



An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Rannóg Oideachais Múinteoirí
Corr na Madadh
Baile Átha Luain
Co. na hIarmhí.

Department of Education and Skills
Teacher Education Section
Cornamaddy
Athlone
Co Westmeath

TEACHER FEE REFUND SCHEME 2014

Circular Letter 0008/2015

ALL ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The Administrator, Teacher Fee Refund Scheme
Marino Institute of Education
Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9.
Tel: (01) 8535102 FAX: (01) 8057712
E-MAIL: refundoffeesscheme@mie.ie

[THIS CIRCULAR SUPERSEDES ALL PREVIOUS CIRCULARS ON THIS SCHEME]

***This scheme is being reviewed and changes will be introduced
in 2016***

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this circular is to set out for school management authorities, principals and teachers the provisions determining the operation of the *Teacher Fee Refund Scheme*.

The purpose of the Teacher Fee Refund Scheme is to provide funding towards the cost of course participation and examination fees on successful completion of professional development courses that are directly relevant and of benefit to schools and that are subject to certification/award by an appropriate accreditation authority recognised by the Department of Education and Skills.

The Teacher Fee Refund Scheme refers to individual applications only and refunds may not be claimed by schools or other employers.

TEACHERS ELIGIBLE

- Serving primary and post-primary teachers who are registered with The Teaching Council and paid by the State are eligible to apply for funding under the scheme. This includes permanent whole-time, temporary whole-time, part-time teachers, substitute teachers, teachers holding contracts of indefinite duration and teachers holding fixed-term contracts **who are employed for the full school year and who provide teaching service during each school week.**
- Fully registered teachers on secondment within the education sector are eligible to apply on successful completion of each year of the course.
- Teachers on career break/unpaid leave are eligible to apply for a refund of fees, but only on their return to school following the year(s) in which they were absent on career break/study leave.

COURSES NOT ELIGIBLE UNDER THE SCHEME

- Funding under the Teacher Fee Refund Scheme will not be provided for courses which result in a qualification in respect of which an allowance is payable on or before 4 December 2011 (Ref: Circular 0008/2013, Paragraph 12).
- In the case of persons who have commenced a Masters Degree or equivalent course on or before 4 December 2011 (Ref: Circular 0008/2013, Paragraph 12), such persons are generally not eligible under the scheme, as they lead to a qualification in respect of which an allowance is payable. The exception to this would be if the applicant:
 - already holds an honours Masters degree for which an allowance is payable;
 - has a pass Masters degree and obtains another pass Masters degree.
- This scheme will not fund shortfalls in qualifications required for full recognition as a primary or post-primary teacher.
- If you have a pass degree allowance and subsequently obtain an honours degree you are not eligible to apply.

QUALIFYING COURSES

- Courses which qualify should be directly relevant and of benefit to schools, school management, or teachers and should ultimately positively impact on teaching and learning.
- Courses should be subject to certification/award by an appropriate accreditation authority recognised by the Department of Education and Skills for the purpose of this scheme.

Diploma Courses

- In general, recognised diploma and certificate courses accredited by a range of reputable bodies will be eligible under *the Teacher Fee Refund Scheme*.
- **A copy of the actual diploma certificate** received following the successful completion of the course must accompany all application forms.

APPLICATIONS TO TEACHER REFUND SCHEME

- The Marino Institute of Education administers the scheme on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills.
- Teachers must apply with the approval of their Principals and Boards of Management and/or Education and Training Boards on the standard application form. Completed application forms should be forwarded to:

The Administrator, Teacher Fee Refund Scheme
Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9
Tel: (01) 8535102 (01) Fax: (01) 8057712
e-mail: refundoffeesscheme@mie.ie

- Applications will only be accepted for courses/part of courses completed in the period 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014.
- The closing date for receipt of applications is 10 April 2015. All applications received will be acknowledged.
- Where the duration of a course is more than a year, applications must be made following the successful completion of each year.
- Applicants will also be required **to provide documentary evidence from the course provider** (Accrediting Authority or Third Level Institute) that the course to which the application refers has been successfully completed. Documentary evidence should include a clear statement from the institution concerned confirming:
 - a) official title of course
 - b) the applicant's successful completion of the course or year or course
 - c) examination results
- Confirmation of actual results **must be embossed or officially stamped** by the Examinations Office of the Educational Institution concerned.

