Applications can now be made for the Master in Education Foundation Studies programme organised by the School of Education Trinity College Dublin.

Aims of the programme
The Foundation Studies programme aims to provide students with the opportunity to engage with a number of disciplines that inform educational theory and practice. In addition it aims to equip students with the knowledge and capacity to undertake empirical and/or non-empirical forms of research related to their chosen domain. The course is comprised of a range of modules that reflect the current research and teaching interests within the School of Education. Students choose four of these modules to make up the first part of the M.Ed. programme.

Who is the programme for?
The programme is intended for persons who wish to gain a comprehensive and contemporary understanding in a number of disciplines that inform educational theory and practice. It is appropriate for practitioners working at all levels in education (primary, post-primary and tertiary) as well as those who have a professional interest in education.

Structure
The taught component contains four modules, with each module containing approximately 25 hours of contact time. Modules will be offered on week day evenings in Trinity College normally from 4-6pm during both Semesters. The modules will take an interactive approach based around relevant readings and student participation. Assessment will be by means of academic papers of approximately 4000-5000 words in length (or equivalent). Activities such as student presentations, case-studies or portfolio type projects may form part of the assessment of some of the modules. Students who have attained a satisfactory level in their module assignments may progress to the dissertation year. This is a research year and the student will be involved in the writing of a dissertation under the guidance of a supervisor. A course in research methods forms part of the dissertation work.

Course Modules
The modules are as follows. Please note that not all modules may be offered in any given academic year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy of Education</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>ICTs in Education</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Educational Psychology</td>
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<td>Sociology of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Language Education</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment and Evaluation in Education: Issues and Applications</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational and Social Policy</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics Education</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Total for 5 modules</td>
<td>60</td>
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Introduction to Language Education

This module provides an introduction to language education with a special emphasis on language acquisition and classroom discourse. The course will examine first and second language acquisition research and how these are borne out in language acquisition data. It will also explore issues relating to language use in the classroom.

Sociology of Education

This course aims to explore with students (in an active way) a range of sociological perspectives and concepts and their relevance and application to varying contexts of contemporary education. These perspectives are set in an increasingly broad social context: moving from an initial focus on the individual, the family and community (a microscopic view), through to the wider community, society and world (a macroscopic view). Between these will be the role of education and schooling today and an exploration of how society moulds schooling and how individuals/families/communities mould schools (a mesoscopic view). This will be done by looking at key concepts, theorists and questions from sociology over the past century, before looking at more recent theories involving issues such as technology, globalisation, and ecological concerns in today’s world. Students will be encouraged to engage in dialogue throughout the course based on distributed readings and class slides and notes, and to either make presentation on readings (individually or collectively) or present finding from their own research.

Assessment and Evaluation in Education: Issues and Applications

This module explores a range of topics associated with student assessment in education. Students are provided with the opportunity to relate contemporary assessment theory with applied practice in Ireland and abroad. Analysis ranges from practice and implications of assessment at the individual and classroom level to more general policy and evaluative functions of assessment at national and international levels. A discursive methodology is employed that encourages students to engage in critical discussion within the class on the basis of focused reading of the literature.

Philosophy of Education

This module is in two parts. In part one, a series of introductory lectures reviews some of the central ideas of ancient and modern philosophers that have influenced educational theory. Some of the key thinkers include: Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Descartes, Kant, Hegel, Heidegger and Wittgenstein. This background then informs the seminars in the second part which are based on readings in contemporary theory. Students make a presentation on readings in: the nature and status of knowledge in the 21st century, education and the formation of self, critical pedagogy, feminist and post-modernist theory in education, and the ethics of teaching and learning.

ICTs in Education

The module ICTs in education is mainly research/literature based. Consideration of the rationale for technology in education, critique of current policy developments and the learning theories which underpin the use of technology in education are the central foci of this module. Students who have completed this course will have an informed perspective on the issues that surround the use of ICTs in education. In addition, they should be informed decision makers capable of recognising the potential benefits and limitations of using ICTs for teaching and learning purposes.

History of Education

The module in history of education assumes a knowledge of the “acts and facts” of Irish and European education from the classical period to the mid-20th century and, for those interested in pursuing research in this field, provides an opportunity to explore issues and debates in historiography as applied to education. Within the module there is an opportunity for students to present their own research in seminars. Topics for study include feminist historiography, Marxist historiography (both as applied the history of education (HoE)) and sources and methods in HoE, including oral history and the ‘visual turn’.

Educational Psychology

This course explores psychological theories of development and learning. Biological, behavioural, cognitive, humanistic and psychodynamic theories are considered. There is an emphasis on theory-practice links. The course addresses typical and atypical development (cognitive, social, emotional and physical) especially in childhood and adolescence. There will be a focus on learning issues, for example, learning styles, motivation, individual differences, the nature of intelligence, as well as input on specific topics such as self-esteem, loss (separation and bereavement) and bullying and aggressive behaviour.
Mathematics Education

In recent years, mathematics education has been a focus for debate in many countries. On the one hand, constructivist approaches to teaching and learning have been recommended in order to promote better understanding; on the other, emphasis has been put on “standards” and on the outcomes from large-scale studies of achievement. The international debate is reflected in discussions and innovations that have taken, and are taking, place in the Republic of Ireland. The revision of the Primary curriculum (1999) emphasised a constructivist approach, giving high priority to the solution of problems set in real-life contexts; at second level, via “Project Maths,” a revised curriculum with a similar focus is being phased in. The new courses make considerable demands on teachers, particularly with regard to their beliefs about the nature of mathematics and about how students learn the subject. Against this background, and in the light of international and national research, the module addresses the following broad issues: philosophies underlying mathematics education; curriculum, intended and implemented; teaching and learning; and the effects of and different approaches to assessment. Other topics of interest to participants can also be explored.

Education and Social Policy

As a factor in influencing and impacting upon what occurs in educational institutions, policy in all shapes and forms, is highly significant. The purpose of this module is to critically explore the perpetually changing educational and social policy landscape not only in Ireland but also in Europe and globally as well. By drawing on a range of theoretical models both classical and contemporary, students will be encouraged to investigate how these policy environments effect and affect their own professional lives and work.

Teaching and learning strategies

A variety of teaching and learning strategies may be used throughout the programme, including group discussion, presentations, e-learning and online resources, case-studies, lectures and individual reading and research.

Further information

For enquiries about course content please Keith Johnston (keith.johnston@tcd.ie / 01 896 3589). For all other enquiries, including information on how to apply, please contact Keara Eades/Daniel Wearen (00-353-1-896-3568/1290).

Note: prospective students should realise that this brochure is as accurate as it can be at the time of production but will not reflect changes to the programme which might have been made at a later stage.