



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Room 3087, Arts Building, Trinity College Dublin,
Dublin 2, Ireland

Email: master.education@tcd.ie

MASTER IN EDUCATION (M.Ed.)

DRAMA IN EDUCATION

SUMMER SCHOOL

14 July to 26 July 2025

Master in Education (Drama in Education)

The Master in Education (M.Ed.) (Drama in Education) programme is available by summer school. This is a blended delivery modular programme designed specifically to support distance learners and international students. Prospective applicants may choose one of the following study modes.

Option 1: Full-time*

4 specialist modules, 2 common M.Ed. research methods modules, and a 15,000 word dissertation completed in one year.

Most of the taught component is completed through attendance at a two-week summer school.

Option 2: Part-time

4 specialist modules, 2 common M.Ed. research methods modules, and a 15,000 word dissertation completed over two years.

The taught component is completed in year 1 through attendance at the two-week summer school and supported by online learning, and the dissertation is completed during the second academic year. The second year involves attendance at a week-long summer school.

Option 3: Part-time

4 specialist modules, 2 common M.Ed. research methods modules, and a 15,000 word dissertation completed over three years.

The taught component is completed in year 1 (2 specialist modules and 1 research methods module) and year 2 (2 specialist modules and 1 research methods module) through attendance at three summer schools and supported by online learning. The dissertation is completed during students' third academic year.

***Note: Full time students are required to be based in Dublin during their academic year of study.**

Aims of the programme:

Drama is both an art form in its own right and also a highly effective teaching and learning methodology, which has been shown to operate successfully in formal and non-formal educational settings. Students will be introduced to the theories and philosophies underpinning this creative educational approach, to its history, and to a wide range of Drama and Theatre in Education techniques and approaches, and to their use in diverse educational contexts.

Who is the programme for?

The course has been running for almost twenty-five years attracting an international audience. It is provided for teachers and educators in the early childhood, primary, secondary, vocational, further and higher education sectors, youth leaders, theatre in education practitioners and others with a professional interest in the arts in education.

Structure:

The taught component includes four specialist modules in Drama and Theatre in Education, with each module containing approximately 20-25 hours of contact time. The Drama and Theatre in Education modules are taught in Trinity College Dublin during two very intensive weeks in July with subsequent work being carried out during the year. During the summer school, workshops, lectures and seminars are also held on some evenings and on both Saturdays. The course is taught by tutors with international reputations in the field. Students are involved in practice-focused workshops and seminars covering approaches to drama in formal (primary, secondary, vocational and tertiary level) and non-formal educational settings. Online and face-to-face support is provided during the academic year through scheduled tutorials. The two common M.Ed. research methods modules are delivered using a blended learning model.

Many students register for Option 2 taking the modules in year one and completing the related assessments from home. Students who have passed their module assignments and are eligible to progress to the dissertation year, attend a second, week-long Summer School the following July in preparation for their dissertation. This is a research year, when students write a 15,000 word dissertation under the guidance of an assigned supervisor with additional scheduled online group tutorials. Students are required to submit their dissertation at the end of August the following year. Students who for any reason do not wish to continue to the dissertation on the M.Ed. may, after satisfactorily completing the modules, apply to exit with a Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Studies. They have up to 5 years from the date of leaving the programme to rescind the Diploma and return to complete the Master's dissertation.

Taught component:

Module One: Introduction to Drama in Education

Topics covered in this module include:

The nature of the art form and key components in Drama in Education; drama games and movement exercises; role playing and improvisation; teacher-in-role; depiction; fictional framing; distancing; questioning; drama conventions (such as hot seating, voices in the head, angels and devils, conscience alley, questioning in role, role on the wall); dramatic storytelling; facilitating group and whole class work; pioneers in Drama in Education; historical overview of drama in schools and current approaches to drama in schools; process drama; the work of Dorothy Heathcote and Gavin Bolton.

Module Two: Drama and Theatre in Education

Topics covered in this module include:

Key figures and influences in Drama and Theatre in Education, e.g., Stanislavski, Brecht, Heathcote, Boal, and Bond. Critical pedagogy and Paulo Freire. The work of Augusto Boal; the Theatre of the Oppressed; Newspaper Theatre; Forum Theatre. Developments in Theatre in Education; devising in Drama and Theatre in Education; working with text; teaching artistically and teacher as artist.

Module Three: Advanced Issues in Drama in Education

Topics covered in this module include:

Heathcote's Mantle of the Expert; structuring drama sequences for learning; using drama across the curriculum; dealing with social, political, and value issues in drama; drama and early childhood education; drama and students with special educational needs; drama and language learning; puppet work; assessing and evaluating drama.

Module Four: Critical Reading in Drama in Education

This critical reading module is designed to allow students to formulate an overview and assessment of varying methods and approaches to Drama in Education. In-depth reading is organised around a structured theme, which requires critical evaluation of the literature. Students are encouraged to establish contact with other students on the programme with whom they will share and critically discuss their responses to the texts (peer-buddies/critical friends). This critical reading module seeks to increase students' critical awareness, the ability to discuss theoretical concepts, and the ability to relate theory to practice.