- It is the responsibility of all applicants to ensure that the application form **is fully completed, signed and accompanied by all relevant documentation.**
- **Late applications will not be considered.**

MONITORING COMMITTEE

- A Monitoring Committee, consisting of teacher union representatives and representatives from school management and the Department of Education and Skills, oversees the administration of the scheme and makes recommendations on the allocation of payments to applicants.
- Appeals against a recommendation of the monitoring committee may be made to an Appeals Committee under the aegis of the Minister for Education and Skills.

APPEALS COMMITTEE

- An Appeals Committee comprising members of the Teacher Education Section, DES and the Inspectorate will adjudicate on appeals from applicants whose applications were not approved by the monitoring committee.
- Appeals on the decision of the monitoring committee **must be received within four working weeks** from the date on which notification of the decision was issued.
- Late, incomplete or unsigned applications are not grounds for appeal.
- The completed application form must be attached to the letter of appeal. This letter **should state clearly the grounds for appeal.**

AMOUNTS PAYABLE TO APPLICANTS

- Applications for funding under the *Teacher Fee Refund Scheme* are made retrospectively for a course undertaken during the previous academic year.
- The total fees payable by the applicant for the course must exceed €600 in the relevant application year. The maximum fee amount on which a refund will be made is €5000.
- The funding for this scheme is conditional on the budget allocated to the Department of Education and Skills.
- The proportion of fees refunded under the scheme depends on the number of qualifying applicants in any given year. The funding available is allocated on a pro-rata basis so that all successful applicants each receive the same proportion of their eligible fees.
- Where an applicant is **already in receipt of any payment/subsidy towards the cost of the course in question**, the amount of fees eligible for payment will be reduced accordingly by the amount of such payment(s).
- Failure to declare all subsidies/allowances will result in an application being declared null and void.
- Payment will issue as soon as a decision has been made by the monitoring committee.

NOTIFICATION OF TEACHERS

Please bring this circular to the attention of all teaching staff including those on leave, secondment or career break.

*Eddie Ward
Principal Officer
Teacher Education Section
February 2015*



TEACHER FEE REFUND SCHEME 2014

APPLICATION FORM

(Please read *Circular 0008/2015* and *0008/2013* before completing this form)

This scheme is being reviewed and changes will be introduced in 2016

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM TO BE SENT TO:
The Administrator, Teacher Fee Refund Scheme
Marino Institute of Education
Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9.

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATION FORM IS:

10 April 2015

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

SECTION A

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

Name (block capitals): _____

Teaching Council Registration Number: _____ Teacher Payroll No: _____

Home Address: _____

Telephone No: _____

E-mail: _____

Employment Status: Permanent whole-time ☐ Temporary whole-time ☐

Permanent part-time ☐ Temporary part-time ☐

Other (please specify) _____

Existing Teaching Qualifications (please give full details):

List all qualifications for which you are currently receiving a salary allowance
(excluding the course which is the subject of this application, please give full details)

_____	Pass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Honours	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	Pass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Honours	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	Pass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Honours	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. SCHOOL DETAILS

School Name: _____

Roll No: _____

Address: _____

School Telephone Number: _____

Subjects taught (post-primary only) _____

3. REFUND OF FEES CLAIM

Have you made a claim under this scheme in previous years? Yes ☐ No ☐

Was your claim successful? Yes ☐ No ☐ Amount received:

If the answer is yes, please state

(a) Year(s) of Application(s) _____

(b) Official Course Title(s) _____

(c) Course Provider(s): _____

4. DETAILS OF COURSE FOR WHICH APPLICATION IS BEING MADE UNDER CURRENT SCHEME

(i) Official Title of Course: _____

(ii) Qualification to be awarded as a result of successfully completing course
(please tick as appropriate)

Cert ☐ PG /Diploma ☐ Degree ☐ Masters ☐ Doctorate ☐

If it is a Primary Degree or a Masters, please indicate if you achieved:

Pass ☐ Honours ☐

Accreditation Body: _____

(iii) Is the course recognised under the National Framework of Qualifications?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please state what level? _____

Further information available at www.nfq.ie

(iv) Modules/ subjects studied: _____

(v) Course Provider (Institution) _____

(vi) Will the course you are pursuing lead to your gaining an additional monetary allowance?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(vii) Please enclose a statement from the course provider/ institution concerned confirming:

- a) official title of course
- b) your successful completion of the course or year of course
- c) your examination results

Please note: Confirmation of actual results **must be embossed or officially stamped** by the Examinations Office of the educational institution concerned.

