What are the entry requirements?

1. Academic Qualification
   Applicants will have a minimum upper second class honours (2.1) degree in psychology or an equivalent qualification, recognised by the Psychological Society of Ireland or equivalent, as conferring eligibility for Graduate Membership.

AND

2. Experiential Component
   An equivalent of two year's relevant full-time experience working in the field of education or psychology or both is required (Psychological Society of Ireland, 2010).

3. Interview
   Short-listing of applicants for interview normally occurs. Applicants will be shortlisted on the basis of requirements 1, 2 and 3 (if applicable) above. Short listed applicants will be assessed by a panel, to include the Course Director, the core course team and, where feasible, representation of the placement supervisors (PSI, 2010). The selection panel will pay particular attention to the personal suitability of applicants to work with children (PSI, 2010, p.10). In judging applicants’ suitability, account will be taken of academic qualifications, professional and research experience, interpersonal skills and communication skills in addition to the quality of references provided.

4. Garda Vetting
   Successful applicants will be Garda vetted prior to final acceptance on to the course

Is it possible to apply whilst awaiting results?
You cannot apply until you have obtained your psychology degree results. Applicants must hold an accredited qualification in psychology by the closing date for applications.

What is the minimum grade requirement for entry onto the programme?
A 2:1 or equivalent is required to demonstrate that applicants possess the competencies
required for undertaking the Doctorate in Educational and Child Psychology.

**What type of work experience do I need?**
You will need to demonstrate that you have relevant experience of working in educational, childcare, or community settings. Some work experience or combinations of work experience allow applicants better opportunities to acquire the necessary competencies. It is important that applicants can demonstrate what they have learnt from their experiences and how this is relevant to work as an educational psychologist. Applicants should be able to give examples of how they have could apply the knowledge gained though their psychology degree.

**Can work experience be on a part time basis?**
Two years’ **full time** (or four years’ part time) experience working with children in an educational, child care or community setting is a recommended minimum. This can be cumulative or continuous. Voluntary experience of various kinds may also assist applicants in demonstrating a breadth of relevant experience.

NB: periods of continuous professional experience of less than three months full-time employment will not count towards the two years minimum experiential requirement.

**My psychology degree may not have sufficient psychology modules to confer eligibility for graduate membership of the Psychological Society of Ireland - what should I do to be able to apply to the course?**
If your degree does not have sufficient psychology modules then you should contact the [Psychological Society of Ireland](https://www.psychsoc.ie), where you will find details of conversion courses available to you.

I don’t have a psychology degree. However, I do have a teaching degree and a Masters in Special Education. I also have over 10 years’ experience working with children in educational settings. Can I still apply?
Applicants must have a degree in psychology or an equivalent qualification (e.g. Higher Diploma in Psychology or a Masters in Psychology), recognised by the Psychological Society of Ireland or equivalent, as conferring eligibility for Graduate Membership. If you wish to pursue a qualification in psychology, please see a list of accredited conversion courses on the Psychological Society of Ireland website.

**My psychology degree is recognised by the British Psychological Society (BPS). Will this be recognised as meeting the qualification requirement?**
Applicants with a BPS accredited psychology degree who meet the minimum academic requirements will be eligible to apply.

**What is the best route to securing a place on the Doctorate in Educational and Child Psychology programme at Mary Immaculate College?**
There are a variety of routes you can take in pursuing a place on the programme. The route you choose must enable you to meet the minimum entry requirements and should also depend on your own interests.
**Does holding a teaching qualification give you a better likelihood of being accepted on the course?**
No, it is not essential that you complete a teaching qualification before applying. You should only undertake a teaching qualification if you feel you have a desire to teach.

**Is the qualification recognised in the UK?**
To practice as an Educational Psychologist in the UK you must be registered with the Health Professions Council (HCPC). The HCPC assess applicants who have trained outside of the UK against Standards of Proficiency for practicing psychologists. If an applicant meets these standards they are eligible to apply for registration. For further information please refer to the Standards of Proficiency on the HCPC website.