Research Methods Modules

In addition to the four specialised modules focusing on Drama and Theatre in Education, a further two research methods modules are undertaken by students on the programme. The two research methods modules are common to all M.Ed. strands, and are delivered through a blended learning approach.

Teaching and Learning strategies

Each module is individually assessed through presentation, case studies, portfolios, scholarly discussions, reports, and essays. Integration of theory and practice is stressed in the content of modules and in assessments. Arts based, experiential and active teaching and learning strategies are used in the presentation of modules. During the summer school students are introduced to the major conventions in academic writing and research methodology in preparation for completion of their coursework assignments and dissertation. Subsequent work is completed online and during monthly tutorials in order to foster a critical understanding of educational research and its relationship to policy and practice. Throughout the programme, students participate in online and in-person practice-focused workshops/seminars exploring drama in formal and non-formal educational settings.

Further information:

For all queries please contact master.education@tcd.ie

For queries related to course content, please contact Dr Susan Kennedy-Killian susan.kennedykillian@tcd.ie

Fees Information: <https://www.tcd.ie/academicregistry/assets/PDF/fees-and-payments/pg-25-26.pdf>

Master in Education (Drama in Education)	
Option One – 1 Year (Full-time) ¹	
Summer School in July	
Year 1 (two week intensive summer school)	
Module One is taught during the July summer school. The assignment relating to the taught component is completed during the subsequent academic year.	
Module Two is taught during the July summer school. The assignment relating to the taught component is completed during the subsequent academic year.	
Module Three is taught during the July summer school. The assignment relating to the taught component is completed during the subsequent academic year.	
Module Four is a critical reading module that is completed during the subsequent academic year.	
The two research methods modules that are common to all M.Ed. strands are delivered through a blended learning approach during the subsequent academic year. Related assignment work is completed during the subsequent academic year.	
Full time students are required to be based in Dublin during their academic year of study.	
M.Ed. Degree - Dissertation	
Students complete a dissertation of 15,000 words under the guidance of a supervisor during the academic year (September 2025 to August 2026).	
Option Two – 2 Years (Part-time) ²	
Summer School in July	
Year 1 (two week intensive summer school)	
Module One is taught during the July summer school. The assignment relating to the taught component is completed during the subsequent academic year.	
Module Two is taught during the July summer school. The assignment relating to the taught component is completed during the subsequent academic year.	
Module Three is taught during the July summer school. The assignment relating to the taught component is completed during the subsequent academic year.	
Module Four is a critical reading module that is completed during the subsequent academic year.	
The two research methods modules that are common to all M.Ed. strands are delivered through a blended learning approach during the subsequent academic year. Related assignment work is completed during the subsequent academic year.	
Year 2 (one week intensive summer school)	
M.Ed. Degree - Dissertation	
Eligible students attend a second summer school (one week in July) to prepare their dissertation study plan, and then complete a dissertation of 15,000 words under the guidance of a supervisor during year two of the programme (September 2026 to August 2027).	
Option Three – 3 Years (Part-time) ³	
Summer School in July	
Year 1 (one week intensive summer school)	
Module One is taught during the July summer school. The assignment relating to the taught component is completed during the subsequent academic year.	
Module Four is a critical reading module that is completed during the subsequent academic year.	
One of the two research methods modules that are common to all M.Ed. strands is delivered through a blended learning approach during the subsequent academic year. Related assignment work is completed during the subsequent academic year.	
Year 2 (one week intensive summer school)	
Module Two is taught during the July summer school. The assignment relating to the taught component is completed during the subsequent academic year.	
Module Three is taught during the July summer school. The assignment relating to the taught component is completed during the subsequent academic year	
One of the two research methods modules that are common to all M.Ed. strands is delivered through a blended learning approach during the subsequent academic year. Related assignment work is completed during the subsequent academic year.	
Year 3 (one week intensive summer school)	
M.Ed. Degree - Dissertation	
Eligible students attend a third summer school (one week in July) to prepare their dissertation study plan, and then complete a dissertation of 15,000 words under the guidance of a supervisor during year three of the programme (September 2027 to August 2028).	

Notes

- ¹ Applicants to the 1-year full-time M.Ed. must submit a description of their area of research interest as part of the application process. For further details, and an outline of the format required, please contact master.education@tcd.ie
- ² Students wishing to progress to the dissertation year must have submitted their completed coursework for the taught component of the programme (6 modules) by May of the year following entry to the programme.
- ³ Students wishing to progress to the dissertation year must have submitted their completed coursework for the taught component of the programme (6 modules) by May of their second year of the programme.

Please note: The brochure is as accurate as it can be at the time of production but may not reflect changes to the programme which might be made at a later date.