



TCD Professional Masters in Education Application Scoring System 2024-25

The basic requirement for entry is an eligible primary degree or its equivalent, as defined here. Those who have not yet completed their degree at the time of applying are evaluated on the examination results of the most recently completed academic year (not ERASMUS or equivalent). In the case of degree courses assessed by Grade Point Average (GPA), the most recent cumulative grade point average, converted to award level, will be the relevant one. Applicants can be offered places provisional on their being successful in their final degree examination.

Points will be awarded on the basis of:

- performance in an eligible degree: up to 42 points
- additional relevant academic qualifications, if any: up to 4 points
- relevant professional and/or voluntary experience, if any: up to 9 points

The points for academic performance will be based on the grade obtained in the appropriate examination as confirmed by the applicant's university or awarding body, or as determined by TCD on the basis of information received.

TCD reserves the right to make such determinations, judgements and calculations as it feels appropriate, based on the information in its possession, in assigning points to academic performance results, additional qualifications and professional experience. All qualifications being submitted for assessment purposes must be awarded prior to 01 January 2024.

The following should assist applicants who wish to calculate their points:

Application Form Points Allocation		
Category	Marks awarded	(Sub)Total
Highest relevant degree	PhD / Masters / First = 42 Second class (higher) = 40 Second class (lower) = 38 Third class = 36	42 maximum
Additional relevant qualification	2nd degree = 4 Higher Diploma = 3 Diploma = 2 (Higher) Certificate = 1	4 maximum
Relevant professional and/or experience	Full-time = maximum of 5 (1 point per year) Part-time = maximum of 2 Voluntary = maximum of 2	9 maximum

Total		55
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Qualifications which form a subsidiary part of a higher qualification are not awarded points e.g., a National Diploma as part of a Degree Programme.

Applicants should enter the highest relevant degree they have attained relative to their teaching subject.

Applicants should enter the highest additional relevant qualification attained relevant to their teaching qualification.

FAQ on relevant Professional and/or Voluntary Experience

NB The relevant experience must be documented clearly in the applicants' curriculum vitae.

1. How many points are awarded for professional and/or voluntary experience?

Up to five points may be awarded in recognition of full time paid employment which is deemed relevant, and which can be verified. Points will normally be awarded on the basis of one point for year of relevant experience, up to the maximum of five points.

Up to two additional points may be awarded in recognition of part time paid employment which is deemed relevant, and which can be verified. Points will normally be awarded on the basis of one point for year of relevant experience, up to the maximum of two points.

Up to two additional points may be awarded in recognition of voluntary activity which is deemed relevant, and which can be verified. Points will normally be awarded on the basis of one point for year of relevant experience, up to the maximum of two points.

2. What constitutes professional and/or voluntary experience?

Applicants for the PME may have professional experience related to their proposed teaching subjects, or professional experience in working with young people. In recognition of the value of these experiences, some additional points can be awarded. However, to ensure verifiability, points can only be awarded for paid employment which can be verified through appropriate documentation. To claim additional points you will normally need to provide a letter from your employer showing the start and end dates and the description of the role. Points are only awarded for professional and/or voluntary experience which is deemed relevant. The two main categories of experience which are considered relevant are (i) experience of professional work (normally at graduate level) related to the teaching subject, and (ii) experience of working with young people in a role sufficiently related to teaching. In each case the experience must be over a sustained period and must be of a sufficiently high level to merit the allocation of additional points.

Examples of Relevant Professional and/or Voluntary Experience		
	Normally accepted for points purposes	Not accepted
In education	Full time teaching in a school in another country Working as a full time special needs assistant. Working as a full time classroom assistant. Full time teaching in a third level or FE college. Full time teaching in a school (this arises in a small number of cases in ETB schools)	Working in a non-contact role in a school, such as school caretaker
In working with young people	Employment/Voluntary as a sports coach. Full time/Part-time employment/volunteering as a youth organiser. Full time employment as a social worker. Full time employment in a nursery/care setting with children.	Working as a personal trainer
Related to the teaching subject Normally professional work related to the degree subject, at graduate level	Employment as an Accountant (for Business Studies teachers). Employment as a translator (for language teachers). Employment as a laboratory scientist (for science teachers).	Working in employment not requiring graduate level skills (e.g serving in a bar, or restaurant). Working in an area not related to the teaching subject (e.g a history graduate working in an administrative post, and seeking to teach history).

3. How many points are awarded for different types of professional and/or voluntary experience?

Points are awarded in three categories:

- **Full-time paid professional experience.** If the experience is deemed relevant, one point is awarded per year of employment, up to a maximum of 5 points. Full time employment is taken to mean full time hours. Continuous employment for at least 9 months is required to claim points for one year.

- **Part-time paid professional experience.** If the experience is deemed relevant, one point is awarded per year of employment, up to a maximum of 2 points. One year of part time can be considered if employment is either (i) part time throughout the year, or (ii) full time for a period of three months (e.g. summer employment).
- **Relevant voluntary experience.** If the experience is deemed relevant, one point is awarded per year of volunteering, up to a maximum of 2 points. Relevant voluntary experience can be considered if either (i) part time throughout at least one year, or (ii) full time for a period of three months (e.g. summer volunteering) or more.

Students may make a claim for points in any or all of these categories, and may be awarded up to a maximum of 9 points in total.

Please note that:

- Points cannot be awarded where the information provided is ambiguous or incomplete.
- Points are not awarded for teaching in a recognised school while unqualified after 1 November 2013, i.e. after the commencement of Section 30 of the Teaching Council Act 2001.
- Points awarded for professional experience are entirely at the discretion of TCD assessors.

4. How must applicants verify the professional and/or voluntary experience claimed?

All relevant experience must be documented clearly in the applicants' curriculum vitae. Applicants must also upload the following as required verification of professional and/or voluntary experience:

- Letter from employer certifying the dates, nature of employment or voluntary activity **OR**
- A completed employer reference form in the references section