**Does the college organise placements?**
Trainees on the programme undertake substantial professional placements in a variety of settings over the course of the three years. The placement coordinator will organise each of the psychology placements. Trainees will be placed near their home base where possible. Trainees organise their placement for the School Placements Module (20 days). Please note trainees are likely to require their own transport and must be prepared to travel to placements.

**Is there a part-time option?**
The programme is a full-time three year programme. Unfortunately, a part-time option is not available.

**How is the programme delivered?**
The programme includes a combination of taught modules, professional placements and research.

Taught Components: The programme is sufficiently flexible in content and structure to adapt readily to current and future needs and to the emergence of new knowledge in educational psychology and related fields. Taught modules will be typically delivered by qualified educational psychologists (EPs) and EP practitioners, in four day blocks over the first two years. In addition to taught modules, a variety of workshops and seminars are organised for trainees and delivered by experienced practitioners e.g. Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Video Interactive Guidance, Assistive Technology, Dynamic Assessment. One day per week is normally assigned to study.

Placement: Professional placements, totalling 300 days, are organised in a variety of settings (e.g. early intervention and school age teams with HSE/disability services, National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS). The professional placements provide extensive opportunities for the exercise of a wide range of professional roles and competencies. Detailed placement handbooks are provided to trainees in advance of each placement. Trainees typically attend placements for 3-4 days per week. Where possible, trainees will be placed close to their home base. In addition to professional placements, trainees also undertake a 20-day School Placement in Semester 1. This placement will provide opportunities for trainees to carry out
shadowing and observation in varied educational contexts.

Research: For the award of Doctorate, the research thesis must make an original contribution to knowledge and contain material of a standard and form appropriate for peer-reviewed publication. Trainees will develop their knowledge and understanding of the nature of educational research showing in depth understanding of the range of research orientations and methods used in educational and professional educational psychology research. Trainees will be supported through this process through regular supervision and the provision of advanced research methods workshops over the three years. It is envisioned that trainees will conduct a thorough literature review in their area of interest in Year 1. In Year 2 trainees will focus on obtaining ethical approval and data collection. In Year 3 the emphasis will be on data analysis and thesis write up.

Are there opportunities to specialise in a particular area of educational psychology? Trainees on the DECPsy programme are provided with a broad range of professional placement experiences working with children and young people across a variety of settings and contexts. The research component enables trainees to gain in-depth knowledge in their area of interest.

What are the fees for the programme?
Annual fee for 2018/19: €10,225

Additional information about post graduate fees and Assistantships\Studentships\Doc Awards can be found on the MIC website. Click on the following link.
http://www.mic.ul.ie/adminservices/finance/Pages/PostgraduateFeeInformation.aspx

Is the programme funded?
Unfortunately, the programme is not funded. Information on MIC Postgraduate Awards and Assistantships is available by clicking here.

How do I apply?
Information on the application process is available on the MIC website. Click on the following link. http://www.mic.ul.ie/postgradstudies/prospectivestudents/Pages/MAEP.aspx

Will there be an annual intake?
The programme plans to have an annual intake. The programme is normally advertised online in December with a closing date for applications in late January. Interviews are normally held in late February/early March.

What are the job prospects?
Many of our past graduates take up positions working as psychologists with the HSE, disability settings or with the National Educational Psychological Service. Some graduates choose to work as private educational psychologists. Others have opted to work as educational psychologists in the UK. Detailed support and guidance on career options is provided as part of the programme.

How many candidates do you accept onto the programme?
Nine students were accepted onto the programme in 2017/18.
Who is the best person to speak to about the programme?
If you have additional queries about the course structure and content, please forward your questions to:
Dr. Therese Brophy (Course Leader) therese.brophy@mic.ul.ie

If you have queries regarding the application process, please contact:
Admission Office: admissions@mic.ul.ie

If you have queries regarding awards/ funding options and postgraduate support structures, please contact:
Research and Graduate School: rgso@mic.ul.ie