Where you are applying for the **diploma element** of a Masters degree, the application **must be supported by the actual diploma certificate.**

5. DATES OF COURSE:

(i) Duration of Course: _____

(ii) Commencement date of first year of course: Day ____ Month ____ Year ____

(iii) Completion date of final year of course: Day ____ Month ____ Year ____

(iv) Course year for which this application is being made:

Day ____ Month ____ Year ____ to Day ____ Month ____ Year ____

Please note: Applications will only be accepted for courses/part of courses completed in the period 01/09/2013 to 31/08/2014 (unless you are returning from a career break or unpaid study leave).

6. If you are applying on return to school **from a career break** or a period of unpaid study leave please state:

(i) Date of commencement of career break/study leave: _____

(ii) Date of return to school: _____

7. COURSE FEE

(i) Course fee paid: € _____ *Enclose original receipt (s).*

(ii) Is your course eligible for tax relief: Yes ☐ No ☐

Please note: If this course is eligible for tax relief, it will be assumed you have made the relevant claim.

(iii) Are you already in receipt of a payment and/or subsidy from another source (including Revenue) towards the cost of the course fees?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(iv) Do you propose to apply for a payment or subsidy from another source towards the cost of the course fees in the future?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If the answer is yes please indicate (a) the source(s) **and** (b) amount(s)

a) Source(s): _____

b) Amount(s): _____

FAILURE TO DECLARE ALL SUBSIDIES/ALLOWANCES WILL RESULT IN AN APPLICATION BEING DECLARED NULL AND VOID

8. THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED

Please state, in specific terms, how you see the course benefiting your school and your own continuing professional development:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

9. I confirm that the above information is accurate, complete and correct.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR APPLICATION FORM IS FULLY COMPLETED,
SIGNED AND ACCOMPANIED BY ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION**

10. FORM OF UNDERTAKING

WHEREAS I the undersigned am pursuing/have pursued a course of education covering a term of _____ years leading to_____ as certified by me at Section 4, Section 5 and Section 8 above AND WHEREAS the Minister for Education & Skills may accept said course of education as being relevant to my employment in the education sector and the Minister for Education & Skills agrees to make a payment to me towards the cost of fees paid by me for said course and that I shall have furnished to the Minister for Education & Skills a written statement from the institution concerned certifying that during the relevant academic year or other course period concerned my attendance at or participation in said course of education was satisfactory and that I underwent all relevant examinations and prescribed tests NOW, in consideration of the premises, I hereby undertake that should I leave the education sector before completing therein one year's teaching service in respect of each academic year or corresponding period of said course for which a refund of fees shall have been made to me, such academic years or course periods not to reckon as service in this context, I will repay to the Minister for Education & Skills such sum as shall be the amount of the fees in respect of which I shall not have completed a full year or years of service as the case may be as herein before provided. I will also repay to the Minister for Education and Skills any sum paid to me under this scheme should it be found that the information provided by me is materially in error.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

11. DECLARATION REGARDING TAX AFFAIRS

Applicants for all grants from State and public authorities are required to confirm that their tax affairs are in order. Accordingly applicants for fee refunds in excess of €600 (in a calendar year) should complete the declaration hereunder and return with the application form.

DECLARATION

I wish to confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, my tax affairs are in order. I also confirm that should I benefit from tax relief on my course fees under Section 21 of the Finance Act 2000, I will indicate this amount under Section 7(iii) and Section 7(iv) of this form.

My teacher payroll number is: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

<p>FAILURE TO DECLARE ALL SUBSIDIES/ALLOWANCES WILL RESULT IN AN APPLICATION BEING DECLARED NULL AND VOID</p>
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SECTION B

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES

Teacher's Name: _____ **Teaching Council No:** _____

I hereby verify that the course undertaken by the above teacher will be of benefit to the school and will contribute towards the professional development of the teacher.

***Signed:** _____
Principal

Date: _____

***Counter-signed:** _____
CEO/Chairperson of Board of Management/Manager

Date: _____

*** Both signatures are required for the application form to be deemed complete.
p.p. signatures are not acceptable**

CHECKLIST (TEACHER FEE REFUND SCHEME 2014)
PLEASE TICK

- | | | |
|-------|--|--------------------------|
| (i) | Form of undertaking completed and signed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (ii) | Declaration regarding tax affairs signed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (iii) | Original copy of fee receipt(s) enclosed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (iv) | School authorities form signed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (v) | Documentary evidence (embossed or officially stamped by the institution or awarding body) indicating successful completion of the course or year of the course | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (vi) | Copy of Certificate/Diploma/Degree Certificate enclosed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (vii) | All sections of application form completed and signed | <input type="checkbox"/> |