

**An Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta,
Rannóg Oideachais Múinteoirí,
Bloc 2, Urlár1,
Sráid Maoilbhríde,
Baile Átha Cliath 1.**

**Department of Education and Science,
Teacher Education Section,
Block 2, Floor1,
Marlborough Street,
Dublin1.**



Circular : 0001/2008

Masters in Special Educational Needs (MSEN) – 2008/2009

TO: THE AUTHORITIES OF PRIMARY, POST-PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS

a. The Programme 2008/2009

The Special Education Department of St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, will offer a one-year, fulltime Masters in Special Educational Needs, open to both primary and post-primary teachers.

b. Funding

Funding for the programme is provided by the Teacher Education Section of the Department of Education and Science under the National Development Plan 2007 to 2013.

c. Aim and Content

The aim of the programme will be to develop teachers' knowledge and skills in analysing, critiquing and applying Special Education research literature, and in carrying out research relevant to children with special educational needs.

A qualification of Masters in Special Educational Needs will be awarded by Dublin City University. Participants will be assessed on the basis of coursework, tasks and written assignments relevant to professional practice, and a thesis on an approved topic in special educational needs. Further details will be made available to applicants by the Special Education Department of St Patrick's College.

d. Duration and Organisation

The programme is a one-year, full-time taught masters running from September 2008 to June 2009. It consists of 4 modules and a thesis. Two modules focus on research methodologies; one addresses curriculum and pedagogy for special educational needs, and one deals with current issues in special education.

e. **Eligibility**

(a) Applicants should have:

i) A Combined Post-Graduate Diploma Programme of Continuous Professional Development for Teachers involved in Learning Support and Special Education

or

ii) A Graduate Diploma/Higher National Diploma in Special Education at:

Church of Ireland College of Education, Rathmines, Dublin 6
Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road, Limerick
St. Angela's College, Lough Gill, Sligo
St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.
UCD (University College Dublin), Belfield, Dublin 4

or

iii) An equivalent post-graduate diploma in special education which entitles the holder to the equivalent remuneration from the Department of Education and Science

- (b) Please note that a teacher must be registered in accordance with Section 31 of the Teaching Council Act, 2001. Please see Department of Education & Science Circulars: 0085/2007, 0086/2007 & 0087/2007.
- (c) Applicants should be currently employed as a qualified teacher of pupils with special educational needs.
- (d) In order to be eligible for the Masters in Special Educational Needs, post-primary teachers must spend a **minimum** of 12 hours per week working with pupils who have special educational needs.
- (e) Applicants should be willing to make a commitment to work within the Irish educational system for at least 2 years upon completion of the Masters.

f. **Applications and Selection**

An Application Form accompanies this Circular for completion by teachers interested and eligible to participate in the programme.

Final selection of candidates will be based on their application materials (Application Form and References) and an interview. Short-listing of candidates for interview will occur.

Applicants will be selected according to the following criteria:

- A. Excellence in teaching
- B. Academic excellence
- C. Statement of Research Interests
- D. Statement of Reason(s) for Applying
- E. Potential utility to the Irish Education System

Up to sixteen places (12 primary, 4 post-primary) are available in the Programme year 2008-2009.

Important

Eligible teachers supported by their school authorities who wish to be considered for admission to the Masters in Special Educational Needs should send their applications to **The Course Director, Masters in Special Educational Needs, Special Education Department, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9** to be received not later than **29th February 2008**. Phone: (01) 8842031; Fax: (01) 8842294.
E-mail address: SpEd.Office@spd.dcu.ie

7. **Funding**

Funding for the programme is provided by the Teacher Education Section of the Department of Education and Science under the National Development Plan 2007 to 2013, as follows:

- Successful applicants will be released from their teaching posts for a full academic year (September to June) and paid their full salary for the duration of the course.
- The Department of Education and Science will approve the appointment of a temporary teacher to replace the successful candidate for the academic year subject to the rules and conditions governing the staffing schedules at primary and the staffing quotas in post-primary schools.
- The Department of Education and Science will pay the applicant's course fees for the year.

Alan Wall
Principal Officer.
January 2008

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, DRUMCONDRA/COLÁISTE PHÁDRAIG, DROIM CONRACH
(Coláiste de chuid Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath)

APPLICATION FORM FOR ADMISSION TO
MASTERS IN SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (one-year, full-time)

Please complete this form and return to

**The Special Education Department, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9,
on or before 29th February 2008.**

A non-returnable deposit of €25 (payable to St. Patrick's College) should accompany this application.

1. **Personal Details**

Surname: _____ First Name: _____

Previous Surname(s) when registered as a student (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Nationality: _____ Telephone: _____

Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Teacher No: _____ School Roll No: _____

Registered teacher with the Teaching Council: YES _____ NO _____

2. **Higher Education (University or other Third Level Institutions)**

Give details of all undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications obtained to date and include details of courses to be completed in the year of application.

Full Title of Award	College	Years of Study From/To	Results: Level and Grade

3. Other relevant qualifications

(Please indicate your proficiency level in the English language, in computer skills and in any other area that would support your application. Non-native speakers of the English language should furnish evidence of proficiency in English)

4. Teaching and other relevant work experience (most recent first)

Name of School	From	To	Fulltime/ Part-time	Position/Responsibilities

5. Please provide a statement of your reasons for applying

6. Please provide a statement of your research interests, particularly in relation to one or two possible topic(s) for a thesis

7. **Referees**

You are required to supply the names and contact details for two referees. One referee should be able to comment on your **academic ability** and one on your **teaching**. Referees will be contacted prior to short listing.

Name of Referee (for teaching) and Position held	Name of Referee (for academic ability) and Position held
Address	Address
Tel. No.	Tel. No.
E-mail:	E-mail:

8. **Transcripts**

- a) Certified copies of official transcripts of results for all qualifications listed in Section 2 above must be included with this application. Originals should not be forwarded as all documentation is retained by the college. **Application forms which are incomplete or lacking the relevant documentation will be returned to the candidate.**
- b) If final examinations have not been completed, please indicate, in Section 2 above, the date which results are expected to be available. Only provisional places can be offered to such applicants, confirmation of which will be dependent on a satisfactory outcome to their course of study. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all such official degree results are communicated to the Course Director as soon as possible after publication.

9. **Declaration**

I certify that the information given above is correct and I hereby undertake, if admitted as a student member of St Patrick's College and Dublin City University, to observe all the regulations of the University.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: _____

I confirm that the information in this application form is correct and, if the above named teacher is given a place on the **Masters in Special Educational Needs Course – 2008/2009**, that the Board of Management agrees to release him/her to attend the programme and will fulfil all course requirements as specified in Circular 0001/2008. I undertake to ensure that the required substitution will be put in place in a timely manner and I agree that I will not request the teacher to attend any school event for any reason for the duration of the programme.

I nominate _____ to attend this Master's programme and I confirm that the applicant for this course is a registered teacher in accordance with Section 31 of the Teaching Council Act, 2001.

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

(Principal)

COUNTER SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

(Manager/Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson, Board of Management)

PLEASE NOTE: A SHORT-LIST OF CANDIDATES WILL BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF APPLICATIONS AND THE SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE INTERVIEWED AS PART OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

Please return completed form to St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. Closing date for applications is 5pm 29th February, 2008

Thank you for your cooperation in completing this application form