Professional Master of Education (PME)

Getting a School Placement

It is a requirement of the PME programme that each applicant secures a school placement. The term school placement refers to that part of the programme which takes place in school settings and which is designed to give the student teacher an opportunity to apply educational theory in a variety of teaching situations and school contexts. It affords the student teacher opportunities to participate in school life in a way that is structured and supported.

The placement must be with young people between the ages of 12-18 years and must involve a minimum of 200-250 hours of direct class teaching in addition to being involved in the school in associated activities which include planning, follow up, attending meetings, evaluation, and extra-curricular events.

Before you begin searching for a teaching placement you should read the Programme Rules.

We recommend that your placement is with students in Junior Cycle and that you ask the school to appoint a co-operating teacher who will support you in the school. We do not recommend teaching Transition Year as a student teacher.

Once you have secured a place on the PDE programme we will write to the school you have named for your placement and provide them with details of our requirements for the placement. If you are already an employee in the school you will need to negotiate time and support in order to be able to attend lectures at DCU and to have a School Placement Tutor visit you in the school.

We recommend that you obtain a placement somewhere that is convenient to where you live or on the way to DCU. You will need to change placements in Year Two of the PME programme.

While the PME is recognised for registration and employment purposes in Further Education Colleges please note that all students on this programme are required to undertake a school placement with young people between the ages of 12-18 years.

Questions about school placement should be emailed to madeline.mcdermott@dcu.ie

A full list of schools is available from the Department of Education & Skills