

Application Guidelines

Post-primary Teachers

qualified outside the Republic of Ireland



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General Guidelines

1. Eligibility

The PPQA-01 online application form on the My Registration portal should only be completed by teachers who attained their initial teacher education qualification outside the Republic of Ireland, and who are seeking an assessment of their qualifications to register as a post-primary teacher (Route 2).

Fully qualified teachers who have qualified outside of the Republic of Ireland are eligible to apply for registration with the Teaching Council. Applications are processed in line with the EU Directive 2005/36/EC regardless of whether they qualified within or outside the EU. All applications are individually assessed.

A person deemed to be a fully qualified teacher has completed a recognised teacher education qualification and programme of induction in the country in which they qualified and can provide an official letter from the relevant teacher registration body/Competent Authority or Ministry of Education confirming recognition as a fully qualified teacher in the State/country.

In accordance with the EU Directive 2005/36/EC, the qualifications of teachers who qualified outside of the Republic of Ireland are assessed to ensure they are of a comparable standard to those achieved by graduates of accredited programmes in the Republic of Ireland. Where significant differences arise, conditions (qualification shortfalls) will be applied to the teacher's registration.

Post-primary Curricular Subject Requirements

Post-primary applicants must meet the requirements for at least one post-primary curricular subject, in addition to holding the relevant teacher education qualification.

Applicants must consult the [Council's Curricular Subject Requirements](#) before determining which subject(s) to apply for.

Applicants will be registered for the curricular subject(s) for which their qualification(s) meet the requirements in full. If the qualification(s) does not fully meet the requirements for any curricular subject, an applicant may be registered for the subject for which their qualification(s) are closest to meeting the requirements (subject to conditions) as determined by the Council. An application for an additional subject may be made at a later date.

Please note registration can only be finalised on successful completion of the vetting process. Garda Vetting must be applied for via the PPQA-01 online application.

1.1. European Union Applicants

Applicants who completed their teacher education qualification in an EU/EEA country must provide evidence of recognition under the terms of the EU Directive 2005/36/EC. This statement can typically be provided by the Ministry for Education or teacher registration/licencing body and should include the following information:



that full recognition is granted by the said authority as a post-primary school teacher under the terms of the Directive.



the pupil age range for such recognition.



the types of schools in which the applicant is certified to teach.



the specific subjects for which recognition has been granted.

The Directive entitles teachers fully recognised in their home state to avail of qualified teacher status in the host country (Republic of Ireland) and entitles them to apply for Conditional Registration.

The conditionality attached to their registration will be confirmed following an assessment of their qualifications to determine if they are comparable with the domestic registration requirement. If substantial differences are found, the EU Directive allows a maximum period of three years during which applicants are required to address identified shortfalls (compensatory Measures). Failure to address shortfalls within the specified period will result in teachers registration lapsing.

1.2. Rest of World Applicants

Applicants who completed their teacher education outside of the EU/EEA, must provide a licence to teach/statement from the competent authority (Teaching Council equivalent/ Department/Ministry of Education) that they are a fully recognised teacher in the country in which they obtained their qualification including the completion of any statutory period of post-qualification practice/induction.

2. Application Process

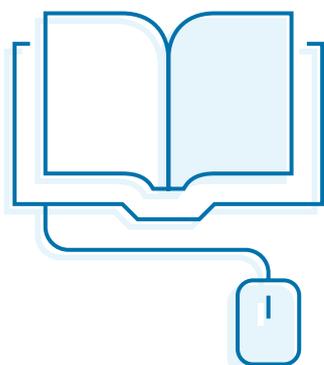
In order to complete the online application process, the following steps must be completed:

- a. Submit completed Application form PPQA-01 including relevant fee.
- b. Submit evidence of qualifications including transcripts and module descriptors (see list below of evidence you should prepare before making your online application).
- c. For language applicants, submit evidence of Immersive Educational Experience (IEE), Linguistic Competence (CEFR).
- d. Submit evidence for the English language requirement.
- e. Submit evidence of all post-qualification teaching experience to date.
- f. Commence the vetting process via the online application process.

3. Incomplete Applications

Applications which are incomplete will not be eligible for submission. The application can be saved and returned to at a later date. Any applications that remain unsubmitted after three months will be deleted.

It is important to note that if you close your browser without saving your application your data will be lost and you will have to start your application again.



4. Supporting Evidence

Before you start your application, please ensure that you have the following information to hand.

