



GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ADULT AND FURTHER EDUCATION

in Mary Immaculate
College

BIBLIOTHÉAR DE HO LÓCHRANN



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GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ADULT AND FURTHER EDUCATION

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The principles underpinning the programme emphasise teacher knowledge, relationships and core values. The Graduate Diploma is taught full-time over one academic year using a blend of learning situations (onsite, online and teaching practice). The course offers a progression option to a Master's degree in Year 2, subject to certain achievement criteria.

The programme is intended for graduates planning to teach in the adult and further education (FE) sector and for teachers already working in this area who wish to further develop their professional practice. The programme is recognised by the Teaching Council as a professional teaching qualification for the Further Education sector. It should also be of interest to graduates with an interest in working in other sectors in adult education and lifelong learning.

PROGRAMME APPROACH TO ADULT AND FURTHER EDUCATION

The conceptual framework of the programme highlights the diversity of adult and further education, its role in the development of a knowledge society and its transformative potential for the lives of adult learners and their communities. The principles underpinning the programme represent four key ideas in teacher education: teacher knowledge, teacher enquiry, relationships in teaching, and teacher as a leader of learning.

BENEFITS OF STUDYING FOR THE GRAD. DIP IN ADULT AND FURTHER EDUCATION

- Provides the professional knowledge, skills and competencies for teaching in the further education (FE) sector
- Recognised by the Teaching Council as a professional qualification for the purposes of FE teacher registration
- Introduces students to current issues in the adult and further education sector
- Relevant to teachers in the broader adult education and lifelong learning sector
- Opportunity to undertake an action research project
- Possibility to progress to a Master's in year 2 (subject to attainment criteria)
- Suitable for both initial teacher education and continuing professional development (CPD)



PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Programme modules include learning outcomes in the following integrated areas:

- Theoretical foundations of education and lifelong learning (psychological, philosophical, historical, sociological, intercultural and political perspectives)
- Professional studies in curriculum planning, teaching, assessment, learning technology and online instructional design; teaching approaches and methodologies; teaching as reflective practice and enquiry
- Teaching practice of at least 100 hours on accredited programmes (QQI or equivalent) in at least two different settings, in addition to observation and other setting-based activities.

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Module Title	Credits	Module Title	Credits
Reflective and professional practice	6	Psychology and sociology of adult education	9
Teaching and curriculum studies 1	6	Teaching and curriculum studies 2	9
Learning and technology	6	History and philosophy of adult education	6
Practicum 1	9	Practicum 2	9

The teaching placement can be organised in different ways, for example, a combination of teaching blocks or on a more regular basis throughout the year. Applicants are asked to indicate at application stage where they plan to undertake teaching practice. Where necessary, the college will assist applicants in this process.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Classes are held at weekends from 14:00 to 21:00 on Friday and on Saturday morning from 9:30 to 12:30. Students undertake their teaching practice in their chosen settings during weekdays.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates will normally have a primary degree or equivalent at Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). The website of the Teaching Council provides further information on the requirements for teacher registration in the FE sector.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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