

# Dr Niamh Dennehy | University College Cork

## General Biography

Dr Niamh Dennehy is a Lecturer in Education and Deputy Director of the Postgraduate Master of Education (PME) programme in UCC. Niamh is a graduate of UCC with a BA in English, Irish and Applied Psychology, a Higher Diploma in Computer Science and Higher Diploma in Education. Niamh worked as a teacher of English and Irish in post primary education for 20 years and has completed an M.Ed and PhD in Education. Niamh lectures on English Pedagogy, Curriculum and Assessment and the Psychology of Education on the PME, M.Ed and PhD Programmes in the School of Education UCC.

Niamh's research interests are closely connected with initial and continuing teacher education, assessment and feedback and the psychology of education. Successful research funding includes the Teaching Council John Coolahan Research Support Framework Award for a research project exploring the experiences of student and newly qualified teachers in Irish Immersion Education. Niamh is also leading a team which was awarded SCOTENS funding to develop the capacity of student teachers North and South, in the implementation of assessment as learning in their teaching practice.

Given my experience as a teacher in the post-primary and higher education sectors I am particularly keen to develop the school/university partnership. I see great potential in exploring the lived experiences of Treoraí and devising practical and research-informed ways to increase capacity in schools to mentor and work collaboratively with student and newly qualified teachers. I feel this is an area of partnership that could provide immense benefit to educators throughout the continuum as a practice-based, research-informed area of learning. It would also engage Treoraí and school leaders more actively to inform the provision of high-quality placement experiences in initial teacher education. It would also provide insight into the learning needs of Treoraithe when they undertake this pivotal role in initial teacher education. Links could also be forged across the post-primary sector through professional development opportunities and the sharing of learning experiences and best practice in communities of practice at local and national level. The potential of the Treoraí role could be developed and enhanced through partnership between second and third level colleagues to establish vibrant and dynamic research and practice partnerships for the enhancement of teacher education across the continuum of teacher education.

I would also be very interested in working with teachers to engage senior cycle post-primary students in actively preparing for life and learning in third level education. I believe the potential is there to bring a range of educators across third level institutions and in second level schools together to devise a wellbeing programme of support and education for TY and senior cycle that would enhance students' awareness of their own development in late adolescence and early adulthood and how to manage the challenges and exploit the opportunities that participation in third level education brings.

I would be delighted with the opportunity to work with second-level colleagues on devising research methods to investigate priority areas in their classrooms and schools and to establish research partnerships and events in school communities.