- a. Signed Character Reference (copy of the blank form can be downloaded from the first page of your PPQA-01 online application).
- b. Identification, proof of address and Overseas Clearance documents for Garda Vetting.
- c. Evidence of name change, if applicable (marriage certificate/deed poll).
- d. Statement of recognition from a competent authority/licence to teach.
- e. Evidence of induction.
- f. Evidence of Linguistic Competence and Immersive Educational Experience (IEE) (applicable to those applying for assessment of a language).
- g. Parchment/certificate for each qualification.
- h. Academic transcripts for all years showing credits awarded.
- i. Module descriptors for all relevant modules.
- j. Teaching service history (if relevant).
- k. Evidence of competency in the English language (where applicable).
- l. Debit/Credit card to pay the application fee.



The Council reserves the right to verify any documentation submitted in support of an application and to seek additional documentation should it be required to determine suitability for registration.



Please save and upload each file with a relevant name (e.g., parchment; transcript; passport; name of module descriptor) before uploading it. Naming files will assist in the processing of your application. Files may be uploaded as Word docs, PDF, images.



What is a module descriptor?

A module descriptor is a succinct description of a module and its key features and should include:

- a summary of the module content.
- a description of how the module content is delivered.
- a description of how the module content is assessed.
- the learning outcomes associated with the module.
- any periods of supervised school placement/ supervised teaching practice.
- for language applicants, the module descriptor must include a list of the literature/texts/studied.

Please be aware that assessments can only be carried out on the information provided by the applicant; it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide sufficient information in each module descriptor in order to facilitate assessment.

5. Vetting

Registration is subject to Vetting. Only Vetting carried out via the Teaching Council can be accepted for registration. Vetting through a third party (e.g. school, GAA, club/society) cannot be accepted for registration purposes. You may apply for Vetting via the PPQA-01 online application form.

6. Application Processing Timeframe

An assessment of your application and qualifications can only commence when you have submitted all required documentation to the Council. Staff will contact you if they identify missing documentation. This may result in your application being returned to you for correction. It is only when all documents have been received that the file is ready to begin assessment. The assessment will take approximately twelve weeks from receipt of all requested documentation.

7. Translation of Documentation

You must submit copies of all documents in English or Irish. All documents which are not in the English language must be accompanied by an English language translation.



The translated documents must be officially stamped by an accredited translator, an embassy/ consular official who is fluent in both languages, or by a university language(s) lecturer. You must include the name and address of the translator so that we can verify the translation.

Please note that you can also translate the documents yourself but you must have the documents verified (stamped by an official translator).

In order to assist applicants and minimise the costs associated with translation, applicants can provide summary information of the modules identified on their transcripts. Please highlight the sections of the course handbook that have been translated and attach the relevant translations.

8. ECTS Credits

The curricular subject registration requirements for post-primary teachers include an ECTS credit requirement. European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a standard for comparing the study attainment and performance of students of higher education across the European Union and other collaborating European countries. ECTS credits are awarded to students when they successfully complete their studies. One academic year corresponds to 60 ECTS credits. This is equivalent to 1,500-1,800 hours of study in all countries irrespective of the standard or qualification type. The ECTS credit system is used to facilitate transfer and progression. You will be asked to provide an ECTS credit value in your application.

9. Previously recognised qualifications

If your qualifications have previously been assessed for registration purposes by either the Department of Education or the Teaching Council, please contact us at info@teachingcouncil.ie for advice about the appropriate pathway to apply for registration.

10. History & Structure Examination

Where an applicant for registration as a post-primary teacher has completed a programme of teacher education outside of the Republic of Ireland, they are required to gain a knowledge and understanding of the history and structure of the Irish education system. A History & Structure (H&S) exam takes place online a number of times each year and is organised by the Teaching Council. More information is available on the Teaching Council [website](#).

Steps for completing PPQA-01

**STEP
01**

Create an Account on the My Registration Portal

If you do not have an account, you will need to create your own personal account on My Registration using a unique email address to you, i.e. not a shared or school email address.

Your My Registration account will allow you to access and manage your registration information 24/7 online.

PPS Number

PPS Number: stands for Personal Public Service Number. Your PPS Number is your unique reference number for all transactions with government departments and other public bodies such as Revenue, the Health Services Executive (HSE) and Department of Social Protection.

If you do not have a PPS Number or cannot find it, contact your local social welfare office. The PPS Number was previously known as the PRSI Number.

