



**QQI**

Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

# AWARDS STANDARDS - PROFESSIONAL MASTER OF EDUCATION (PME) AWARD

[www.QQI.ie](http://www.QQI.ie)

May 2014/HS1 © QQI

This award standard is for the named award entitled:

### **Professional Master of Education**

### **Máistir Gairmiúil san Oideachas**

in the English and Irish languages respectively.

QQI's expectation is that standards of knowledge, skill and competence would be explicitly prescribed for newly introduced named awards—especially occupationally focused ones. This would require the establishment of awards standards for the PME degree prior to its introduction.

The Teaching Council has developed occupational standards (Standards of Teaching, Knowledge, Skill, Competence and Conduct) for teachers. These are set out in the outcomes section of the Teaching Council's criteria for initial teacher education<sup>1</sup>. The Teaching Council's standards do not prescribe either a level 9 qualification in teaching or a Master's Degree in teaching as academic requirements.

QQI has decided to determine standards for the **Professional Master of Education** on a factored basis i.e. the standard is determined by two factors: namely Scope and Level.

1. SCOPE: The scope of the standard (except for the NFQ Level) is to be inferred from the Teaching Council's *Standards of Teaching, Knowledge, Skill, Competence and Conduct*.
2. LEVEL: Within this scope candidates must attain knowledge, skill and competence corresponding with the award-type descriptor for the Master's Degree (appended).

A special validation condition attached to the standard requires that a programme of education and training leading to this particular award must be *designed* to lead to professional accreditation by the Teaching Council before it can be validated by QQI or any person operating under authority delegated by QQI for the PME award. If not subsequently accredited (after validation) by the Teaching Council the programme may not be offered as leading to the *Professional Master of Education* award.

---

<sup>1</sup> Initial Teacher Education: Criteria and Guidelines for Programme Providers. 2011 [http://www.teachingcouncil.ie/\\_fileupload/Teacher%20Education/Final%20Criteria%20and%20Guidelines%20for%20Existing%20Progs%20Aug2011.pdf](http://www.teachingcouncil.ie/_fileupload/Teacher%20Education/Final%20Criteria%20and%20Guidelines%20for%20Existing%20Progs%20Aug2011.pdf)

## MASTERS DEGREE (NFQ LEVEL 9 – MAJOR AWARD)

*There are two types of Masters Degree in Ireland: taught Masters Degrees and research Masters Degrees. The taught Masters Degree is awarded following the completion of an accredited programme of 1 to 2 years duration (60-120 ECTS credits). Entry to a programme leading to a taught Masters Degree is typically for holders of Honours Bachelor Degrees. Also, in some cases, entry to such programmes can be permitted for those with Ordinary Bachelor Degrees or equivalent who have some relevant work experience. Furthermore, in some cases, entry to such programmes is permitted for people with extensive experience in a relevant area. Research Masters Degree programmes are typically of 2 years duration, though they are not credit rated. Entry to a programme leading to a research Masters Degree is typically for holders of an Honours Bachelor Degree, with a high classification, i.e. first or second class honours. The Irish Masters Degree is compatible with completion of the Bologna Second Cycle.*

### DESCRIPTOR

Title	Masters Degree
<b>Purpose</b>	This is a multi-purpose award-type. The knowledge, skill and competence acquired are relevant to personal development, participation in society and community, employment, and access to additional education and training.
<b>NFQ Level</b>	9
<b>Volume</b>	Large
<b>Knowledge – breadth</b>	A systematic understanding of knowledge at, or informed by, the forefront of a field of learning
<b>Knowledge – kind</b>	A critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, generally informed by the forefront of a field of learning
<b>Know-how and skill - range</b>	Demonstrate a range of standard and specialised research or equivalent tools and techniques of enquiry
<b>Know-how and skill - selectivity</b>	Select from complex and advanced skills across a field of learning; develop new skills to a high level, including novel and emerging techniques
<b>Competence - context</b>	Act in a wide and often unpredictable variety of professional levels and ill-defined contexts
<b>Competence - role</b>	Take significant responsibility for the work of individuals and groups; lead and initiate activity
<b>Competence – learning to learn</b>	Learn to self-evaluate and take responsibility for continuing academic/professional development
<b>Competence - insight</b>	Scrutinise and reflect on social norms and relationships and act to change them
<b>Progression &amp; Transfer</b>	Progression to programmes leading to Doctoral Degree, or to another Masters Degree or to a Post-graduate Diploma



**QQI**

---

Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

[www.QQI.ie](http://www.QQI.ie)