**Frequently Asked Questions on the PME**

1. **Question:** I am interested in becoming a teacher. What criteria do I need to meet in order to be considered for a place on the PME?

**Answer:** In order to be considered for a place on the programme you will need the following:

* Minimum of a 2:2 Level 8 Degree in a relevant cognate discipline
* Meet the Teaching Council of Ireland requirements in one or two subject areas. See Teaching Council Subject Declaration Forms [link](https://www.teachingcouncil.ie/en/pme/applying-in-2022-for-a-place-on-a-professional-master-of-education-pme-.html) – you will need to match these form with your Level 8 programme
* You will also be required to complete an interview to determine your suitability for the programme

1. **Question:** When will applications open?

**Answer:** The application system opens in October of each year. Keep an eye on the PME website [here](https://www.ul.ie/gps/course/professional-masters-education). You should also register your interest [here](https://share.hsforms.com/1ozIKXs6FSkq_EeWrykw2_Q2ibam).

1. **Question:** I only have a Pass / 3rd class honours Level 8 degree. Will this be sufficient?

**Answer:** No. You are required to have a minimum 2:2 Level 8 degree. If you have a Level 9 degree at a grade 2:2 or higher, this will then trump your Level 8 degree.

1. **Question:** I am interested in undertaking the Professional Masters in Education in Post-Primary teaching, unfortunately however, the cost involved would be a barrier for myself. I was wondering if you might have any information on how I could check my availability for grant funding to pursue the course.

**Answer:** Unfortunately, we are unaware of any grant opportunities. The best advice we can give is for you to contact your local county council or Education Training Board.

1. **Question:** How long will it take to complete the PME?

**Answer:** The PME is a two-year fulltime programme consisting of four academic semesters

1. **Question:** How many hours per week is involved in the PME?

**Answer:** The PME is a fulltime Masters programme. You should be available to attend classes on campus in UL from 9-6pm Monday to Friday in Semester 1 and 4. Typically, your timetable will be 18-20 hours per week.

1. **Question:** In what semesters will I be on campus in UL?

**Answer:** Semester 1 (autumn of Year 1) and Semester 4 (spring of Year 2)

1. **Question:** In what semesters will I be on School Placement?

**Answer:** Semester 2 (spring of Year 1) and Semester 3 (autumn of Year 2)

1. **Question:** Is the PME at UL an online programme?

**Answer:** No, the PME involves face to face teaching at UL with only a small number of instances of online classes.

1. **Question:** Can I organise my own School Placement?

**Answer:** No, the School Placement Office at UL organise placement for all PME students. You will be given an opportunity to list preference schools. UL will try their best to arrange placement in a school of your preference but it is not guaranteed that you will be matched with a school of your choice.

1. **Question:** I am currently trying to choose my CAO courses and am wondering what undergraduate courses lead to PME in physical education in UL.

**Answer:** Currently, there are some undergraduate courses that meet the Teaching Council requirements. We would suggest to the TC subject declaration form [TC content requirements](https://www.teachingcouncil.ie/en/pme/physical-education-sdf-2023.pdf) and confirm that the target programme meets the established requirements or not. For those programmes that do not cover all the content (like some sport sciences and health courses offered in some Technological Universities) candidates should make up certain credits/content in order to meet the TC entry requirements.

1. **Question:** What enhances student’s possibilities to be successful and get an offer for the PME in PE?

**Answer:** The recruiting process is highly competitive. Every year is different, though. Some candidates get an offer in the first try, other the second, other the third... When they are not successful and do not get an offer, we advise them to get some teaching experience (e.g., shadowing teachers and keeping a reflective journal). It is about knowledge, it is about articulation of ideas (oral and writing), it is about your subject/content knowledge, it is about the ability to reflect and share thoughtful ideas, it is about being critical with teaching and learning and understanding the complexities of it, and it is about the ability to show all of that in a 15-25’ interview and an academic writing piece.

1. **Question:** I graduated with a Level 8 degree in Leisure Management. My dream has always been to become a PE teacher, I play and coach a range of sports including soccer and swimming and would dearly love to make PE teaching my profession. Unfortunately, I didn’t get sufficient points in my Leaving Certificate to do the BSc in Physical Education in the University of Limerick. I am currently looking at possible entry routes into PE teaching. My first choice would have been the Professional Masters of Education (PE) in UL, but I am aware this is a much sought after course and entry is highly competitive. I was wondering if you might have come across alternative routes to PE teaching and if so could you point me in the right direction?