Name

This should be the name you normally use and are normally known by in work. This is the name that will appear on the Register of Teachers. Where applicable please supply authenticated proof of change of name, e.g. a photocopy of state marriage certificate. In the case of change of name by deed poll, an authenticated copy of the deed should be submitted.



Correspondence address

The address that you provide will be used for correspondence purposes and must not be a school address. It should be the address at which you normally reside.

The Council may be required from time to time to serve notices to a teacher in accordance with section 62 of the Teaching Council Acts. Such notices will inform a teacher about important and significant changes to his/her registration. The Council will assume that the address provided is the address to which such notices will be served.

In cases where a teacher is not present at the address to which correspondence is sent, or where a teacher does not collect such correspondence from his/her local postal sorting office, the letter is still considered to have been sent in legal terms, and the content communicated in that letter will stand. For this reason, the correspondence address provided should not be a school or college address.

Telephone contact details

Please provide telephone contact details, preferably to include mobile phone number. From time to time, the Council may issue reminders regarding an upcoming renewal or condition expiry dates by SMS text message.

Personal email address

Please provide an email address. Correspondence in relation to your application and any subsequent communications including renewal notifications will be sent by email. You will use your email address to access the online renewal system and also if you need to update your personal or employment details. You will not be able to complete the vetting process without an email address.

**STEP
02****Choose the PPQA-01 application route**

- 2.1. In Applications, choose Apply to make an application.
- 2.2. Choose I am a Teacher who qualified outside the Republic of Ireland.
- 2.3. Choose I wish to have my qualifications assessed for registration as a post-primary Teacher under Route 2.
- 2.4. Choose Apply Now and start to complete your application.

At any stage of the application process, you can save your application and return to it later. You will have three months from the date of commencement to complete your application. Any applications that remain unsubmitted after three months will be deleted.

The mandatory components of your application will need to be fully completed to proceed to the payment stage and final submission of your application. Mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk (*) throughout the application form.



The application process will time out after 30 minutes if left unattended. A reminder to extend your session will appear before it times out.

The following information explains what you need to complete in each of the application tabs.

**STEP
03****Competent Authority Statement**

- 3.1. In order to be eligible to apply for the assessment of your qualifications for registration as a postprimary teacher, you must provide a statement from the competent authority in the country you qualified.
- 3.2. If you qualified in the EU, the statement must include the following information that full recognition as a post-primary school teacher is granted by the authority under the terms of EU Directive 2005/36, including the completion of any statutory period of post-qualification induction/practice.
 - the pupil age range for such recognition.
 - the types of schools in which you are certified to teach.
 - the specific subjects for which recognition has been granted.
- 3.3. If you qualified outside of the EU, the statement must include the same information as in 3.2 above except for the reference to the EU Directive.
- 3.4. A list of competent authorities is available here on www.teachingcouncil.ie.
- 3.5. Please indicate on the application if you are qualified in the EU or rest of the world.
- 3.6. Please upload your statement and evidence of any statutory induction period completed.

**STEP
04****Personal Details**

- 4.1. Your personal details will be auto populated using the information you provided when you created your account.



Please save and upload each file with a relevant name (e.g., parchment; transcript; passport; name of module descriptor) before uploading it. Files may be uploaded as Word docs, PDF, images.

STEP
05

Qualifications

5.1.

Title - Please enter the exact title of each qualification that you hold e.g., Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts, Higher Diploma in Education, Professional Masters in Education, Postgraduate Certificate in Education, Masters, etc.

5.2.

Type - Please select the Qualification Type for each qualification.

5.3.

ECTS - Please see earlier for an explanation about ECTS. (For UK qualified applicants, please note that 1 ECTS credit equals 2 CATS credits.)

5.4.

Award level - The Level of Award is as per the [NFQ \(the Irish National Framework of Qualifications\)](#).

5.5.

Evidence - Please upload evidence of each qualification, i.e., parchment, transcripts, module descriptors. You can choose Add Another Document if you need to upload more than one file.

5.6.

To add a further qualification, click **Add Another Qualification**.



Please note that if you qualified as a teacher through a postgraduate route, you must also provide evidence of your undergraduate route including the qualification level (as per the NFQ).



