

OPEN THE DOOR TO HIGH  
QUALITY TEACHER  
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

# KEY INFORMATION



## MASTER OF EDUCATION PROGRAMME 2026-2027



St Mary's  
University College  
Belfast  
A College of Queen's University

# GENERAL INFORMATION

The contribution of St Mary's to Teacher Professional Learning consists of a range of accredited modules that may be taken on a stand-alone basis or that may contribute to one of the following awards:

- Postgraduate Certificate in Education Studies (PgCert)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Education Studies (PgDip)
- Master of Education (MEd)



## Entrance Requirements

Candidates for admission to the MEd programme in Education should normally hold either:

- (a) Qualified teacher status and an honours degree or equivalent qualification or
- (b) An honours degree or equivalent qualification with at least two years' professional experience in an educational, training or professionally related context.

## Application Procedure

Application for a part-time MEd course can be made online at <https://bit.ly/44wDuoJ>.

Application forms for entry to the MEd programme should be submitted to the Academic Registry Office no later than two weeks prior to the commencement of a course.

Late applications will be considered subject to the availability of places.

Existing MEd students can make upcoming module choices here <https://forms.office.com/e/KKmmU3KQXv>

## Postgraduate Tuition Fee Loan

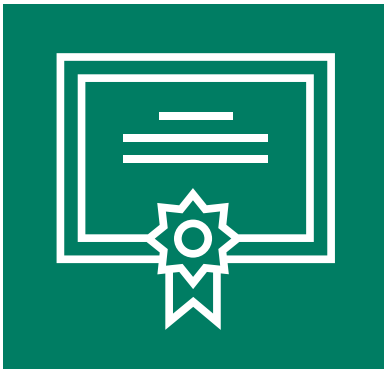
Students starting a postgraduate course are able to apply for a Postgraduate Tuition Fee Loan (PG TFL) of up to £10,000.00. The PG TFL is non-means tested and is paid directly to the Higher Education provider.

For further information please contact the College Finance Office, telephone **028 9026 8234**.

## Finance

Students wishing to complete a course do so on a self-funding basis, although financial support may be sought from a Board of Governors. In the academic year 2026-2027 the following fees will apply:

M-Level points 2026-2027	Fee
10	£428
20	£642
30	£1,284
60	£2,567
Bridging application fee	£48
Bridging assignment fee	£190



# M-LEVEL ACCREDITED COURSES

## Postgraduate Certificate in Education Studies

The Postgraduate Certificate is awarded to those students who have accumulated 60 MEd credit points. The course may be completed over one academic year, or students may build up the required number of modules over a period of up to five years. Students can select modules from any option listed in this booklet.

## Postgraduate Diploma in Education Studies

The Postgraduate Diploma is awarded to those students who have accumulated 120 MEd credit points. Students may build up the required number of modules for a period of up to five years. In order to obtain a named Postgraduate Diploma in a specialist option, students must take a minimum of two modules within the selected option.

## Master of Education

The MEd is awarded to those students who have accumulated 180 MEd credit points which include a 15,000-20,000-word dissertation. The dissertation is equivalent to 60 MEd credit points. Students may build up the required number of taught modules and complete the dissertation over a period of up to five years.

In order to obtain a Masters degree in a specialist option, students must take a minimum of two modules within the option, an Educational Research Methods module, and one other module of their choice, as well as complete an MEd dissertation worth 60 MEd credit points.

## MEd/PG DIPLOMA SPECIALIST OPTIONS

Specialist options apply to the Master of Education and Postgraduate Diploma courses only. For the purpose of continuity, students are advised to take a specialist option. The research module is compulsory for anyone wishing to undertake the MEd dissertation. To be awarded a named Masters degree, the dissertation must also be in the area of study of the specialist option. The remaining module(s), subject to availability and timetable restrictions, may be chosen from the full range of modules detailed in the prospectus.

Students should note that not every module will be available every year within a course of study.

