PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION (FURTHER EDUCATION)
The Professional Diploma in Education (Further Education) provides student teachers with the professional knowledge, understanding and pedagogical skills required to carry out their teaching roles and responsibilities.

The programme has been specifically developed to meet the needs of persons working in the Further Education sector who wish to register with the Teaching Council of Ireland for the purposes of registration as a Further Education teacher in Ireland and the EU, as well as other English speaking countries.

THE PDE(FE) AIDS TO:

• Provide student teachers with the theoretical knowledge, pedagogical skills and professional competences required to successfully teach and facilitate learning in the Further Education sector
• Develop competent teachers whose teaching practice is underpinned by ongoing reflective learning and by the core values of the teaching profession
• Engender a sense of collegiality and relationship building within the Further Education sector
• Foster commitment to the teaching profession built on espousing a love of teaching and lifelong learning, and on championing the potential of all learners.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The PDE(FE) has been developed to provide professional teaching qualifications to:

• Tutors, instructors, trainers (full-time or part-time) who are currently working in Further Education schools and centres, and who wish to obtain a teaching qualification.
• Individuals working in the Further Education sector, who wish to obtain a further education teaching qualification.

DELIVERY

The programme is a two-year blended learning part-time programme delivered over two academic years. Three 2-day workshops and microteaching sessions are delivered on the NUI Galway campus each year. In addition, Year 1 students attend a 2-day orientation workshop.

ASSESSMENT

Programme assessment is on a continuous basis and includes:

• Online learning activities
• Written/practical assignments
• Teaching Practice Portfolio
• Reflective Journals
PROGRAMME FACTS

ECTS: 60 | NFQ Level: 8
Duration: 2 years, part-time
Mode of study: Blended learning
Fees: (per annum) EU: €3,500 | Non-EU: €4,000

PROGRAMME MODULES

YEAR 1

Teaching Practices and Learning Methods (Credits: 10 ECTS)
The module focuses on the elements of teacher practice effectiveness and student learning that establish conducive learning environments. Consideration of a variety of teaching practices and delivery methods is included along with analysis of media and materials. The aim of the module is to guide students in the application of the principles of good teaching practices, in the establishment of a safe, inclusive and motivating learning environment, in the delivery of effective lessons and in the selection and use of teaching materials and methods that facilitate learning.

Programme Design, Development and Assessment (Credits: 10 ECTS)
This module focuses on the principles of curriculum development and design. Students learn about different models of curriculum design with the aim of developing curricula that meet the needs of a diverse range of learners. Analysis of programme aims and learning outcomes and the structuring of educational programmes, content and activities are studied to ensure that curricula are focused and learner centred. The principles of assessment are studied to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop a range of assessment strategies that are constructively aligned with learning outcomes and that comply with FETAC (or equivalent) guidelines.

Psychology of Learning: Theories and Concepts (Credits: 10 ECTS)
The module focuses on exploring the key psychological concepts and ideas relating to learning. It analyses the relationship between learning and teaching in the context of teaching implications for individuals with diverse learning preferences. The aim of this module is to provide participants with knowledge and understanding of adult learning theories and concepts, the psychological factors influencing learning and a range of teaching techniques that facilitate achievement of learning.

YEAR 2

Professional Teaching Practice (Credits: 15 ECTS)
This module focuses on the development of teaching practice methods to enable student teachers develop personal and professional competence. Throughout the module core skills are integrated into the development of teaching skills and methodologies. The focus is on developing student teachers as professional practitioners, as reflective and reflexive practitioners, as lifelong learners, as upholders of professional values and codes of practice and as builders of professional relationships and networks. The aim of the module is to provide participants with the opportunity to effectively develop a portfolio of professional teaching practice: the Teaching Practice Portfolio.

Quality Assurance: Monitoring and Evaluation (Credits: 5 ECTS)
The aim of this module is to enable further education teachers develop competence in quality assurance. The module focuses on helping participants understand the importance of establishing a systematic quality assurance system in further education. It is about ensuring that programmes meet the requirements of FETAC (or equivalent), and implementing necessary quality assurance interventions. Competence in this area will help learners understand the importance of mainstreaming quality assurance that complies with FETAC (or equivalent) policy and guidelines throughout the education process.
The Learning Society: Context, Structure and Policy  
(Credits: 10 ECTS)  
The module focuses on lifelong learning from a European and Irish policy perspective and on how that perspective relates to education and learning in Ireland. The concept of lifelong learning is discussed to contextualise the role of lifelong learning in modern society, in particular how it informs further education and training initiatives. The aim of this module is to provide learners with knowledge of contemporary European and Irish policy on lifelong learning and to explain how policy shapes the current practice of lifelong learning in Ireland. The practical outcomes of policy are examined to demonstrate how lifelong learning has been integrated into teaching and education activities and to establish how lifelong learning can be embedded into future teaching and education activities.

*NOTE: Modules are subject to change. Modules of equivalent status will be offered when changes are made.

Entry Requirements  
Entry requirements for the programme are designed to comply with Regulation Five of the Teaching Council (Registration) Regulations, 2009. Regulation Five details the requirements for registration of teachers in the further education sector. For further information on Regulation Five see The Teaching Council (Registration) Regulations 2009. Available at: www.teachingcouncil.ie

Educational Requirements  
1. Level 8 primary degree OR  
2. Level 7 ordinary degree and an additional qualification

Teaching Practice Requirements  
In addition to complying with 1 or 2 above, applicants must demonstrate that they are in a position to undertake the teaching practice requirements of the PDE(FE). These include:

- **Year 1:** applicants must be in a position to commence their Teaching Practice Portfolio  
- **Year 2:** applicants must be in a position to carry out their teaching practice class requirements (100 hours of teaching) in subject(s) in which they seek to be registered by the Teaching Council

*NOTE: It is the responsibility of each programme participant to arrange a suitable further education teaching practice school or centre.

Computer Proficiency Requirements  
Applicants are expected to be proficient in the use of computers and the internet.

**HOW CAN I APPLY?**  
Apply online at: www.nuigalway.ie/apply

**WHO CAN I CONTACT?**  
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www.nuigalway.ie/adultlearning