Academic Transcripts & Module Descriptors

For each qualification to be assessed (e.g., teacher education and subject), applicants must submit:

- An official statement of transcripts of results for each year of your teacher education studies which will provide:
 - the module title/code which corresponds to the academic transcript.
 - the schools and age ranges covered in the supervised school placement.
 - the subjects taught whilst on teaching placement.
 - confirmation that the teaching placement was directly supervised by the third-level institution.
- An official statement of transcripts of results for each year of other qualification (e.g. undergraduate demonstrating curricular subject requirements) which will provide:
 - the titles of subjects/modules studied in each.
 - the years of the course the grades were obtained.
 - the number of ECTS credits (or equivalent) assigned to each module (if available).
- Module descriptors relating to each year of the qualification which provide:
 - the module title/code which corresponds to the academic transcripts of results.
 - a brief description of the content of each module outlining the learning outcomes.
- The qualification parchment.

If the above information is not on the transcript, please provide evidence from the provider on a separate document.



If the above information is not on the transcript, please provide evidence from the provider on a separate document.

STEP
06

Assessment for Curricular Subject(s)

6.1.

Post-Primary Curricular Subjects

In order to register with the Teaching Council under Route 2 (Post-primary), you must meet the requirements for at least one post-primary curricular subject as published by the Council. Please refer to the subject requirements before applying.

[Post-primary Curricular Subject Requirements](#)

6.2.

Language Subjects: Immersive Educational Experience (IEE) and Linguistic Competence

Please note, as per the subject requirements, applicants for language subjects are required to submit evidence of Immersive Educational Experience (IEE) and Linguistic Competence as part of their application.

6.2.2. Immersive Educational Experience (IEE):

Applicants should provide verifiable evidence of an Immersive Educational Experience in the curricular language of a minimum of four weeks duration. This may be accessed in two blocks, each of which must be at least two weeks. At least one of these blocks must be in a setting where the language is the vernacular language of the region/country. The Immersive Educational Experience(s) must be one of the following:

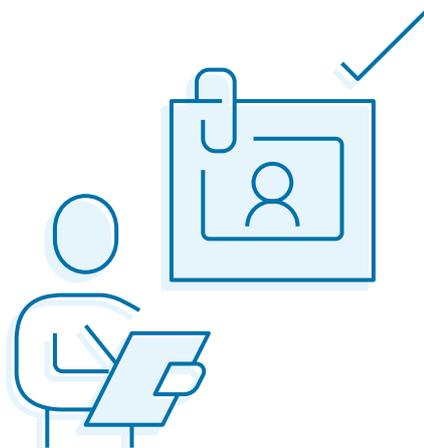
- attending a language course.
- working as a staff member in an educational setting.
- conducting an action research project which is of relevance to their teaching studies.
- engaging in School Placement.

[Click here to read the IEE Guidance Notes](#)

6.2.3. Linguistic Competence:

Applicants for languages must also demonstrate linguistic competence in the language. This can be evidenced by providing one of the following:

- A photocopy of your passport evidencing that you are a native of that country (i.e., that the language is your mother tongue). N.B. This is not acceptable for the subject of Irish/Gaeilge.
- A photocopy of your undergraduate transcripts of results which explicitly state that you have achieved a minimum level of B2 on the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).
- A statement from your Higher Education Institution where you completed your degree explicitly stating you have achieved a minimum level of B2 on the CEFR.
- A statement from an independent language competence test showing a minimum level of B2 on the CEFR.
- For the subject of Gaeilge/Irish: evidence that you are a native of a Gaeltacht area may be demonstrated by submitting a utility bill, financial statement, electoral correspondence or evidence that your family was in receipt of the Scéim Labhairt na Gaeilge (SLG) grant for Gaeltacht families.



STEP
07

Fit and Proper Person Assessment

As part of the registration process, the Teaching Council must be satisfied that a person is a fit and proper person to be admitted to the register as set out in Section 31(5)(b) of the Teaching Council Acts 2001 to 2012 and Section 10(1)(b) of the Teaching Council [Registration] Regulations 2016 and Teaching Council [Registration] (Amendments) Regulations 2016.

As an applicant for registration you must:

- a. provide a Character Reference that is certified by an appropriately qualified person, and
- b. undergo the National Vetting Bureau vetting process.

7.1.

Character Reference

At the beginning of the application process, you are asked to download a Character Reference form. This form must be signed by a professional person in a position of scholastic/academic responsibility, who has known you in a professional capacity for at least one academic year in the last five years, specifically:

- (i) A Registered Teacher (the Teacher must currently be registered with the Teaching Council in the Republic of Ireland).
- (ii) The Head of school placement of the College or University where the applicant completed his/her Teacher Education Programme.
- (iii) A School Principal or Director of an ETB.
- (iv) A Tutor of the College or University where the applicant completed his/her Teacher Education Programme.

