week.

**Secondary History/English Teaching:** The students who want to become secondary arts or social science teachers will attend the programme of supportive, academic development classes which aim to help student embed within the university alongside arts and social science introductory courses. The average contact hour for this programme is 12 hours week.

Students who pass the course at a rate of 60% or more, and meet the Irish and math requirement for their teaching field, will be guaranteed a place in the teaching degree programme of their choice.

Students who decide after the year that teaching is not for them will be offered a progression route into the Arts degree programme in Maynooth University once they meet the 60% pass requirement on the Foundation Course.



## Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **Will I apply through the CAO?**
  - a. Not this will be a direct application to the University
  
2. **Do I need Leaving Certificate Irish**
  - a. No -students will be supported to reach the entry level requirements for primary education through an intensive Irish language programme, this will involve a 2 week intensive summer programme
  
3. **I left school to take up a trade but always wanted to be a teacher- I only completed my inter cert, is this for me?**
  - a. This course is perfect for you, register your interest and we will be in touch
  
4. **What level will the course be accredited at?**
  - a. We are aiming for level 6 but this is currently under consideration
  
5. **What are the entry requirements?**
  - a. High levels of motivation and a demonstrated commitment to education will be the key when we select students for this programme. More information on this will follow soon
  
6. **What are the costs?**
  - a. The course is free and mature students will be entitled to the back to education scheme if they meet the standard requirements
  - b. We are working on trying to find funding for the young adults who will be on the course