The following is a list of specialist options:

- Curriculum Development and Primary Education
- Developing Physical Education, School Sport and Coaching Science
- Early Years Education
- Irish and Irish-Medium Education
- Leadership in Catholic Schools
- Leadership for Learning
- Pastoral Issues
- Special Education

For further information please refer to:  
<https://www.smucb.ac.uk/MPros/>



## SEMESTER ONE AND TWO MODULES

### 30-Point Modules

Semester One: Commencing September 2026	
<i>Saturdays (five Saturdays September - October 10.00am – 4.00pm)</i>	
<b>EDC7021</b>	Educational Research Methods
<b>EDC7053</b>	Personal Development: Promoting the Health and Well-Being of Teachers and Pupils
<b>EDC7069</b>	Pupil Learning through Physical Education and School Sport
<b>EDC7082</b>	Music Therapy in Education
<i>Wednesday (5.15pm – 7.15pm)</i>	
<b>EDC7075</b>	Promoting Numeracy and Literacy Competence in Irish-medium Settings
<b>EDC7090</b>	Designing the Wellbeing School
<i>Work-Based Learning (Online)</i>	
<b>EDC7087</b>	Autistic Voice and SEN Practice

Semester Two: Commencing January 2027	
<i>Saturdays (five Saturdays January - February 10.00am – 4.00pm)</i>	
<b>EDC7077</b>	Building Capacity in Schools: Advancing Inclusivity to Raise Pupil Outcomes
<b>EDC7085</b>	Understanding and Supporting Autistic Children and Young People in Education
<i>Wednesday (5.15pm – 7.15pm)</i>	
<b>EDC7041</b>	Children and Young People in Crisis: Pastoral Responses
<b>EDC7089</b>	A Specialised Irish Language Course for teachers: knowledge and proficiency
<b>EDC7091</b>	Leading the Wellbeing School
<i>Work-Based Learning (Online Monday 7.00pm – 9.00pm)</i>	
<b>EDC7021</b>	Educational Research Methods
<b>EDC7078</b>	Current Issues and Future Directions in Physical Education and School sport



# SUMMER SCHOOL

## July 2026 and July 2027

### Summer School: July 2026

#### 30-Point Modules

*Wednesday 1st July – Tuesday 7th July  
(10:00am – 4:00pm) (excluding weekend)*

- EDC7006** Principles into Practice in the Early Years
- EDC7053** Behaviour Issues in the Context of Special Educational Needs
- EDC7015** Leaders in Catholic Schools
- EDC7059** Contemporary Leadership Issues for the Effective School
- EDC7070** Developing Coaching Science and Physical Education in Schools
- EDC7079** Understanding, Supporting and Teaching Pupils with Specific Literacy Difficulties
- EDC7081** Putting the Sting into STEM (a thematic approach)

#### 20-Point Module

*Wednesday 1st July – Friday 3rd July  
(10:00am – 4:00pm)*

- EDC7076** Study of Native Irish Speech

#### 10-Point Module

*Monday 6th July - Tuesday 7th July  
(10:00am – 4:00pm)*

- EDC7043** Eloquence and Accuracy of Expression in Irish

### Summer School: July 2027

#### 30-Point Modules

*Thursday 1st July – Wednesday 7th July  
(10:00am – 4:00pm) (excluding weekend)*

- EDC7004** Approaches to Education in the Early Years
- EDC7012** Behaviour Issues in the Context of Special Educational Needs
- EDC7013** Contemporary Management Issues for the Effective School
- EDC7015** Leaders in Catholic Schools
- EDC7070** Developing Coaching Science and Physical Education in Schools
- EDC7079** Understanding, Supporting and Teaching Pupils with Specific Literacy Difficulties

#### 20-Point Module

*Monday 5th July – Wednesday 7th July  
(10:00am – 4:00pm)*

- EDC7076** Study of Native Irish Speech

#### 10-Point Module

*Thursday 1st July - Friday 2nd July  
(10:00am – 4:00pm)*

- EDC7043** Eloquence and Accuracy of Expression in Irish

# MEd PROGRAMME - BUILD ON YOUR STRENGTHS AS A TEACHER



**Figure 1: Build on your Strengths as a Teacher**  
Adapted from, Department of Education for Northern Ireland (DENI) (2017)  
*Learning Leaders: A Strategy for Teacher Professional Development*, Belfast, DENI.

# INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

St Mary's University College  
Belfast has made all reasonable  
efforts to ensure that the  
information in this guide is  
accurate and up to date when  
compiled.

**Published by St Mary's  
University College ©2026.**