The Character Reference must be fully completed, signed and dated **within 1 year of the date of registration**.

The Council reserves the right to request a new Character Reference where an application has been delayed by non-submission of required documentation by the applicant.



Please upload your completed Character Reference and answer the questions in this section.

STEP
08

Vetting

It is a requirement under the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 (NVB Act) that individuals who work with children and vulnerable persons be vetted by the National Vetting Bureau (the Bureau).

The Teaching Council is the authorised body for administering vetting for teachers in the Republic of Ireland and is required to assess the vetting disclosure for suitability for registration. The school is required to receive and assess the vetting disclosure for employment purposes.

The Role of School Authorities

The relevant school authority (Board of Management or ETB as appropriate) must ensure that any proposed new appointee who may have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults is vetted. This should be sought only if the person is being offered a job. Schools must request prospective teachers to present the vetting Disclosure from the Teaching Council, before making a formal offer of appointment.

Overseas Addresses

The National Vetting Bureau currently undertakes vetting on addresses in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland only. An applicant for registration who has resided outside the Republic of Ireland and/or Northern Ireland for a cumulative period of 12 months or more after the age of 18 you will need to provide a copy of police clearance for each country in which they have resided. These clearance certificates must cover the entire period of residence in each country.

[Information about Vetting.](#)

- Copies of police clearance documents from all jurisdictions/states of previous residence, referring to the time spent in each jurisdiction/state. The Teaching Council only accepts police clearance documents which cover the entire period of residence in other jurisdictions/states.

STEP
09

Teaching Service

9.1.

Please complete this section if you have teaching service as a qualified teacher.

9.2.

Please provide the most relevant teaching service for your application for registration (if applicable).

9.3.

School placement undertaken as part of a teaching qualification should not be included here.

**STEP
10****English Language Requirement****10.1.**

If you are applying for registration with the Teaching Council and you have obtained your qualification outside the Republic of Ireland you must satisfy the Council that you have the necessary knowledge of English to communicate effectively.

10.2.

You may demonstrate the required level by providing one of the following:

1. A copy of a qualification (teacher education or undergraduate) acquired and examined through the medium of English.
2. A copy of an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) (**Academic**) certificate attesting knowledge in the English language with a score of 7.0 or above.
3. Evidence of living and practicing in a professional capacity through the medium of English in a country that has English recognised as an official language for three out of the preceding five years.
4. Evidence of living and undertaking a programme of learning through the medium of English in a country that has English recognised as an official language for three out of the preceding five years.
5. A copy of a Cambridge C1 Advanced (formerly known as Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)) with a minimum of Grade C.

The Teaching Council will reserve the right to independently verify the scores with IELTS/ Cambridge and all components of the IELTS/ Cambridge test must be attempted at the same sitting.

The test must have been undertaken no more than five years prior to the date of submission or you must provide evidence of having resided and worked/studied on a full time basis in an English speaking environment since having completed the evaluation.

The above evidence must be supplied with your registration application as registration cannot be finalised without this document.

**STEP
11****Data and Declarations****11.1.**

Please read this page. In submitting your application, you are confirming the statements or declarations to be accurate/correct.

**STEP
12****Submit****12.1.**

Pressing the Submit button will take you to a payment page. Payment must be successfully completed before your application is submitted to the Teaching Council.

12.2.

If there are any mandatory fields not completed, you will be redirected to the pages for correction.

12.3.

Once all mandatory fields have been completed, you can press the submit button again.

**STEP
13****Payment****13.1.**

You will be provided with information about the payment due.

13.2.

If no fee is received, the application cannot be submitted.

13.3.

Further information about fees may be found [here](#).

**STEP
14****Next Steps****14.1.**

You can track the progress of your application via My Registration.

14.2.

Your application will be checked to ensure that all required information has been submitted.

14.3.

We will contact you by email if there is any information outstanding or if clarification is required.

14.4.

When all the required information is received, your application will be assessed.

14.5.

Subject to a positive assessment outcome and all registration requirements being met, confirmation of registration will issue to you, along with information about any post-registration requirements.

14.6.

If your qualifications cannot be recognised for registration purposes, we will contact you with details about the decision.

Registration

Registration will be finalised providing that all other requirements have been met in relation to character reference, vetting and English language requirement.

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