

Gaeilge Pathway to PME (Primary), Marino Institute of Education

June 2024

Background

This submission is specifically for the proposed Gaeilge pathway within the existing PME. The Professional Master of Education from Marino Institute of Education (MIE) was accredited by the Teaching Council in November 2023. The full report for the accredited programme is available on the Teaching Council Website.

The PME Irish-language pathway will be offered within the existing PME and is intended to prepare postgraduate student teachers for teaching in Irish-medium immersion settings in primary Gaelscoileanna and Scoileanna Ghaeltachta.

Process

Céim: Standards for Initial Teacher Education sets out the standards which programmes of initial teacher education in Ireland must meet to gain accreditation from the Teaching Council. It is also a benchmark for anybody seeking to register as a teacher in Ireland.

Marino Institute of Education submitted an updated pro forma, toolkits and appendices where necessary to demonstrate the Gaeilge specific programme elements and supports and mapped the pathway against each of the standards outlined in *Céim: Standards for Initial Teacher Education*. The programme pathway was reviewed by the Review Panel following the *Procedures*.

The review of the **Professional Master of Education (PME Primary) Gaeilge pathway** at **Marino Institute of Education** took place between April 2024 and June 2024 in accordance with the Council's *Procedures for the Professional Accreditation of Programmes of Initial Teacher Education*.

Step 1 Notification	Marino Institute of Education notified the Council of its intention to submit an additional pathway to the Professional Master of Education (PME - Primary)
Step 2 Submission	Marino Institute of Education submitted the required documents on 12 April 2024
Step 3 Desk-based Review	A desk-based review was completed by the Council staff on 15 April 2024.
Step 4 Appointment of Review Panel	The process was formally initiated when the Review Panel (hereinafter referred to as 'the panel') was re-convened by the Teaching Council's director, with Professor Jim Deegan as Chairperson and Mr Micheál Ó Gríofa and Dr Claire Connolly as panel members. The panel was briefed by Teaching Council staff.

<p>Rapporteur</p>	<p>The review panel was supported in their role by Mary Condon as rapporteur.</p> <p>The rapporteur’s functions included liaison with Marino Institute of Education (MIE), maintaining records of meetings, and drafting and finalising the panel’s report in conjunction with the panel Chairperson. The panel was also supported in its deliberations by the Director of the Teaching Council and her executive staff nominees.</p>
<p>Step 5 Review panel meeting 1</p>	<p>The panel met on 25 April 2024 to consider the submission. They requested clarifications from Marino Institute of Education on 29 April 2024. Marino Institute of Education responded to this request on 8 & 10 May 2024.</p>
<p>Engagement</p>	<p>The review panel conducted an online meeting over Teams with Marino Institute of Education on 13 May 2024. This was also attended by the rapporteur and Teaching Council staff.</p> <p>The following attended on behalf of Marino Institute of Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uachtarán/President • Registrar and Vice President (Academic Affairs) • Chief Financial Officer and Vice President (Professional Services) • PME Pathway Coordinator /Senior Lecturer in Education • Head of Department of English and Roinn na Gaeilge/B. Oid Coordinator/Senior Lecturer in Education • Head of Department of Policy and Practice/Senior Lecturer in Education • School Placement Coordinator/Lecturer in Education
<p>Step 6 Review panel</p>	<p>The panel met to consider the clarifications and agree recommendations following the engagement.</p>
<p>Step 7 Reporting</p>	<p>The report was drafted and issued to the HEI for the 30-day feedback period.</p> <p>It was finalised when the final response was received from Marino Institute of Education.</p>
<p>Step 8 Education Committee</p>	<p>The Chair will present the report at the next meeting of the Education Committee. They may decide to accredit the programme (pathway), accredit the programme (pathway) with requirements or not accredit the programme (pathway).</p>

Overview

The review panel was impressed with the deep commitment and positive engagement of MIE senior management, programme leaders, and staff during the review process for the Professional Master of Education (Primary Teaching) Irish-language pathway, within the existing PME programme. The pathway compares and coheres positively with the PME and aligns with Céim Standards for Initial Teacher Education (Teaching Council, 2020), most especially those that demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the implementation of language immersion education, and its associated curricula, pedagogies, and resources. Theoretically and conceptually, the pathway is grounded in current national and international literature and discourse on the role of the teacher as expert Irish-language-immersion practitioner. In terms of specific learning outcomes at programme and module level, the pathway meets students where they are in terms of prior knowledge and learning experiences and focuses on quality preparation and practice for postgraduate student teachers who aspire to teach in Irish-medium immersion settings in Gaelscoileanna and Scoileanna Ghaeltachta. Careful consideration has been taken to integrate the signature pedagogies of spiralling reflectivity, criticality, and universal design for learning, innovative post-placement interviews and feedback, and applied approximations of practice, among others, across the full scope and sequence of the pathway. The advance planning and preparation for delivery includes a systematic and extensive review and survey of relevant textual, online, and physical resources in teaching, learning, curriculum, and research in the Irish language. The panel noted the opportunities for practice-sharing and conversation-building between and among all those engaged as programme/pathway leaders, staff and postgraduate student teachers.

Review outcome

Having regard to the documentation that was submitted, the panel adjudges that the programme pathway meets the standards set down by the Teaching Council in *Céim: Standards for Initial Teacher Education*.

Accordingly, it recommends to the Teaching Council that this pathway within the existing PME programme, be granted accreditation.