**Answer:** In order to be eligible (and be called for a recruiting interview) you need to meet the [TC content/credits subject requirements.](https://www.teachingcouncil.ie/en/pme/physical-education-sdf-2023.pdf) The Level 8 degree in Leisure Management that you completed does not address all the required areas of study, especially those under a) section. You might make an inquiry to some third level institutions, as they might offer you the chance to take the required credits/content on a link in basis. That is correct, the access to the PME PE at UL is highly competitive, and your coaching experience may be helpful to prompt your reflections related to good/poor teaching, student learning, etc. which would be aspects we consider in the recruiting interview. We hold the recruiting interviews every year around February-March.

1. **Question:** I graduated from UL in 2018 with a 1st Class honours degree in BSc Sports and Exercise Science and I have spent the last 4 years teaching in Dubai, the last year spent teaching PE. I am wondering if I am now eligible to apply for the PME in PE as I would really like to return home and eventually qualify as a PE teacher.

**Answer:** You would be more than welcome to apply, but you are missing some of the [Teaching Council entry requirements](https://www.teachingcouncil.ie/en/pme/physical-education-sdf-2023.pdf), especially those under the a) section. You would have to complete those modules on a link in basis here in Ireland. Once that is done, you would be eligible to apply. There is a highly competitive interview process (starting every year on Feb-Mar), but you would be initially a strong candidate given your teaching experience.

1. **Question:** I missed out on my first choice in the CAO, for PE and Maths teaching and I am now looking at different options available to me. I would like to know that if I choose the PME route, is there any possibility that I can choose another subject, like maths or geography, etc, to study during the two years so that I have another subject to teacher along with PE?

**Answer:** Yes, there would be a possibility to apply for a dual PME. There is a consideration, however. In order to be eligible, the Teaching Council set some content/credits entry requirements (see all of them [here](https://www.teachingcouncil.ie/en/pme/applying-in-2021-for-a-place-on-a-professional-master-of-education-pme-.html)). There will be a logistic/timetable problem that will not allow you to take the full 60 credits of a second subject while you are doing the PME PE or another subject. You would have a possibility to take only a few of them, but not all of them. Another option would be to take those required credits beforehand (at UL or somewhere else) and apply for the dual PME programme (two subjects).

1. **Question:** I know that I am short credits. How can I address this before applying for a place on the PME?

**Answer:** Our advice is to ensure that you clearly understand where you are deficient. A chat with the pathway leader for your subject area would be a good starting point. You will need to ensure that any modules you take are at Level 8. A [micro-credential](https://microcreds.ie/) could be an option for you or you might need to link-in to a module on an existing undergraduate Level 8 degree. These do not necessarily have to be courses run by UL.

1. **Question:** If I do not have sufficient credits to teach a subject, can I undertake additional modules at UL?

**Answer:** Generally, we do not accept applicants who do not have sufficient credits as per the relevant Subject Declaration Form. However, in some circumstances it may be possible to undertake a maximum of one additional module as an additional module while studying in UL.

1. **Question:** I am an in-service teacher who needs to undertake a pedagogy module to gain registration with the Teaching Council to teach another subject. Can I undertake this module at UL?

**Answer:** Yes, with approval from the relevant Course Director and Module Leader, in-service teachers can undertake pedagogy modules on a link-in basis to reach the requisites to gain registration with the Teaching Council to teach another subject.

1. **Question:** I am an ERASMUS student who is studying at UL for one semester. Can I undertake PME modules?

**Answer:** Yes, this is possible in many cases. Please be aware that some modules require you to have completed prerequisite modules. Please contact the Programme Director at [Diarmaid.Lane@ul.ie](mailto:Diarmaid.Lane@ul.ie) if you need help with this.

1. **Question:** I would like to take the PME in Music. What does the interview for applicants entail?

**Answer:** Applicants to the PME in Music will be required to attend an interview. During the interview each applicant performs for five minutes, any musical instrument/voice. (The performance must include singing at least one verse of a song). Applicants will also undertake a short composition skills test.

1. **Question:** I am an international applicant interested in the Professional Master of Education programme. I want to know if such program is open to international students?

**Answer:** Yes. International students may apply for entry to the PME programme. If your qualification(s) have been obtained in a country where English is an official language this will suffice. If this is not available, the following additional documents must be provided when applying: English translation of your qualification(s)/transcripts AND English language competency certificate.